Rural Partners Network
Advancing equitable rural prosperity through local job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement.
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Purpose:

Advance equitable rural prosperity through local job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement.
## Rural Partners Network Strategies

### ✓ Place-Based Support for Identified Communities

- 3-4 staff per state focused, on all of government perspective
- Navigation, application and capacity building support
- Learning and feedback to federal partners

### ✓ Broad Federal Agency Rural Commitment

- Inter and intra-agency coordination on rural development
- Dedicated staff and better engagement with rural communities
- Rural focused website (rural.gov) for all federal resources and opportunities
Rural Partners Network: Interagency Partners
Cohort One States: Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Mississippi and Three Tribes in Arizona

Cohort Two States and Territory: Alaska, Nevada, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.
Community Liaisons and national and regional TA providers

Advocate for rural community needs; addressing barriers and equitable access

Matchmake between community needs and agency resources and staff

Convene Partners: Federal, Tribal, state, and local governments, non-profits, and other private stakeholders

Provide technical assistance and capacity building support
### Top Trending Areas of Interest Across All Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
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<td>Medical Care</td>
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<td>Broadband</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutritious Food</td>
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Community Catalyst

Rural Partners Network is specifically focused on certain states at this time. If you are not in an RPN State, how can your foundation and rural communities drive prosperity?

- Ask: Does the community have a way to engage in an equitable manner?
- Is there a community champion that can host such a community engagement?
- Are all the community voices at the meeting?
- What is there one thing the community can work on together? A small project to build momentum and empower more to join?
- Ask your local, regional and state stakeholders to join in the work. Keep asking!
- USDA Rural Development staff are there to help and they can be your partner in this work!
Setting an Equitable Table

- Engage stakeholders and set local priorities
- Identify strategies for economic development and community improvement
- Bring home and leverage funding for projects
- Enhance local prosperity
Return on Innovation (ROI)

• Inclusive community meetings
• Responsive to demonstrated needs in underserved rural communities
• Data-informed RPN community selection process
• Over 20 federal agencies and regional commissions committed to places and projects.
• Philanthropic partners at the forefront to influence federal policy
• Technical & capacity building assistance to leverage public and philanthropic dollars
Next Steps: Nexus between Philanthropy and Community

• Join discussions with Community Networks
• Share our activities/projects and learning
• Help connect and convene
• Build capacity through identification and pursuit of federal resources
• Learn from each other; evaluation and benchmarking
• Bring intentionality and advocacy!
• Support a community of practice
Thank you

• Questions? Email: RuralPartnersNetwork@USDA.gov

• Website: Rural.gov
  • Opportunity to subscribe to receive the latest RPN Updates on the website.

• Twitter: @ruralgov

• Newsletter: Rural Connections-click to subscribe
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