



# **HUD Office of the DAS for Economic Development**

**Presentation to:**

**National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)**

**February 6, 2024**



# Alignments, Integrations, and Coordinations



# Overview of Presentation

1. Introductions
2. HUD's Role and Commitments to Rural Communities
3. HUD Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council (RPCCC)
4. White House Rural Partners Network (RPN)
5. HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED)
6. HUD Rural Resources and Technical Assistance
7. HUD Rural Partners Network Signature Projects
8. HUD Consolidated Plans (ConPlans) and Community Economic Development Strategies (CEDs)
9. Questions

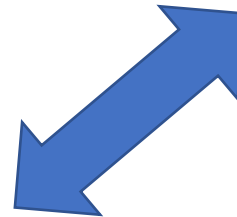
# Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council



## HUD's Rural Strategy

Priorities / Strategic Plan

*HUD Leadership  
Feedback and  
Directed Activities*



## Rural Partners Network (RPN): Federal Interagency Rural Desk Officers

Priorities / Strategic Plan

*HUD Leadership requested the creation of a  
Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council for  
HUD's Rural Commitment to the Rural  
Partners Network and rural communities*

**Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council**  
Members of Council: Mostly Career Staff Nominated by  
Departments along with Political Appointees

Launched April 20, 2022

*Administrative Support to Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council  
Provided by the Office of the DAS for Economic Development and  
the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development*

Launched May 4, 2022

# HUD's Strategic Plan: FY 23 Annual Performance Plan



## Strategic Goal 1: Support Underserved Communities

Fortify support for underserved communities and support equitable community development for all people.



### FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

FY 2023 HUD Annual Performance Plan

Page | 46

#### Strategic Objective 1C: Invest in the Success of Communities

Promote equitable community development that generates wealth-building for underserved communities, particularly communities of color.

#### LEADING THIS OBJECTIVE

Office of Public and Indian Housing

#### OBJECTIVE

The Department's commitment to creating a more equitable and prosperous future for all communities in the United States places a specific focus on initiatives and programs that: 1) promote barrier removal and provide tools to help HUD-assisted residents move toward economic prosperity; 2) encourage individual and community wealth-building; and 3) provide holistic supportive services for underserved communities and those living in HUD-assisted housing.

HUD will invest in inclusive economic development and equitable wealth-building opportunities that center on the specific needs of underserved communities. The Department's programs will be informed by individuals' and communities' self-expressed determinations of economic prosperity and wealth. HUD will pursue knowledge of the people it intends to serve and their interests via community outreach and engagement. The Department will act on this feedback, using Human-Centered Design strategies, to improve the design and impact of its community and supportive services (CSS) programs.

Place-based initiatives represent an important strategy for realizing the Department's commitment to wealth-building stemming from community self-determination. In a place-based strategy, each local initiative or program the Department creates or engages is nuanced, tailored to meet the community's particular needs for housing and services, based on the local context and resources. Such a community-driven, place-based strategy can help ensure HUD's response to any special designations such as preference points, that enhance coordination and leverage among Federal economic and social investments.

HUD will bolster support of small businesses in communities that include HUD-assisted housing through enforcement of Section 3 requirements.<sup>51</sup> These efforts, led by the Office of Field Policy and Management, will be reinforced by building the capacity of its partner organizations and grantees to improve the delivery of HUD programs. Where it is possible and practical to do so, HUD will advance inclusive hiring practices and local contracting policies for delivery of housing and community-related projects. This will build wealth and income in low-income communities as part of the provision of housing and services. The Department aims to better reach individuals and communities who experience heightened barriers to accessing HUD services. Furthermore, the Department will seek to better promote entrepreneurship as an avenue for building wealth in underserved communities, including Tribal lands.

HUD recognizes the benefit and need for holistic services to improve assisted resident outcomes and overall community economic health. The Department will work to collaborate with both governmental and nongovernmental partners to empower greater economic development, and community wealth-building. HUD will

<sup>51</sup> Section 3 is a provision of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. The purpose of Section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons. <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/FPM/documents/Section-3-FAQs.pdf>.

3/28/2022

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

One HUD, For All

### STRATEGIES AND MAJOR MILESTONES

Denotes customer experience-focused strategies, sub-strategies, or milestones.

Denotes equity-focused strategies, sub-strategies, or milestones.

Strategies	Major Milestones
	<p><b>Invest catalytic resources focused on equity and community wealth-building for community and neighborhood revitalization.<sup>55</sup></b></p> <p><b>9/30/2022: Develop the Department's plan for the "Rural Partners Network" Federal interagency initiative led by the Rural Prosperity IPC and USDA Rural Development, an expanded, whole-of-government initiative to advance equitable rural prosperity by improving community capacity and engagement and increasing access to resources.<sup>56</sup></b></p>

55 HUD will achieve this through the development and implementation of cross-departmental and interagency initiatives and programs for response, restoration, and recovery from the pandemic.

56 The definition of Rural Prosperity will be provided.

# HUD's Strategic Plan: FY 24 Annual Performance Plan



## Strategic Goal 1: Support Underserved Communities

Fortify support for underserved communities and support equitable community development for all people.

**Expand rural prosperity through HUD's Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council and support the Rural Partners Network (RPN).<sup>1</sup>**

**12/31/2023: Initiate implementation of the Department's plan to support rural and underserved communities.<sup>2</sup>**

**12/31/2023: Implement the Department's plan to support rural and underserved communities.<sup>3</sup>**

**12/31/2023: Conduct listening sessions with HUD grantees, designees, and stakeholders in rural areas.**

**12/31/2023: Identify HUD knowledge gaps in programs designed to increase prosperity in rural communities.**

**12/31/2023: Document and analyze HUD's various definitions of "rural" to understand their impacts on grants and programs.**

**12/31/2023: Develop response, engagement, and protocol models to streamline how HUD engages with RPN's designated community networks and Federal community liaison team.**

**12/31/2023: Catalog HUD's funding and technical assistance for rural communities to make recommendations on how to more effectively coordinate rural capacity building efforts.**

1 The definition will be provided.

2 HUD has partnered with the Domestic Policy Council and USDA Rural Development-led Rural Partners Network (RPN) to develop a support plan. The Rural Partners Network is an expanded, whole-of-government, Federal interagency place-based initiative to advance equitable rural prosperity by improving community capacity and engagement and increasing access to resources.

3 HUD has partnered with the Domestic Policy Council and USDA Rural Development-led Rural Partners Network (RPN) to develop a support plan. The Rural Partners Network is an expanded, whole-of-government, Federal interagency place-based initiative to advance equitable rural prosperity by improving community capacity and engagement and increasing access to resources.

# HUD FY 2023 Appropriations



## Report Deadlines, Regulatory or Award Deadlines, and Notification Requirements

## For HUD from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

(P.L. 117-328 (H.R. 2617, approved December 29, 2022))

<https://www.congress.gov/117/crec/2022/12/20/168/198/CREC-2022-12-20-pt3-PgS9325-2.pdf>

  
**Congressional Record**  
United States of America  
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION  
Vol. 168 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 No. 198—Book III

**Senate**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. LEAHY, CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, REGARDING H.R. 2617, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023**

The following is an explanation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

**CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES**

The joint explanatory statement accompanying this division is approved and indicates congressional intent. Unless otherwise noted, the language set forth in House Report 117-462 carries the same weight as language included in this joint explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this joint explanatory statement. While some language is repeated for emphasis, it is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein. In cases where the House has directed the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. The Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are directed to notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations seven days prior to the announcement of a new program, initiative, or authority. Any reprogramming requests must be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 30 days.

For fiscal year 2023, the terms “program, project, and activity” (PPA) shall mean any item for which a dollar amount is contained in this act, House Report 117-462, or this joint explanatory statement. The table in the operating plan required by House Report 117-462 shall apply to all items for which a dollar amount is specified and to all programs for which new budget (obligational) authority is provided, as well as to discretionary grants and discretionary grant allocations.

**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS**

The agreement directs each agency to include within its budget justification a report on all efforts made to address the pro-

grammatic duplication identified by the annual Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports along with legal barriers preventing the agency’s ability to further reduce duplication and legislative recommendations, if applicable.

**TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT**

The agreement directs the Secretary of Transportation to follow recommendations suggested by the GAO in the GAO-22-541 report and issue a department-wide directive to promote transparency and fairness by establishing uniform procedures to be followed by the DOT in reviewing and selecting discretionary grants. The Secretary shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of the enactment of this act.

The agreement directs the agencies in this act to state within the text, audio, or video used for new advertising purposes, including advertising posted on the Internet, that the advertisements are printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense, with exemptions for safety or conflicts with the agency’s ability to carry out their statutory authority.

The agreement directs agencies to collect data on what information Federal grant recipients currently include in the public documents announcing the grant award to determine whether recipients of funding in this act could comply with the Stevens amendment (section 505 of title V, division II of Public Law 115-141) without unreasonable burden.

**AUDIT STANDARDS**

For all contract actions, including awards, renewals, and amendments, Departments and agencies provided funding in this act shall require any accounting firm providing financial auditing and reporting services to provide a statement setting forth the details of any disciplinary proceedings occurring within 1 year of the projected performance period related to noncompliance with rules or laws applying to audit services.

**DATA ACT COMPLIANCE**

The agreement expects agencies to prioritize the submission of timely, accurate, quality, and complete financial and award information under existing U.S. Treasury reporting obligations in accordance with existing management guidance, reporting processes, and data standards established under the requirements of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (Public Law 113-101).

**FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH**

The agreement urges the Departments funded under this division to affirmatively determine and make available on a publicly accessible website a justification that Federally funded research grants or agreements promote the progress of science in the United States or will advance a national security or economic interest.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The agreement encourages the DOT to continue efforts to combat human trafficking through the transportation leaders against human trafficking initiative and the blue lightning initiative. The agreement encourages prioritizing grants from the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) S307 program and the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) airport improvement program to transit providers and airport sponsors serving areas with high rates of human trafficking. In addition, the DOT should also encourage use of best practices and recommendations from the DOT advisory committee on human trafficking.

**TITLE I**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

The bill provides \$171,014,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Secretary (OST).

The agreement directs the Department to abide by both the will and intent of Congress in funding and policy decisions, and to consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to issuing all notices of funding opportunities (NOFO).

**Local Hiring.**—The agreement encourages the Department to update its guidance on local hiring flexibility to allow local hiring preferences on projects funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to the extent permissible under section 20203 of Public Law 117-88.

**Flight.**—The agreement reminds the Department to provide the report required in fiscal year 2021 regarding potential options for modifying existing transportation programs to allow improvements to inland waterways to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation within 90 days of enactment of this act.

**Transparency.**—The agreement encourages the Secretary to coordinate with

December 20, 2022 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE **S9337**

for emergency preparedness grants as authorized by section 20201 of the IIJA, the agreement does not include this increase because it is not supported by the level of fees permitted under 49 U.S.C. 5106(g). The agreement directs the PHMBA to work with the authorizing committees and relevant stakeholders to develop a proposal for increased fee levels that would support the authorized level of spending under section 20201 of the IIJA.

The agreement encourages the PHMBA to train public sector emergency response personnel in communities on or near rail lines, which transport a significant volume of high-risk energy commodities or toxic inhalation hazards.

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

The agreement provides \$108,075,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Section 180 provides authorization for the DOT to maintain and operate aircraft, hire passenger motor vehicles and aircraft, purchase liability insurance, pay for uniforms, and purchase and operate unmanned aircraft systems.

Section 181 limits appropriations for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5109 up to the rate permitted for an executive level IV.

Section 182 prohibits recipients of funds in this act from disseminating personal information obtained by state departments of motor vehicles in connection to motor vehicle records with an exception.

Section 183 prohibits funds in this act for salaries and expenses of more than 125 political and presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation.

Section 184 stipulates that revenue collected by the FHWA and the FTA from states, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for training may be credited to specific accounts within the agencies, with an exception for state rail safety inspectors participating in training.

Section 185 prohibits the DOT from using funds to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, letter of intent, Federally funded cooperative agreement, full funding grant agreement, or discretionary grant unless the DOT gives a 3-day advance notice to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. The provision requires the DOT to provide a comprehensive list of all such loans, loan guarantees, lines of credit, letters of intent, full funding grant agreements, and discretionary grants that will be announced with a 3-day advance notice to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. The provision also requires concurrent notice of any “quick release” of funds from the FHWA’s emergency relief program, and prohibits notifications from involving funds not available for obligation.

Section 186 allows funds received from rebates, refunds, and similar sources to be credited to appropriations of the DOT.

Section 187 requires reprogramming actions to be approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and reprogramming notifications shall be transmitted solely to the Appropriations Committees.

Section 188 allows funds appropriated to operating administrations to be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for costs related to assessments only when such funds provide a direct benefit to the operating administration.

Section 189 authorizes the Secretary to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits, including distribution of transit benefits.

Section 190 allows the use of funds to assist a contract utilizing geographic, economic, or other hiring preference not otherwise authorized by law, only if certain requirements are met related to availability of local labor, displacement of existing employees, and delays in transportation plans.

Section 191 directs the Secretary of Transportation to work with the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that best practices for industrial control systems procurement are up to date and that systems procured with funds provided under this title were procured using such practices.

**TITLE II**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**  
**Broadband Deployment**

The agreement directs the Department to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this act detailing the steps it has taken to coordinate with the Federal Communications Commission and carry out its responsibilities to implement the deployment locations map pursuant to section 60106 of the IIJA (Public Law 117-58).

**Energy codes.**—The agreement urges the Department to work in partnership with USDA to expeditiously update the standards as required by law, which will reduce operating expenses for HUD-owned and subsidized properties.

**Evidence data collection.**—The agreement directs the GAO to examine the barriers that exist to collecting, digitizing, and standardizing data from the beginning to the end of the eviction process, such as pre-eviction information; the renter’s race or ethnicity, age and gender, as well as the composition of the household and landlord data; and the extent to which such information could inform future funding and policy decisions. The agreement directs the GAO to brief the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on its preliminary findings within 180 days of enactment of this act and to provide a full report upon completion.

**Connections to other Federal, state, and local services.**—The agreement urges HUD to use its technical assistance resources to increase the knowledge and capacity of HUD grantees to connect program participants to local opportunities and other government services where appropriate.

**Hiring preference.**—The agreement urges the Department to comply with the Buy America requirements of the IIJA.

**Rural areas.**—The agreement urges the Department to enhance its efforts to provide decent, affordable housing and to promote economic development for Americans living in rural areas. When designing programs and making funding decisions, the Department shall take into consideration the unique conditions, challenges, and scale of rural areas.

**Appropriations attorney.**—The agreement funds appropriations attorneys in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) and directs the Department to refer all appropriations law issues to such attorneys within the OCFO. The agreement urges the Department to ensure the office has adequate personnel and non-personnel resources to fulfill their responsibilities, including training HUD staff in funds control procedures and directives, as required by section 215 of this act.

**Organizational charts and staffing realignments.**—The agreement directs HUD to submit, in consultation with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, current and accurate organizational charts for each office within the Department as part of the fiscal year 2024 congressional justifications. HUD is further directed to submit any staff realignments or restructuring to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, consistent with section 405 of this act.

**GAO priority recommendations.**—The agreement directs HUD, within 30 days of enactment of this act, to report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the steps it has taken in fiscal year 2022 to implement the 10 outstanding priority recommendations made by the GAO and additional actions the Department will undertake in fiscal year 2023 to implement these recommendations.

**Regional approaches to affordable housing.**—The agreement encourages the Department to make explicit in competitions for Federal funding that regional councils, councils of government, metropolitan planning organizations, and multi-jurisdictional consortiums may apply whenever these entities are eligible applicants. Furthermore, the agreement encourages the Department to actively seek opportunities for these entities to serve as lead applicants and grantees in order to promote coordination between Federal, state, and regional collaboration.

**Encouraging affordable housing.**—The agreement encourages HUD to continue research to identify opportunities to increase efficiency in housing manufacturing. The agreement recognizes that off-site construction, including modular and panelized, can be a promising means of increasing the supply of affordable housing and encourages HUD to support consensus-based off-site construction standards.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

The agreement includes \$18,500,000 for the salaries and expenses for executive offices, available until September 30, 2023. The agreement directs HUD to outline how budgetary resources will be allocated among the seven offices funded under this heading as part of the Department’s operating plan for fiscal year 2023. The agreement directs HUD to complete the realignments of both the Disaster Management Division from the Office of Administration to the Office of the Deputy Secretary and the Executive Secretariat Division into the Office of the Secretary by April 15, 2023.

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).**—The agreement provides sufficient resources within this account for the VAWA director and the Gender-based Violence Prevention Office as authorized by section 4143 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12458). The agreement directs the Department to provide updates to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations at milestones on its progress to collect information on the extent to which public housing agencies (PHAs) and owners have adopted emergency transfer policies since the publication of the Department’s model emergency transfer plan, and the effectiveness of these emergency transfer policies in ensuring survivors have access to safe housing.

**HUD staffing assessment.**—The agreement amends direction in House Report 117-462 regarding a GAO review of staff capacity and instead encourages HUD to continue to assess staffing and training needs in the field, regional, and headquarters offices and brief the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on changing needs.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES**

The agreement provides \$600,000,000 for the salaries and expenses for administrative support offices, available until September 30, 2023. Funds are provided as follows:

Office of the Chief Financial Officer ..... \$18,000,000

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



# HUD FY 2023 Appropriations

## Report Deadlines, Regulatory or Award Deadlines, and Notification Requirements

For HUD from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

(P.L. 117-328 (H.R. 2617, approved December 29, 2022)

<https://www.congress.gov/117/crec/2022/12/20/168/198/CREC-2022-12-20-pt3-PgS9325-2.pdf>

HUD APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE	IMPLEMENTATION METHOD	CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; HUD COMMENTS
<b>UNDESIGNATED MATTER<sup>3</sup></b>		
<i>Rural areas</i>	Administrative means	The agreement urges the Department to enhance its efforts to provide decent affordable housing and to promote economic development for Americans living in rural areas. When designing programs and making funding decisions, the Department shall take into consideration the unique conditions, challenges, and scale of rural areas. (JES p. 64)

<sup>3</sup> The JES contains commentary and directives under the Management and Administration heading not associated with a specific appropriations account.



# HUD's Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council: Membership



Office of the Secretary (OSEC)		
	OSEC	Cara Pavlak
Office of the Secretary, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)		
	OSDBU	Doan Ly Nguyen
Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD)		
	CPD/ODED/ORHED	Jackie Williams, Ph.D.
	CPD/OHH	Clair Donze
	CPD/OBGA	Robert Peterson
	CPD/OBGA	Lilah Haxton
	CPD/OPDC	Monica Wallace
	CPD/OPDC	Pam Abhyankar
	CPD/OPDC	Tyrone Wilkerson
	CPD/SNAPS	William Snow
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)		
	FHEO	James Sutton
	FHEO	Natasha Watson
Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM)		
	FPM	Erik Amundson
Office of General Counsel (OGC)		
	OGC/OIH	Christina Foutz
	OGC/Region VI	Jessica Lee
Office of Housing (Housing)		
	Housing	David Berenbaum
Office of Policy Development and Research (PDR)		
	PDR/IPAD	Mariya Shcheglovitova

Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH)		
	PIH	Jim Crawford
	PIH/OFO	Tosha LeSure
	PIH/OFO	Janice Rodriguez
	PIH/OPHVP	Steven Durham
	PIH/OPHVP	Krista Mills
	PIH/ONAP	Randy Akers
	PIH/ONAP	David Southerland
Office of Public Affairs (OPA)		
	OPA	De'Marcus Finnell
Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)		
	OCFO	Rachel Lewis
	OCFO	Nancy Villarreal
	OCFO	Tonya Jackson
Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships		
	FBNP	Gayela Bynum
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (CIR)		
	CIR	Alan Williams
Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (HHLHC)		
	HHLHC	AJ Salkoski
	HHLHC	Peter Han, Ph.D.
Office of Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae)		
	GNMA	Adams Kondeh
	GNMA	Dan Marcin

34 Members (31 Career Staff and 3 Political Appointees) from 15 Offices at HUD

# Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council: Focus Area Committee Structure



COMMITTEE	SCOPE	CHAIRS / SUPPORT
<b>Focus Area 1: Listen &amp; Learn</b>	Conduct <b>listening sessions</b> with HUD grantees, designees, and stakeholders in rural areas and request coordination with Tribal leaders to cover these and other potential feedback for framing the work of the RP Coordinating Council and <b>identify knowledge gaps</b> in work with rural communities for rural prosperity. This will include understanding the voice / perspective of rural customers through CX/lived experience.	<b>Chairs:</b> FHEO’s Natasha Watson and FPM’s Margaret Salazar <b>Support:</b> Erich Yost, Lisa Peoples, and Jovette Gadson Bryant
<b>Focus Area 2: Define &amp; Analyze</b>	<b>Determine a working agency-wide definition of “rural”</b> within HUD and/or incorporate the Rural Prosperity and/or RPN definition of “rural” within HUD as well as analyze HUD's use of a “rural” definition in our statutory and regulatory programs and policies.	<b>Chairs:</b> PD&R’s Peter Han, PhD and OGC’s Christina Foutz <b>Support:</b> Lisa Peoples
<b>Focus Area 3: Coordinate</b>	Outline White House goals from the Rural Prosperity IPC and the RPN, <b>develop a response protocol for incoming requests</b> , document requests, and actions, track activities, and report on accomplishments.	<b>Chair:</b> FPM’s DRA Erik Amundson <b>Support:</b> Erich Yost
<b>Focus Area 4: Build Capacity</b>	Catalog HUD’s rural funding and technical assistance to make recommendations for coordinated rural technical assistance including toolkits and resources to fill “gaps” and <b>increase capacity</b> for staff and stakeholders.	<b>Chair:</b> OGC’s Jessica Lee <b>Support:</b> Jovette Gadson Bryant

# Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council: Timeline

June – Sep 2022

## Phase I: Assess and Develop

- Focus Area Committees Formed
- Focus Area Committee Chair(s) Selected
- Focus Area Committees Dashboard Templates Created
- Focus Area Committees Convene to Develop Draft Dashboards
- Deliverable 1: Focus Area Committee Dashboards & Criss-Cross Matrix
- Deliverable 2: Phase 1 Report of Accomplishments

Oct 2022 – Sep 2023

## Phase II: Prioritized Milestone Activities

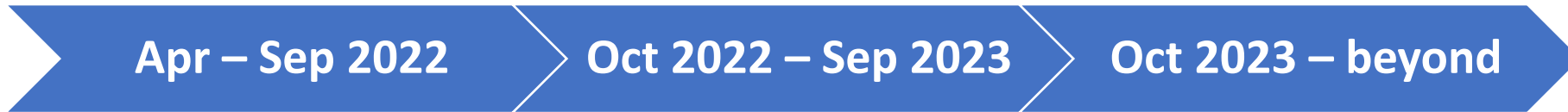
- Phase 1 Updates and Dashboard Briefings for Departmental and Senior Leadership
- Phase 1 Dashboard Milestones Prioritized
- Prioritized Milestones Activity Plans Developed
- Prioritized Milestones Activities Begin
- Prioritized Milestone Activities Completed
- Deliverable: Activity Reporting
- Deliverable: Phase 2 Completion Report of Phase 1 Prioritized Activities
- Deliverable: Phase 2 Completion Report

Oct 2023 – beyond

## Phase III: Institutionalize

- Next round of Dashboard Milestones Prioritized
- Prioritized Milestones Activity Plans Developed
- Prioritized Milestones Activities Begin
- Prioritized Milestone Activities Completed
- Deliverable: Activity Reporting
- Deliverable: Completion Report of Prioritized Activities
- **Design “Evergreen” Plan for RPCC**

# Rural Prosperity Coordinating Council: Accomplishments



## Phase I: Assess and Develop

- RPCC and Rural Partners Network (RPN) launched
- RPCC created four Focus Area Committees (FAC)
- RPCC FAC created “Dashboard” with priorities and deliverables
- HUD 11 Commitments to DPC for RPN
- HUD-USDA TA Working Group Expanded



## Phase II: Prioritized Milestone Activities

- DPC assigned HUD five Rural Partner Network “Signature Projects”
- FACs prioritized one key project from Dashboards and created action plans
- Securing resources for FAC priority project and implementing plans
- HUD-USDA TA Working Group Plan Updated



## Phase III: Institutionalize

- FAC will continue to prioritize from Dashboards next round of projects
- Continue to Design Action Plans and Implement Plans for Priorities
- Assess and Report on Progress, Re-Assess Priorities
- Design “Evergreen” Plan for RPCC

## Data Shop

Data Shop, a department of Cityscape, presents short articles or notes on the uses of data in housing and urban research. Through this department, the Office of Policy Development and Research introduces readers to new and overlooked data sources and to improved techniques in using well-known data. The emphasis is on sources and methods that analysts can use in their own work. Researchers often run into knotty data problems involving data interpretation or manipulation that must be solved before a project can proceed, but they seldom get to focus in detail on the solutions to such problems. If you have an idea for an applied, data-centric note of no more than 3,000 words, please send a one-paragraph abstract to [chalita.d.brandly@hud.gov](mailto:chalita.d.brandly@hud.gov) for consideration.

## Rural Definitions Matter: Implications for HUD Assistance Programs

Peter J. Han  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not represent the official positions or policies of the Office of Policy Development and Research, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the U.S. government.

## Abstract

Multiple definitions of rural areas are used in the federal government. Although one universal definition of rural does not exist, the choice of definition used for a particular government program or researcher depends on the various geographies and population, different aspects of rurality in terms of socioeconomic characteristics, and purpose of intervention. Using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administrative data, the author investigates how some of the most commonly used rural classifications could affect the number, demographic, and economic characteristics of the HUD-assisted population in major assistance programs in rural areas as a consequence of those differences in definition. This article analyzes the differences by definition, degrees of overlapping areas, and rural HUD coverage then investigates selected demographic and economic differences among HUD-assisted rural households by diverse rural definitions. Whereas the size of the HUD-assisted population varies greatly depending on the rural definition, demographic characteristics appear more consistent with each other; however, economic characteristics display more variability by varying definitions. Understanding the differences in assisted populations could provide valuable insights to researchers and policymakers to identify a definition of rural best suited for specific purposes.



## Domestic Policy Council: Rural Prosperity Interagency Policy Council (IPC)

**Rural Prosperity Initiative**, an expanded, whole-of-government initiative to **advance equitable rural prosperity by improving community capacity, engagement, and access to resources.**

This initiative builds on the insights and lessons learned from the original USDA StrikeForce initiative and is based on a series of design sprints conducted with USDA, DPC, EDA, and EPA stakeholders, as well as interviews with practitioners, stakeholders, and former USDA StrikeForce staff.

### **Rural Prosperity Initiative: Programmatic Goal**

**Advance equitable rural prosperity by improving community capacity, engagement, and access to resources.**

**StrikeForce 2.0 . . . Rural Partners Network (RPN)**

# RPN: Purpose and Objectives

RPN strives to ensure that America's rural places can successfully leverage economic recovery resources, improve social, economic and health outcomes in support of equity, and build lasting public, private and philanthropic relationships for a shared prosperity by:

- **Promoting Equity** – Support strategic planning and related projects and activities that generate improved social, economic, and health outcomes for all residents throughout the whole community or region.
- **Increased Access** - Support local and regional capacity to successfully identify and leverage critical economic development resources- federal, non-federal, public, and private- that best support their economic development priorities and objectives.
- **Enhanced Collaboration** – Facilitate coordination among interagency, inter-governmental, and cross-sector partners to promote strategic investments that support local priorities and contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth in rural communities and regions.
- **Developing Leaders and Capacity** – Uplift and support effective community leaders to provide strong development capacity and a vision of the communities they can become.
- **Building Trust** – Authentic community engagement that results in strong and effective local community economic development partnerships, where the partners increasingly value the roles the federal government plays in supporting sustainable and inclusive economic opportunity.
- **Long-term Continuity** – Supporting the establishment of structures and processes at the community and federal level that can maintain continuity over time throughout changes in leadership (local, state, and national), as well as economic disruptions.

# RPN: Primary Roles, Responsibilities, and Contributions

The primary roles, responsibilities, and related contributions that USDA seeks on behalf of its federal partners and related staff in support of the Rural Partners Network (RPN) objectives include:

- 1. *Federal Program Expertise:*** Provide subject matter expertise related to the effective co-investment or integration of multiple federal resources necessary to support both the development and implementation of community-driven strategies for inclusive economic growth and community development.
- 2. *Navigation and Advocacy:*** Advocate for the investment of agency resources in support of rural place-based strategies and projects, and in collaboration with federal interagency partners and local and regional stakeholders.
- 3. *Enhance Interagency Collaboration and Program Delivery:*** Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with RDOs and other interagency partners and colleagues. Identify and leverage opportunities for the alignment of various federal resources that can be co-invested in support of rural place-based resource gaps, strategies, and projects.
- 4. *Best Practices:*** Collect, analyze, and disseminate best practices resulting from the intensive level of service and support provided through the Rural Partners Network (RPN). Solicit and cultivate feedback from local and regional partners and stakeholders and learnings from communities to inform modifications and improvements to federal policies and program service delivery.



# RPN: Breadth and Depth Strategy

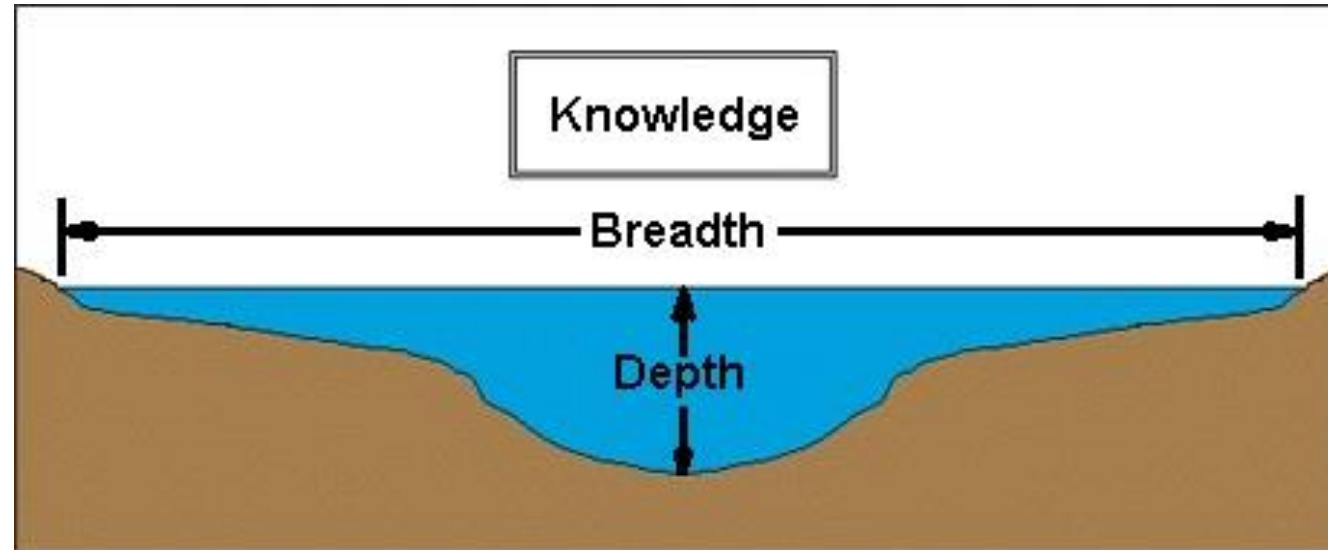
## Depth Strategy:

Deep place-based support in selected communities - piloting in states, territories and Tribal lands

Includes hiring of USDA RD Full-Time Staff

- 1) USDA RD Community Planners (aka "Community Liaisons") for each RPN CN site
- 2) USDA RD Supervisory Community Planners (for each state)
- 3) USDA RD RPN HQ Staff
- 4) Federal Agency RPN Rural Desk Officers

Goal to have RPN Community Networks in all States and some US Territories



## Breadth Strategy:

The breadth strategy provides high-level inter- and intra-agency coordination support and navigation tools at scale, permitting communities nationwide to more easily access the range of supports and maximize the impact of in-depth community work happening in the depth strategy designated community networks.

# RPN: Interagency Partners



# RPN: Community Network Selection

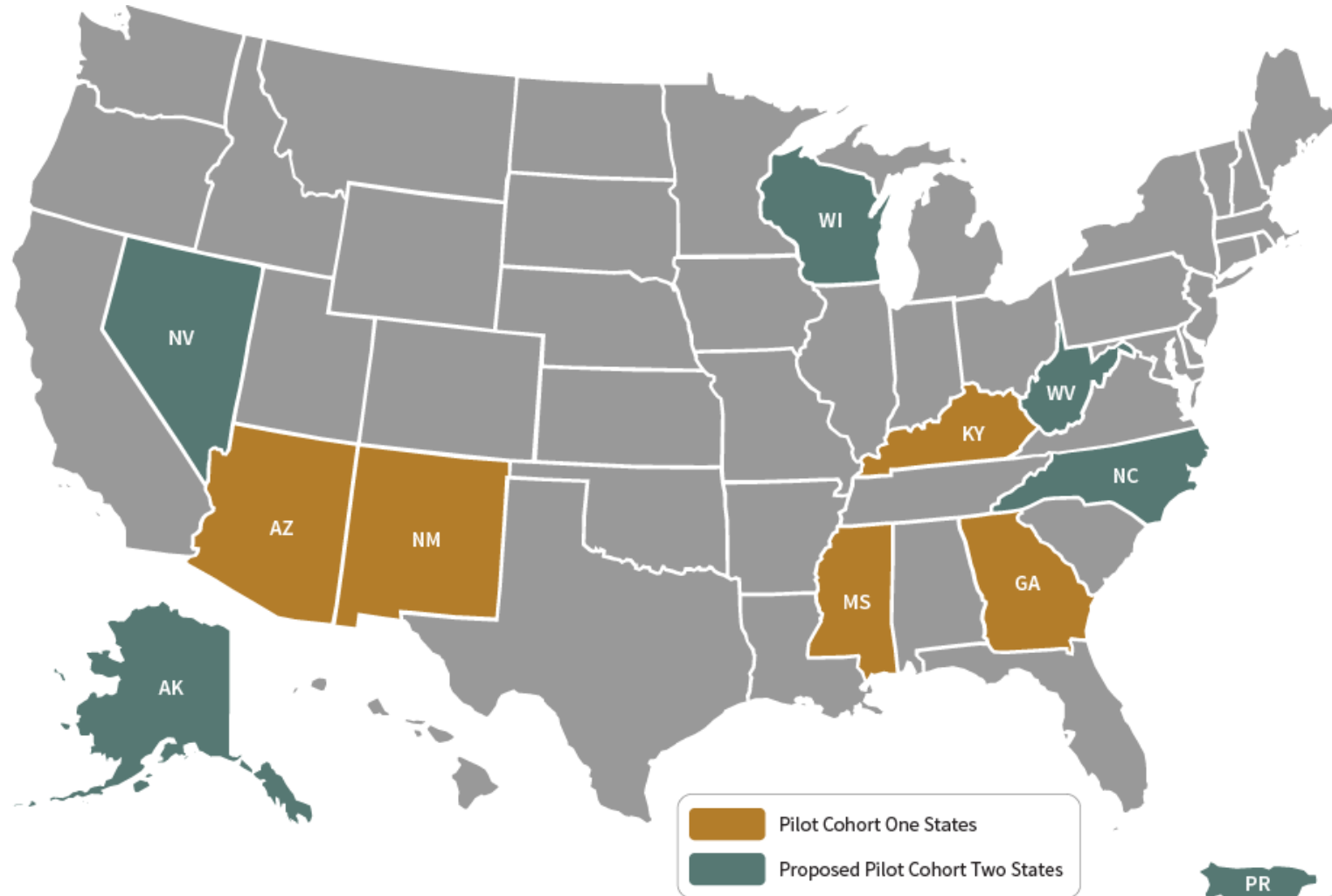
## Cohort 1 States for Spring 2022 and Cohort 2 States

### Cohort 1: 2022 States

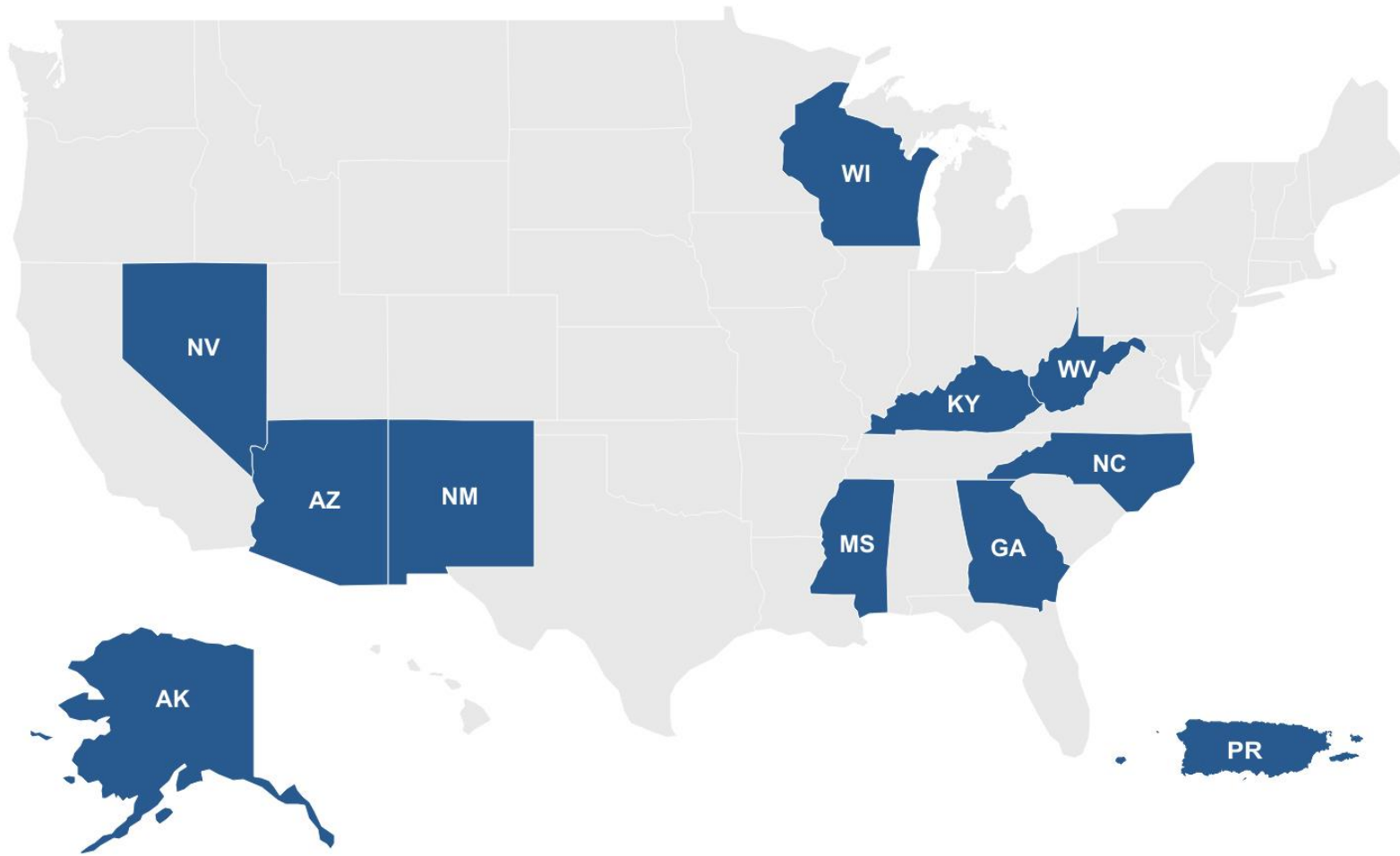
- Arizona (Tribal)
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- New Mexico

### Cohort 2: 2022 States & Territory

- Alaska
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- Puerto Rico
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin



# Rural Partners Network Community Network Locations



**37 RPN Community Networks located in 10 States and 1 US Territory**

Cohort 1 States	# of Community Networks
Cohort 1-Arizona	2 Tribal Community Networks
Cohort 1-Georgia	3 Community Networks
Cohort 1-Kentucky	2 Community Networks
Cohort 1-Mississippi	3 Community Networks
Cohort 1-New Mexico	3 Community Networks
<b>Cohort 1- 5 States</b>	<b>13 Community Networks</b>
Cohort 2 States	# of Community Networks
Cohort 2-Alaska	4 Community Networks
Cohort 2-Nevada	5 Community Networks
Cohort 2-North Carolina	5 Community Networks
Cohort 2-Puerto Rico	3 Community Networks
Cohort 2-West Virginia	2 Community Networks
Cohort 2-Wisconsin	5 Community Networks
<b>Cohort 2-10 States and 1 US Territory</b>	<b>24 Community Networks</b>

# RPN: Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 Community Networks



## Alaska

- [Interior Alaska](#)
- [Nome Alaska](#)
- [Southeast Alaska](#)
- [Southwest Alaska](#)

## Arizona

- [San Carlos Apache Tribe](#)
- [Tohono O'odham Nation](#)
- [Cocopah Indian Tribe](#)

## Georgia

- [Southwest Georgia Regional Commission](#): Counties of Mitchell, Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Seminole, Miller, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth
- [Ben Hill County](#) and City of Fitzgerald
- [Emanuel County](#) and City of Twin City

## Kentucky

- [Fulton County](#) and Cities of Fulton, Hickman, Cayce, and South Fulton, Tennessee
- [Kentucky Highlands](#): Counties of Bell, Perry, Harlan, Leslie, Letcher, Whitley, Knox, Clay

## Mississippi

- [Washington County Economic Alliance](#): Counties of Washington, Bolivar, Sunflower, and Leflore
- [Lake District Partnership](#): Counties of Grenada and Yalobusha
- [North Delta Planning and Development District](#): Counties of Coahoma, Quitman, and Tunica

## Nevada

- [Southern Nevada Community Network](#): Nye and Esmeralda counties
- [Sierra Region Community Network](#): Lyon and Mineral counties
- [Moapa Valley Community Network](#): Clark County and cities of Moapa, Moapa Valley, Overton, Logandale, and Bunkerville
- [Nevada 95-80 Regional Development Community Network](#): Humboldt and Pershing counties
- [Southern Clark County Community Network](#): Clark County and cities of Laughlin, Searchlight, Cal-Nev-Ari

## New Mexico

- [Northern New Mexico Pathways Economic Development District](#): Counties of San Miguel, Taos, Mora, and Colfax
- [Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments](#): Counties of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna
- [Doña Ana County Community Network](#): Doña Ana County

## North Carolina

- [Robeson, Bladen, Columbus County Community Network](#): Robeson, Bladen and Columbus counties
- [Glow House Society Community Network](#): Randolph County
- [Wilson, Edgecombe, Nash, and Johnston Community Network](#): Wilson, Edgecombe, Nash, and Johnston counties
- [Halifax-Northampton Community Network](#): Northhampton County
- [Albemarle-Roanoke Community Network](#): Bertie, Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington counties

## Puerto Rico

- [Southwest Puerto Rico](#): Municipalities of Mayaguez, Maricao and Guanica
- [Central Puerto Rico-Mountainous Region](#): Municipalities of Utuado, Jayuya, Ciales, Orcovis, Villalba, Ponce, Adjuntas, Barranquitas and Coamo
- [Roosevelt Roads Community Network](#): Fajardo, Cieba, and Naguabo, to include El Yunque National Forest

## West Virginia

- [Southern West Virginia Community Network](#): Mingo, Wayne, Lincoln, Boone, Logan, Wyoming, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Fayette counties
- [West Virginia Pioneer Community Network](#): Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Nicholas, Roane, Webster, and Wirt counties

## Wisconsin

- [Northern Wisconsin Community Network](#): Ashland, Iron and Price counties
- [Greater Menominee Community Network](#): Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and Menominee County
- [Forest County Community Network](#)
- [Northwestern Wisconsin Community Network](#): Eau Claire, Dunn, Clark, Buffalo, Pepin, and Chippewa counties
- [Adams County Visionary Community Network](#)

# RPN Launched April 20, 2022



USDA Rural Development U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Together, America Prospers

## Rural Partners Network: Building Stronger Futures Together

Through the Rural Partners Network, rural people and communities benefit from collaborative partnerships among an association of federal agencies, staff and programs.

USDA Rural Development (RD) is leading the Rural Partners Network in collaboration with 16 federal agencies and regional commissions through the Rural Prosperity Interagency Policy Council, co-led by the White House Domestic Policy Council and USDA.

---

**?** What is the Rural Partners Network?

Through the Rural Partners Network (RPN), the Biden-Harris Administration is taking action to transform the way the federal government partners with rural communities to spur inclusive, sustainable economic growth. The RPN creates an alliance of federal agencies and civic partners working to expand rural prosperity through job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement. The RPN will improve equitable access to federal programs and funding, and help drive local economic development.

With the RPN, federal agencies are renewing their commitment to rural communities by expanding interagency collaboration and providing targeted staffing, tools, and resources.

Fact Sheet

USDA Rural Development U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Together, America Prospers

## Rural Partners Network Frequently Asked Questions

### How does the Rural Partners Network (RPN) compare with previous efforts under the 2013 StrikeForce Initiative? How do the two initiatives differ?

USDA was the sole federal agency chosen to design and carry out the original StrikeForce Initiative in 2013. In contrast, while USDA Rural Development (RD) is the lead federal agency responsible for implementing and running RPN, it will do so in collaboration with 16 federal departments, commissions, and authorities. This is one of several important distinctions between the StrikeForce Initiative and RPN. Additional distinguishing factors are summarized in this table:

Distinctive Characteristics	StrikeForce Initiative	Rural Partners Network
<b>Staffing</b>	Managed as collateral duties by existing USDA staff	Additional full-time, permanent staff hired by RD state offices
<b>Focus</b>	Persistent Poverty Counties	Broader socioeconomic indicators of distress as a first step in the selection
<b>Federal Government Equities</b>	USDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Resources Conservation Service</li> <li>Rural Development</li> <li>Farm Service Agency</li> <li>Food and Nutrition Service</li> <li>USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach</li> </ul>	Through the Rural Prosperity Interagency Policy Council, USDA RD will lead the implementation of RPN in states, Tribal areas, and territories in collaboration with more than 16 federal departments, commissions, and authorities
<b>Objectives</b>	Focused on food access and other targeted strategies	Ties directly to community needs and place-based strategies

### In addition to USDA, which other federal departments and agencies support RPN?

USDA is working in direct partnership with the following federal departments and agencies to provide coordinated service and assistance to RPN Community Networks and rural communities:

**AP** AP NEWS

U.S. News World News Politics Sports Entertainment Business Technology Health Science Oddities Lifestyle

Russia-Ukraine war Trending News Gun violence French election COVID-19

ADVERTISEMENT

The Department of Commerce modernized their IT system... ahead of schedule.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN TOO.

## USDA secretary in Mississippi to discuss rural initiative

April 20, 2022

FAQs

yahoo! Mail (3) News Finance Sports Entertainment Life COVID-19 Shopping Tech Tips Yahoo Plus Mor

## Rural communities in 5 states about to get a big boost

The Rural Partners Network will place federal employees

yahoo/finance

## White House launches new initiative to get federal dollars to rural America

Senior Producer and Writer

122,400 AM

Biden administration announced a new initiative, the Rural Partners Network, that aims to reset the way Washington works with rural communities across the U.S.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is visiting Mississippi to announce a program geared toward helping rural communities get federal funding to create jobs, build infrastructure and improve their economies.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, the program will place federal employees in rural communities around the country to live and work — and help address some of the most intimidating and complex grant proposals.

estic Policy Adviser in Mississippi, and it has operations across five states, including New Mexico.

Home News Events Videos Podcasts

## USDA Secretary in Mississippi to Discuss Rural Initiative

By Associated Press April 20, 2022

MONTE GOODIN / GETTY IMAGES

Management

## Biden is Deploying Feds to Rural Area to Better Connect Communities With Government

## Rural Partners Network helps provide federal resources

Published on April 20, 2022 — 22 views

Press Release

# RPN: Press Coverage (April 20, 2022)



Mail (3) News Finance Sports Entertainment Life COVID-19 Shopping Tech Tips Yahoo Plus Mor



## Rural communities in 5 states about to get a big boost

The Rural Partners Network will place federal employees in rural areas around the U.S. — and bring more federal funding to the nation's most isolated communities. 'We need to finish t

Government Executive

NEWS MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT DEFENSE TECH PAY & BENEFITS WORK

TRENDING: CORONAVIRUS | TSP | BUDGET | STORIES FROM THE PANDEMIC | GOV HALL OF FAME | SPONSORED: THE FEDERAL INNOV



MONTE GOODYK / GETTY IMAGES

Management

## Biden is Deploying Feds to Rural Areas to Better Connect Communities With Government

USNews NEWS

Home / News / Best States / Mississippi News

## USDA Secretary in Mississippi to Discuss Rural Initiative

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is visiting Mississippi to announce a program geared toward helping rural communities get federal funding to create jobs, build infrastructure and improve their economies.

By Associated Press | April 20, 2022

AP AP NEWS

U.S. News World News Politics Sports Entertainment Business Technology Health Science Oddities Lifestyle

Russia-Ukraine war Trending News Gun violence French election COVID-19

ADVERTISEMENT

The Department of Commerce modernized their IT system— ahead of schedule.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN TOO.

## USDA secretary in Mississippi to discuss rural initiative

April 20, 2022

yahoo/finance

## White House launches new initiative to get federal dollars to rural America

Ben Werschkul · Senior Producer and Writer  
Wed, April 20, 2022, 4:00 AM

## BILOXI Local News &

A BILOXI AREA COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Home News Events Videos Podcasts

On Wednesday, the Biden administration announced the Rural Partners Network, that aims to reach rural communities around the U.S.



## Rural Partners Network helps provide federal resources

Published on April 20, 2022 — 22 views



# RPN: USDA Press Release (April 20, 2022)



## Rural Partners Network: Building Stronger Futures Together

Through the Rural Partners Network, rural people and communities benefit from collaborative partnerships among an association of federal agencies, staff and programs.

USDA Rural Development (RD) is leading the Rural Partners Network in collaboration with 16 federal agencies and regional commissions through the Rural Prosperity Interagency Policy Council, co-led by the White House Domestic Policy Council and USDA.



### What is the Rural Partners Network?

Through the Rural Partners Network (RPN), the Biden-Harris Administration is taking action to transform the way the federal government partners with rural communities to spur inclusive, sustainable economic growth. The RPN creates an alliance of federal agencies and civic partners working to expand rural prosperity through job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement. The RPN will improve equitable access to federal programs and funding, and help drive local economic development.

With the RPN, federal agencies are renewing their commitment to rural communities by expanding interagency collaboration and providing targeted staffing, tools, and resources.

### How is the Rural Partners Network different?

Rural communities sometimes struggle to get financial or technical assistance from highly competitive programs based in individual federal government agencies.

The Rural Partners Network introduces a new way of doing business: a collaboration among federal agencies meant to improve access to government resources, staffing and tools. Participating agencies designate key points of contact who focus specifically on rural strategies, improving visibility and attention to rural issues.

The Rural Partners Network also puts federal staff on the ground to support designated, economically challenged communities. Known as "Community Liaisons," these federal employees provide local leaders with the expertise to navigate federal programs. Community Liaisons help build relationships and identify additional resources to get the job done. As their work progresses, the lessons learned will impact future federal rural policy development and investment strategies.

RPN field staff are tasked with feeding key information to federal agencies regarding community needs and barriers to accessing federal resources. Agencies will then use this information to drive policy changes to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities. As a result, RPN will not only support pilot sites and activities, but will inform changes that make the federal government better deliver for all rural communities. Through this new, direct line between rural communities and Washington, D.C., the Biden-Harris Administration is changing "business-as-usual" by working across agencies to coordinate technical assistance to rural communities, share rural data and measures of success, and align grant requirements.

### Which federal agencies are RPN members?

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior

- Department of Labor
- Small Business Administration
- Department of Transportation
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Delta Regional Authority
- Denali Commission
- Northern Border Regional Commission

### RPN Implementation

In the RPN's first year, we will:

1. Launch dedicated community liaison staff in more than 25 rural communities in multiple U.S. states, Tribal Nations, and territories
2. Introduce a whole-of-government website dedicated to rural prosperity by highlighting federal rural development resources
3. Collaborate with 16 federal agencies and regional commissions through the Rural Prosperity Interagency Policy Council to support and learn from RPN communities

### Rural People and Places, Trends and Opportunities

The Biden-Harris Administration is working hard to ensure America's rural places can leverage economic recovery resources, generate diversified economic growth, and create prosperity in their communities.

The federal government makes billions of dollars available each year to invest in community and economic development projects and activities. For many communities – particularly the most distressed – these resources can be difficult to identify and access. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed limitations in the typical competitive grant model, shedding light on access gaps in resources for rural people and communities.

The mere availability of competitive program resources isn't enough to build equitable, sustainable rural prosperity. Rural places need new, intentionally developed service delivery methods to support rural priorities and objectives. The Rural Partners Network provides such a framework.

For questions, please contact  
[RuralPartnersNetwork@usda.gov](mailto:RuralPartnersNetwork@usda.gov).



# RPN: USDA Press Release (April 20, 2022) - FAQs



Together, America Prospers

## Rural Partners Network Frequently Asked Questions

### How does the Rural Partners Network (RPN) compare with previous efforts under the 2013 StrikeForce Initiative? How do the two initiatives differ?

USDA was the sole federal agency chosen to design and carry out the original StrikeForce Initiative in 2013. In contrast, while USDA Rural Development (RD) is the lead federal agency responsible for implementing and running RPN, it will do so in collaboration with 16 federal departments, commissions, and authorities. This is one of several important distinctions between the StrikeForce Initiative and RPN. Additional distinguishing factors are summarized in this table:

Distinctive Characteristics	StrikeForce Initiative	Rural Partners Network
<b>Staffing</b>	Managed as collateral duties by existing USDA staff	Additional full-time, permanent staff hired by RD state offices
<b>Focus</b>	Persistent Poverty Counties	Broader socioeconomic indicators of distress as a first step in the selection
<b>Federal Government Equities</b>	<b>USDA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Resources Conservation Service</li> <li>Rural Development</li> <li>Farm Service Agency</li> <li>Food and Nutrition Service</li> <li>USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach</li> </ul>	Through the Rural Prosperity Interagency Policy Council, USDA RD will lead the implementation of RPN in states, Tribal areas, and territories in collaboration with more than 16 federal departments, commissions, and authorities
<b>Objectives</b>	Focused on food access and other targeted strategies	Ties directly to community needs and place-based strategies

### In addition to USDA, which other federal departments and agencies support RPN?

USDA is working in direct partnership with the following federal departments and agencies to provide coordinated service and assistance to RPN Community Networks and rural communities:

- [Department of Commerce \(DOC\)](#)
- [Department of Education \(ED\)](#)
- [Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Together, America Prospers

- [Department of the Interior \(DOI\)](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
- [Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)
- [Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#)
- [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)
- [Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)
- [Department of the Treasury](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#)

USDA will also work in partnership with the following federal agencies:

- [Appalachian Regional Commission \(ARC\)](#)
- [Delta Regional Authority \(DRA\)](#)
- [Demarc Commission](#)
- [Northern Border Regional Commission \(NBRC\)](#)

#### When RPN was launched, community networks define a community network?

Historically, USDA has seen great success when counties one another. When being considered for RPN, rural stakeholders. Examples include illustrating their footprint as a successful collaboration between key organizations and individuals.

#### What are the goals and objectives of the RPN?

The vision is to establish an "all-of-government" service delivery model to support necessary to bolster rural, place-based capacity. This includes:

- access multiple types of assistance to address or effectively invest this assistance in a strategic vision revitalization

USDA RD state offices will hire RPN Community Liaison Networks who understand the needs of the rural community. Community Liaisons will:

- enable constructive and strategic dialogue among stakeholders
- contribute technical expertise and guidance regarding tools and methods
- introduce local partners and stakeholders to a wide federal – and develop stakeholders' ability to navigate support of local strategies and projects.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Together, America Prospers

#### How long will RPN remain in operation? Is this a time-limited initiative?

RPN is a long-term investment of time and human capital designed to help rural communities grow capacity, and develop collaboration and partnerships. We know sustainable transformation takes time, and we are committed to ensuring success.

#### Does USDA intend to publish any program regulations or notices to guide the implementation of RPN in communities and regions?

RPN represents an innovative model of service delivery and regions. USDA and its federal partners are developing Community Liaisons and the Community Networks.

#### What methodology does USDA RD use to select Tribal areas, and their respective community networks?

The long-term vision is to implement RPN in every state groups of 5 – 7 states or territories, with multiple groups. USDA selects RPN states and community networks based on levels of economic distress, and readiness of communities. As part of this selection process, USDA conducted community surveys.

#### Does USDA intend to provide RPN services in Tribal areas?

USDA intends to implement RPN in additional states, territories, and Tribal areas. The long-term vision of RPN is to provide services in all rural areas.

#### Can an organization with a statewide service area be an RPN?

RPN is open to local public, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations are encouraged to play a supporting role in rural areas.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Together, America Prospers

#### What types of coordinated federal assistance is available through USDA and its interagency partners to states, territories, Tribal areas, and their respective communities if they haven't been selected to participate in RPN?

The USDA RPN Team and the Rural Prosperity Interagency Policy Council (IPC) are implementing policies and activities to support the administration's commitment to resourcing inclusive economic growth and community revitalization in rural places and regions nationwide. Key agencies are designating a person or team to coordinate within agencies, with a specific focus on:

- coordinated support for RPN Community Liaisons and Networks, including developing whole-of-government resources (such as rural resource hubs) to bring a whole-of-government lens to their work
- renewed rural commitment for streamlined information and data to inform federal policy decisions that better serve rural communities

#### How will you measure success of the RPN?

We will evaluate using both internal and external metrics and procedures used for the community selection process data indicators of socioeconomic change, as well as other indicators.

#### What do selected RPN community networks do?

USDA RD will put in place newly-hired, full-time rural staff will work collaboratively with the final selected investment opportunities, and connect community liaisons supporting community development planning, coordinate other resource opportunities. The purpose is to help rural communities.

RPN field staff will be tasked with feeding key information back to rural communities. Agencies will make changes that address the unique challenges faced support pilot sites but inform changes that make their communities. Through this new direct line between Administration will change business as usual and rural communities, share rural data and measures.

#### When will RPN staff be in the field in rural areas?

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Together, America Prospers

USDA is currently in the hiring process for RPN staff, with initial hires expected to be in place by the end of May 2022. Additional staff are anticipated by the end of August 2022.

#### When will you announce the second round of community networks?

We expect to make the second round announcement around the end of Fiscal Year 2022 in late September.

#### How can I learn more about the RPN?

Information is available at <https://www.usda.gov>. Questions can also be sent to the RPN email inbox at: [RuralPartnersNetwork@usda.gov](mailto:RuralPartnersNetwork@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

# RPN: Rural.Gov Website



Welcome! This site is your front door to federal programs and information; a place where you can learn from others working to improve their rural communities.

## Spotlights

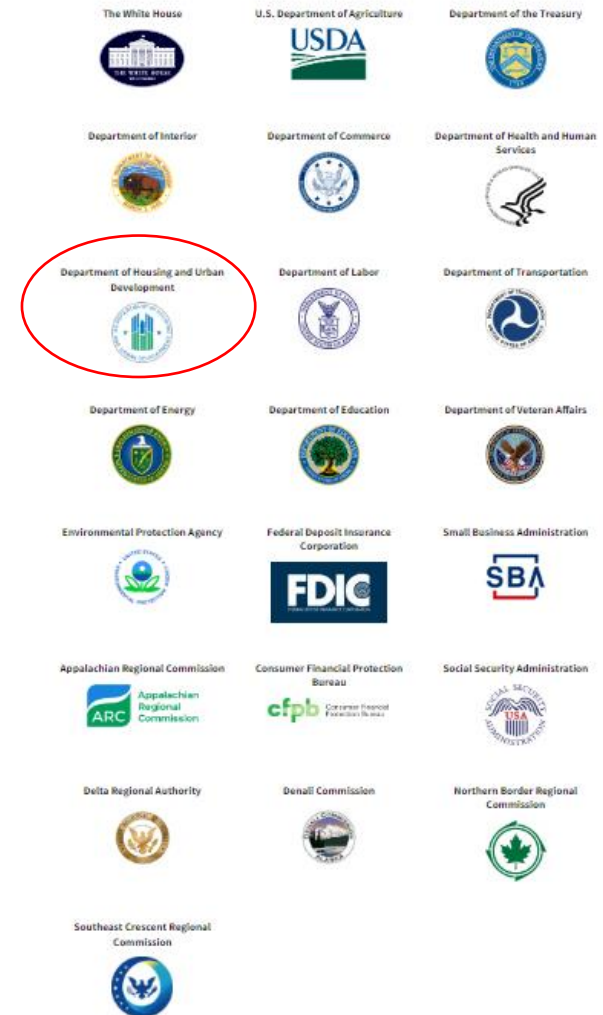


01.18.2023  
**Join the People's Garden Community!**

Gardens bring people together. See what else your community can make happen with a People's Garden.

## RPN Partners

These federal departments, agencies and commissions are members of the Rural Partners Network. The departments listed here are comprised of multiple federal agencies and offices that are also actively engaged in RPN.



# HUD's Rural Resources: Rural Gateway

**Rural Gateway**  
The Rural Gateway is an information clearinghouse providing technical assistance, training workshops, and peer learning and resource sharing to support rural housing and economic development.

- Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP)
- Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (VHRMP)

Home > Programs > Rural Gateway

**Peer Learning and Resource Sharing**

- Mailing Lists
- Peer-to-Peer Web Conference Calls
- Rural Gateway Programs and Funding Opportunities
- Case Studies
- Grants.gov
- Archive

**Featured Initiatives**

- White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis - Federal Reserve Board *Investing in Rural Prosperity*
- USDA Rural Development Resource Guides
- USDA Rural Placemaking
- USDA Small Business

**HUD Rural Serving Programs**

- Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program
- Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program
- Native American Programs
- Rental Assistance Demonstration Program
- Mortgage Insurance for One to Four Family Homes (Section 203(b))
- Healthcare Programs for Rural Hospitals

**Rural/Underserved Areas Resources**

- HUD Regional Field Offices
- USDA State Field Offices
- Delta Regional Authority
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- CDBG Colonias Set-Aside Program
- Native American Programs
- USDA Rural Development
- USDA Economic Research Service
- USDA Rural Development Innovation Center
- USDA Rural Workforce Innovation Network

**One-on-One Technical Assistance**  
Ask your technical assistance questions: Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development - **1-877-RURAL-26 (1-877-787-2526)**.  
HUD staff are available from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM (Eastern Time), Monday to Friday, to answer your housing, infrastructure, and economic development questions. Questions can also be submitted via email to [rhed@hud.gov](mailto:rhed@hud.gov).

**Spotlight**

**Rural Gateway Programs and Funding Opportunities**  
Rural Gateway programs, resources, and funding opportunities are provided through numerous federal programs across agencies that provide grants and loans for rural communities.

[View the Funding Opportunities](#)

**Spotlight**

**Rural Gateway Peer-to-Peer Web Conference Calls**  
Rural Gateway Peer-to-Peer Web Conference Calls highlight model programs and provide opportunities to ask questions and interact with fellow peers on different topics.

[View the Conference Calls](#)

**Spotlight**

**Rural Gateway Case Studies**  
Explore different Rural Gateway case studies and best practices highlighting selected programs, their successes, and lessons learned.

[View the Case Studies](#)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/rural/>

**Contacts**

Join the ORHED Mailing List

Contact HUD with RHED Questions

**One-on-One Technical Assistance**

Ask your technical assistance questions: Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development - **1-877-RURAL-26 (1-877-787-2526)**.

HUD staff are available from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM (Eastern Time), Monday to Friday, to answer your housing, infrastructure, and economic development questions.

Questions can also be submitted via email to [rhed@hud.gov](mailto:rhed@hud.gov).



U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning  
& Development (CPD)/U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD)

# Technical Assistance Partnership

Analysis & Recommendations

May 2023

# Recommendations



1. Conduct a joint two-day workshop to revisit and move forward recommendations set forth in 2016 Framework
2. Develop a matrix to identify targeted programs most suitable for collaboration
3. Develop materials to educate field staff, grantees, and local project managers/developers on joint funding and best practices
4. Develop a web-based decision tree for stakeholders to easily find available funding
5. Develop a long-term strategy



# HUD's Rural Technical Assistance Resources

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/dcta/>

Through DCTA/PP, HUD provides technical assistance (TA) directly to entities serving smaller communities with populations under 50,000.

The DCTA program is designed to improve fiscal health and build capacity of relatively small units of general local government (UGLGs) and their nonprofit partners in places experiencing persistent poverty and economic distress. "Local governments" include villages, towns, tribes, cities, counties, and other small municipalities.



**HUD EXCHANGE**

## Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance (DCTA)

DCTA considers good fiscal health, strong financial performance, and effective financial management practices to be the foundation for local governments and nonprofits to successfully obtain funding, implement projects, and accomplish goals. These are viewed as the central components of the technical assistance (TA) offered through this program.

## DCTA Resource Library

The DCTA program provides a wealth of resources compiled in the DCTA Resource Library which is updated bi-weekly. The library includes upcoming federal and national funding opportunities, as well as a searchable database of trainings, events, resources, reports, and guidance of interest to local governments and non-profits.

[View the DCTA Resource Library](#)

## DCTA Toolbox

The DCTA program provides trainings, tools, and guidance documents specifically for DCTA engagements, including a Financial Management Toolkit (FMT) to help UGLGs improve financial policies and procedures and maximize the use of funding streams.

[View the DCTA Toolbox](#)

## What are the benefits of participating in the DCTA program?

This program is designed to build capacity in small communities by helping local governments and their nonprofit partners:

• **Build Program Capacity:** Based on the local government's priorities, build capacity in program areas such as:

- Creating opportunities for economic revitalization and growth
- Planning for economic stabilization and recovery post disaster
- Strategizing around housing and community development projects, including identifying funding

• **Improve Financial Management:** Based on the local government's needs, implement effective, efficient, and sustainable (long-term) financial management practices that improve fiscal health, such as:

- Budgeting and forecasting cash flow for more than one year
- Developing a capital improvement plan (CIP)
- Adopting comprehensive financial policies and procedures for grant management
- Implementing a collaborative process where all department managers engage with the budget

• **Improve Internal Processes:** Based on the local government's needs, improve internal processes, such as:

- Gathering and analyzing data that is representative of the community
- Implementing or tracking progress of recently adopted planning documents
- Building cross-sector partnerships
- Establishing equitable community engagement practices



## York, AL

Through participation in the DCTA program, the small town of York, Alabama, with a population of approximately 2,400 residents, has moved from plan-on-the-shelf visioning to active community engagement in its new visioning goals. Financial health is another goal York set for itself.

[Learn more about York, AL](#)



## Blythe, CA

Finding creative solutions for unhoused individuals and families is a challenge many cities in California face, even in small communities like Blythe. With the help of DCTA, Blythe is strengthening partnerships and strategizing ways to better coordinate the homelessness system of care in their community.

[Learn more about Blythe, CA](#)



## Yabucoa, PR

With the help of DCTA, Yabucoa is making the most of federal funding, including an influx of disaster recovery funds. New economic development and affordable housing partnerships have added depth to the municipality's resources, and new strategies provide a clear path toward its goals.

[Learn more about Yabucoa, PR](#)





## West Memphis, AR

Learn how TA helped city leaders build capacity and develop a land bank to facilitate affordable housing development and to help first time home buyers achieve home ownership. With new knowledge, partnerships, and ways to engage its citizens, West Memphis can see a path to revitalizing the southeastern quadrant of the city.

[Learn more about West Memphis, AR](#)



## New Castle, PA

New Castle is working to facilitate economic and community development through stronger partnerships, coordinated planning, and increased staff capacity. City leaders are taking action with initiatives designed to enhance the vitality of the area by using a transformative approach focused on relationship-building and collaboration.

[Learn more about New Castle, PA](#)



## Hannibal, MO

One of the core objectives of the DCTA Program is helping cities build their capacity to achieve their goals. See how this community is working with a regional economic development partner to advance strategies for National Main Street status, Kiva Program participation, and other partnerships to meet its goals.

[Learn more about Hannibal, MO](#)

# HUD's Rural Technical Assistance Resources

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/tcta/>

State and local governments and tribes are receiving historic amounts of funding to invest in a range of infrastructure projects, including transportation, water systems, high-speed internet accessibility, environmental remediation, and electric grids.

These investments will reach every community across the country, including those that have been under-resourced or are experiencing economic distress. Jurisdictions can leverage these infrastructure investments to revitalize communities, ensure equitable access to resources, create economic opportunities for residents and businesses, and improve housing availability, affordability, and quality.

The Thriving Communities Technical Assistance (TCTA) program, funded in FY 2022 with \$5 million, is designed to support coordination and integration of transportation and housing in infrastructure planning and implementation.



<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/tcta/>

## How Can TA Help Your Local Government?

HUD's TCTA program will help local governments ensure housing needs are considered as part of their larger infrastructure investment plans, while also supporting equitable development in disadvantaged communities.

## Examples of How TA Can Support Your Local Government

With transportation projects getting underway, local governments have an opportunity to address their local housing needs through HUD's Thriving Communities TA. Here are some examples of how TCTA can support your housing goals in connection with a transportation project:

- A project to construct multimodal improvements and connect a disadvantaged community could include TCTA to preserve affordable housing in that community.
- Creation of a new transit line could include TCTA to identify and implement regulatory reforms to speed permitting for multifamily construction along the planned line.
- Development of a walking and biking trail could include TCTA to develop anti-displacement strategies.
- Improvements in transit connectivity along a corridor could include TCTA to identify vacant or underutilized land the local jurisdiction could use to create location-efficient housing.
- Revitalization of a rural main street could include TCTA to identify strategies to preserve and produce housing near the main street.
- A transit project could include TCTA to capture land value increases caused by the development through creation of special assessment tax districts to fund affordable housing along the transit corridor.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/tcta/>

## What Technical Assistance Will Be Provided?

Local governments can receive TCTA in the following four areas:

### Preservation

Preserving affordable housing and protecting residents and businesses from displacement as new infrastructure is deployed.

### Regulatory Reform

Identifying and implementing regulatory and procedural reforms to reduce unnecessary barriers to location-efficient housing that impede housing production and increase development costs.

### Land Utilization

Identifying and using vacant, abandoned, or underutilized land located on or near transportation projects that is suitable for housing development (including land owned by federal, state, and local governmental entities as well as the private sector) to create location-efficient housing.

### Coordination

Improving coordination both among public entities (for example, local housing, transportation, planning, and community development departments) and between public entities and state recipients of infrastructure funding; transit authorities and other quasi-public entities; the private sector; and locally based organizations in ways that support a holistic and regional approach to housing and transportation.

# HUD's Rural Technical Assistance Resources – Thriving Communities TA

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/tcta/>

## Salt Lake City, UT

*Aligning projects to support housing and community building in an underserved community*

Salt Lake City is receiving TCTA to help the City ensure that future transportation improvements and housing developments benefit underserved communities, particularly along the North Temple corridor. The City is experiencing significant growth, including a 100-acre redevelopment adjacent to downtown that will include new headquarters for Rocky Mountain Power, new housing, and potentially a Major League Baseball expansion team. The creation of a mobility hub on North Temple provides opportunities to meaningfully engage with the community while designing new, community-supportive development that adds value to nearby neighborhoods beyond transportation.

TCTA will provide city staff with tools to coordinate among projects, ensure meaningful resident input, and support the production of location efficient housing that serves a range of needs and retail/entertainment uses, while limiting displacement.



# HUD's Rural Technical Assistance Resources – Thriving Communities TA

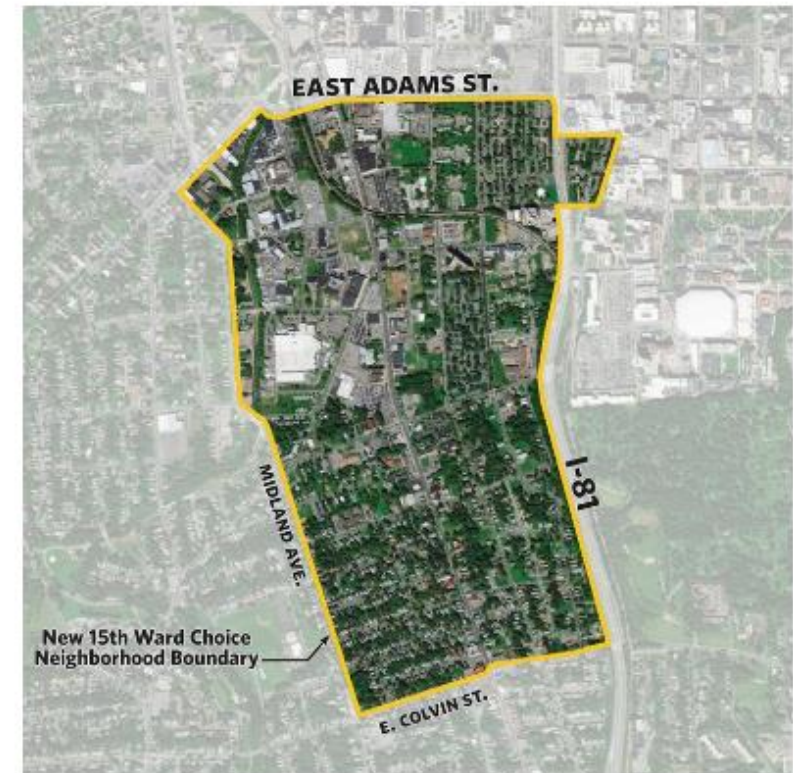
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/tcta/>

## Syracuse, NY

*Rebuilding trust through resident-centered neighborhood transformation*

The City of Syracuse is receiving TCTA to strengthen community engagement as a foundation for neighborhood transformation. In 2023, construction began on the Interstate 81 viaduct removal project, supported by a USDOT Reconnecting Communities planning grant. The original I-81 construction divided a once-thriving primarily Black community in the 15th Ward, displacing more than 1,200 families and 400 businesses. Next year, the Syracuse Housing Authority will begin construction on a new housing development, including redevelopment of public housing, as part of the New 15th Ward project.

TCTA will help city staff develop strategies for coordinating timelines across the housing and transportation projects and strengthen community engagement to rebuild trust among residents. A key goal is to ensure residents' needs are central to decisions about the housing and transportation projects that will transform their neighborhood.



# HUD's Rural Technical Assistance Resources – Thriving Communities TA

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/tcta/>

## Sun Prairie, WI

*Building support for zoning reform through storytelling*

The City of Sun Prairie is receiving TCTA to build support for zoning reforms to allow density increases near new transit routes. The City recently began providing local bus service and will be adding Bus Rapid Transit, funded under USDOT's Capital Investment Grants program, in late 2024. This service will connect higher density housing with employment centers, retail areas, schools, transportation nodes, and the downtown area, and will improve access to Madison, WI. City staff will work to build community support and strong partnerships as they face the challenges of retrofitting a bus system for a developed suburban area.

TCTA will support city planning staff in developing “storytelling” skills to effectively communicate with residents about land use decisions, while hearing and responding to local concerns. The goal is to convey the rationale for increasing density and adopt a holistic housing, transportation and land use plan that advances equity and sustainability. TCTA will also help city staff identify best practices to update and align housing, transportation, and land use plans and zoning regulations.



# HUD's Rural Technical Assistance Resources – Funding Navigator

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/build-for-the-future/funding-navigator/>

## Find Funding Opportunities

The Funding Navigator provides a listing of funding opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and others across federal agencies to support efforts to enhance climate resiliency, energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, healthy housing, workforce development and environmental justice in HUD supported communities, programs and properties.

Find open and upcoming opportunities, including funding status and where to apply, for funds to implement projects that reduce energy use and strengthen resiliency in communities.





# HUD's Rural Technical Assistance Resources – Funding Navigator

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/build-for-the-future/funding-navigator/>

## Resource by Topic



### Energy Efficiency

View resources on reducing energy waste and increasing efficiency in buildings.



### Renewables

View resources on sustainable energy sources derived from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, water, and geothermal heat.



### Resiliency

View resources on increasing the capacity of systems and communities to withstand and adapt to climate-related challenges and disturbances.



### Environmental Justice

View resources on inclusive environmental decision-making and policy implementation that amplifies the voices of marginalized communities.

# RPN: Rural.Gov Website



Welcome! This site is your front door to federal programs and information; a place where you can learn from others working to improve their rural communities.

## Spotlights



01.18.2023  
**Join the People's Garden Community!**

Gardens bring people together. See what else your community can make happen with a People's Garden.

## RPN Partners

These federal departments, agencies and commissions are members of the Rural Partners Network. The departments listed here are comprised of multiple federal agencies and offices that are also actively engaged in RPN.



RURAL.gov

About RPN

Help for Rural Communities ^

Community Networks

Rural Connections Blog

RPN News

Give Feedback

Help for Rural Communities

Community and Economic  
Development

Assistance for Individuals and  
Families

Tribal Programs and Resources

Help for Rural Communities

## Community and Economic Development Programs

Program Category

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Agriculture and Forestry**
- Broadband and Telecommunications
- Community Development
- Disaster Assistance
- Economic Development
- Education
- Employment & Workforce
- Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Food and Nutrition
- Health
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Military & Veterans
- Public Safety
- Seniors
- Transportation
- Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

community improvement. We will continue to add

am provides financial assistance to Tribal entities,  
and establish community forests. Participating  
e forest management, ensuring access to clean  
ies, and championing public access for recreation.

profits, local and Tribal government organizations,  
access to local foods. The program supports  
farms and agroforests, rooftop farms, food forests,  
greenhouses, high-tech vertical technology farms, and

# RPN: Rural.Gov Website

RURAL.gov

About RPN Help for Rural Communities Community Networks Rural Connections Blog RPN News Give Feedback



## Rural Connections Blog



01.30.2023

### Introducing the Fulton County and Sevier County, Tennessee Community Network

Community Networks are a collaboration among local leaders to address specific needs within a community. In this blog post, get to know the Fulton County Community Network, the only multi-state RPN Community Network. Fulton County is in the mid-south and is known for its southern sweet tea culture. Visitors always say, "Man, you guys are just so relaxed." The people here have a strong sense of community and value the quality of life. The county boasts an abundance of scenic beauty, outdoor activities, good public education, and a low crime rate and cost of living.



01.27.2023

### VA to Celebrate Black History Month with Virtual Minority Veteran Outreach Symposium

Minority Veterans, service members, family members, caregivers, and survivors will come together to celebrate African American service in military, as well as Veteran contribution to the nation with the Veteran's Administration (VA) On February 9, 2023.



## Rural Partners Network News

01.20.2023

[Rural LISC Announced as National Leader for USDA's Rural Partnership Network](#)

12.16.2022

[USDA Invests \\$102 Million to Create Economic Opportunities, Expand Access to Water Infrastructure and Rehabilitate Homes for Underserved Rural People Across the U.S.](#)

11.24.2022

[Expansion of Rural Partners Network Creates Opportunities for Wisconsin Farmers, Indigenous Nations](#)

11.23.2022

[Unlocking the Potential of Rural Nevada](#)

11.08.2022

[Center for Population Studies Co-Hosting Rural Partner Summit](#)


Rural Connections Newsletter

Rural Development <ruraldevelopment@public.govdelivery.com>

Wed 2/1/2023 9:36 AM

To: Yost, Erich M <Erich.M.Yost@hud.gov>

Issue 3, Vol 1 [View it as a Web page](#)




**Rural Connections Newsletter**  
Rural Partners | Funding | Resources  
February 2023

### Executive Director Message

*By Lee A. Jones, Executive Director for the Rural Partners Network*

Greetings to you all. This past month I had the opportunity to visit communities on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. Experiencing El Yunque National Forest in its full beauty is an experience of a lifetime. While Puerto Rico is known for beautiful beaches and lush vegetation, visiting some of the more remote locales on the island, such as Utuado, serves as a reminder that natural beauty does not mask need. It is also a personal reminder that while need is a constant across many underserved rural American communities, the need itself...and how we approach realizing solutions to those needs...differs from place to place. This visit solidified once again that rural communities are not a monolith, yet we must dedicate ourselves to listening to the needs of the communities as we continue to implement RPN.



In the coming weeks, we will celebrate the impact the federal government has had on RPN communities, while also recognizing we have barely scratched the surface of what RPN can mean to the people we serve. I am excited by our potential, amazed by the dedication of rural people and our wonderful staff, and dedicated to the mission of RPN. Happy New Year to each of you and may this year bring forth positive growth and successful solutions in rural America!

## Current Sections for:

- Executive Director Message
- Rural Partners Network in Action / On the Ground
- Rural Connections Blog
- Meet New Members of the RPN Team
- What's New in Rural Development
- Programs & Events
- Programs for Tribes
- Learning
- Contact Us

# Rural Partners Network (RPN): Staying Connected

## Meetings

- See chart on the next page.

## Rural Connections Newsletter

- Monthly Newsletter
- Subscribe at:  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/signup/36331>
- Includes “Rural Partners Network in Action” Information and Updates

## Rural Partners Network Annual Report

- Year One Rural Partners Network Annual Report “Building Rural Prosperity Annual Report 2022”
- Link: [https://www.rural.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/RuralPartnersNetworkAnnualReport02\\_15\\_23.pdf](https://www.rural.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/RuralPartnersNetworkAnnualReport02_15_23.pdf)



Rural Connections Newsletter - April Issue

USDA Rural Development sent this bulletin at 04/04/2023 01:00 PM EDT

Issue 4, Vol 1      Subscribe      View as a web page



### Happy 1st Birthday to Rural Partners Network!

#### Message From the Under Secretary for Rural Development

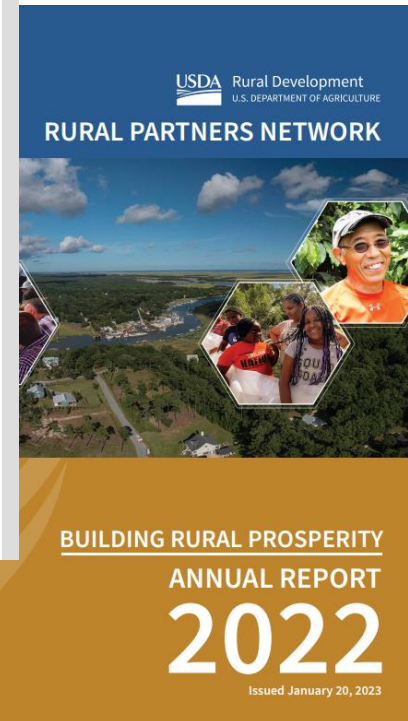
By Xochitl Torres Small, Under Secretary for Rural Development

Last April, we launched the Rural Partners Network (RPN) to provide more technical assistance and support for rural communities in need. I am so excited about the RPN work that has begun through the support of 36 community networks in 9 states, 4 direct partner Tribes, and Puerto Rico. Through RPN, rural people are connecting with resources that will help them create new and lasting prosperity on their own terms. USDA Rural Development employees are leading the RPN efforts across the country. Our RPN employees, who are often from rural places and love their hometowns. They want to make sure that all rural people have the ability to choose their best opportunities. RPN community networks are building partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies that support people in rural areas. When rural communities have equitable access to resources, all rural communities – and everyone in them – can build a better future. I look forward to working with the community networks and helping them to reach their goals for the future.

#### Message From the Rural Partners Network Executive Director

By Lee A. Jones, Executive Director for the Rural Partners Network

What a difference a year makes! This time last year, we were anxiously anticipating the launch of Rural Partners Network (RPN) with our first set of Community Networks in Cohort 1 states. We had no funding, no field staff, and not many outside a core group of federal partners even knew what “RPN” was. Now, as we




# Rural Partners Network (RPN): Staying Connected



## Rural Connections Newsletter - April Issue

USDA Rural Development sent this bulletin at 04/04/2023 01:00 PM EDT

Issue 4, Vol 1      [Subscribe](#)      [View as a web page](#)




Rural Partners | Funding | Resources      April 2023

### Happy 1st Birthday to Rural Partners Network!

#### Message From the Under Secretary for Rural Development

*By Xochitl Torres Small, Under Secretary for Rural Development*




Last April, we launched the Rural Partners Network (RPN) to provide more technical assistance and support for rural communities in need. I am so excited about the RPN work that has begun through the support of 36 community networks in 9 states, 4 direct partner Tribes, and Puerto Rico. Through RPN, rural people are connecting with resources that will help them create new and lasting prosperity on their own terms. USDA Rural Development employees are leading the RPN efforts across the country. Our RPN employees, who are often from rural places and love their hometowns. They want to make sure that all rural people have the ability to choose their best opportunities. RPN community networks are building partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies that support people in rural areas. When rural communities have equitable access to resources, all rural communities – and everyone in them – can build a better future. I look forward to working with the community networks and helping them to reach their goals for the future.

---

#### Message From the Rural Partners Network Executive Director

*By Lee A. Jones, Executive Director for the Rural Partners Network*



What a difference a year makes! This time last year, we were anxiously anticipating the launch of Rural Partners Network (RPN) with our first set of Community Networks in Cohort 1 states. We had no funding, no field staff, and not many outside a core group of federal partners even knew what "RPN" was. Now, as we

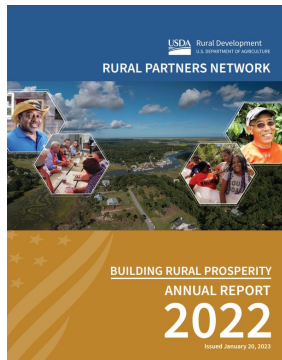
## Rural Connections Monthly Newsletter Sections

- Leadership Messages
- Rural Partners Network in Action
- Rural Connections Blog
- Meeting New Members of the RPN Team!
- What's New in Rural Development
- Programs & Events
- Programs for Tribes
- Learning Opportunities
- Contact Us

# Rural Partners Network (RPN): 2022 Annual Report

## Contents

Welcome to the Rural Partners Network	03
What We Do	04
Who We Are	05
Rural People Lead the Way	06
What Rural People Are Saying	07
RPN Community Networks	08
Locally Driven Priorities	10
How We Partner with Rural People	11
Signature Projects	12
Investment Strategy	14
Rural Partners Network: Year One	16
Early Wins	17
The Rural Partners Network Ripple Effect	18
At RPN We Believe	19



### Federal Partners

### Who We Are

USDA is leading a broad partnership of federal agencies, offices, and commissions collaborating to bring funding and opportunities to rural America. These partners support a growing number of RPN Community Networks across the country to drive resources to high-priority areas while improving program priorities and processes in ALL rural communities.

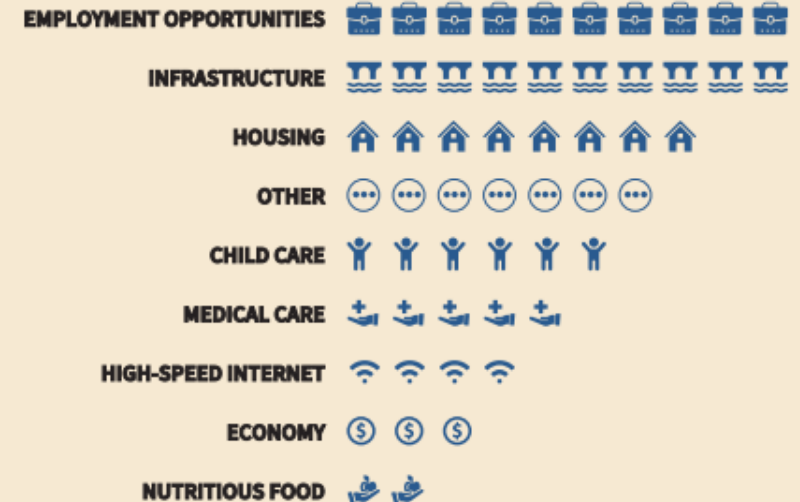
*The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has made equity its top investment priority to ensure that our program resources are invested in places most in need of assistance. The Rural Partners Network strengthens our commitment to the communities we seek to serve by directly investing in the critical capacities each community needs to successfully plan for and implement its vision for a prosperous, safe, and healthy future.*

- Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development  
Alexandra V. Castillo

05 | Rural Partners Network 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

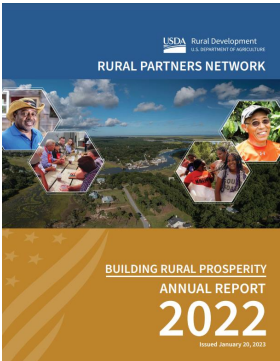
## Locally Driven Priorities

### TOP AREAS OF INTEREST ACROSS ALL RPN COMMUNITY NETWORKS

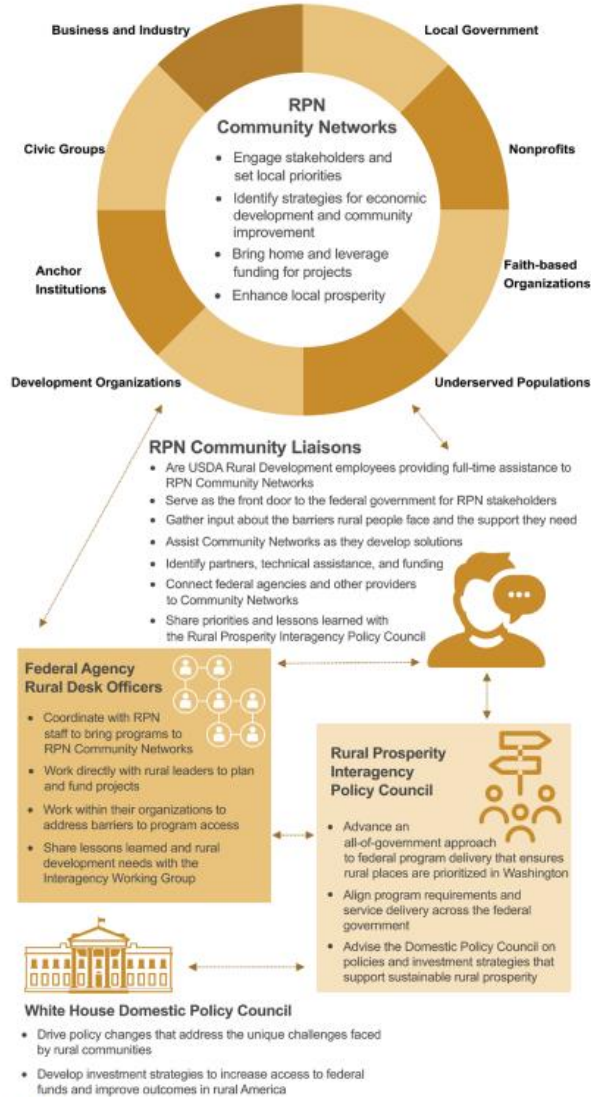




# Rural Partners Network (RPN): 2022 Annual Report



## How We Partner with Rural People



## Signature Projects

RPN Community Network members have identified key projects in their communities they want the Rural Partners Network to support. Here are some examples:



### SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION

San Carlos Apache Tribe, Arizona



In response to increasing electricity costs for homes and businesses, the San Carlos Apache Tribe is evaluating solar energy solutions, including a power generation facility that would not only lower utility costs and increase reliability, but would also generate income for the Tribe and create high-paying jobs in the community.

The U.S. Department of Energy and other Rural Partners Network agencies are advising on next steps, including finding expertise and funding for a feasibility study. Subsequent project phases include predevelopment, construction, and workforce development for an interconnected and self-sustained generation and distribution system. Additional RPN partners stand ready to provide technical assistance and capital as the project progresses.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION

Fulton County Community Network, Kentucky



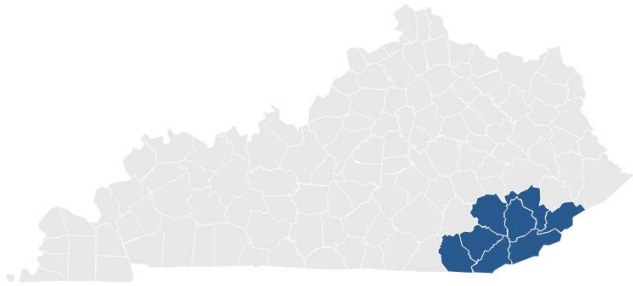
Attracting and keeping workers requires access to adequate, affordable housing. Not only are growth opportunities for local business and industry hampered without adequate housing, but local schools also struggle to retain experienced teachers who prefer to live close to the workplace. No private-sector housing development has occurred in the City of Fulton for nearly two decades, and most housing in the county is rental property.

The Community Network is partnering with the city, a local housing nonprofit, and a custom manufactured housing builder to plan and develop affordable single-family homes across the city. The Rural Partners Network is helping identify federal grants and incentives to assist the city with predevelopment, infrastructure buildout, and gap funding and to also make homeownership education and financial assistance available for residents.

# **Rural Partners Network (RPN) Community Network HUD Significant Projects**

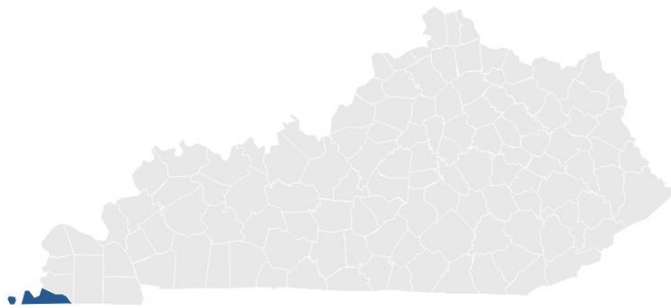


# HUD: DPC Assigned Rural Partners Network Cohort 1 Community Network Signature Projects



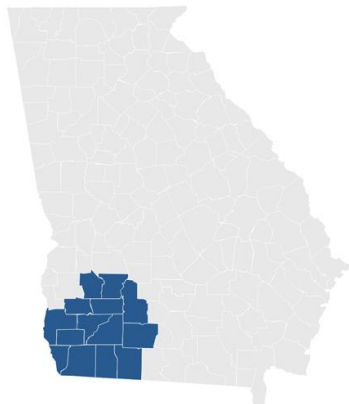
## Kentucky Highland Community Network

- **Location:** 8 counties, in Eastern KY (also, the Kentucky Promise Zone)
- **Host Entity:** Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation
- **Signature Project:** recovery from over 1,500 homes destroyed from the flooding in July 2022 and addressing a worsening housing shortage
- <https://www.rural.gov/community-networks/ky/kentucky-highlands>



## Fulton County Community Network

- **Location:** Fulton County, KY & City of South Fulton, TN
- **Host Entity:** Fulton County Fiscal Courts
- **Signature Project:** Housing Initiative focused on building housing in an area that has not seen a new home built in over 18 years with over 100 vacant lots ready for housing development
- <https://www.rural.gov/community-networks/ky/fulton-county>



## Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Community Network

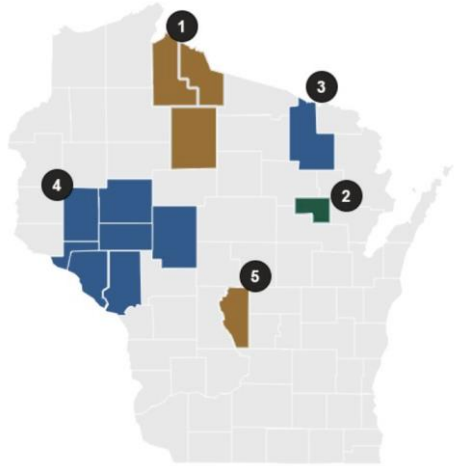
- **Location:** 14 Counties in Southwest Georgia
- **Host Entity:** Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
- **Signature Project:** Rehabilitation and preservation of homes for the disabled and senior populations
- <https://www.rural.gov/community-networks/ga/southwest-georgia-regional-commission>

# HUD: DPC Assigned Rural Partners Network Cohort 2 Community Network Signature Projects



## Southwest Rural Network-Puerto Rico Community Network

- **Location:** Southwest Community Network- Guánica
- **Host Entity:** Fundación Bucarabón
- **Signature Project:** Community-Based Redevelopment
- **Goal:** Provide planning, project management and funding support for the three communities in Guánica (Arenas, Siberia, Esperanza) to address short-, medium- and long-term redevelopment needs. Community economic development projects, Community landbank or vacant property plan, and Placemaking plan)
- **Potential Federal Partners:** EDA, FEMA, SBA, and USDA
- <https://www.rural.gov/community-networks/pr/southwest>



## Adams County Visionary Community Network

- **Location:** Adams County and some bordering towns / #5 on Map
- **Host Entity:**
- **Signature Project:** Adams County Area Housing Development to Include Multi-family units
- **Potential Federal Partners:** EDA and USDA
- <https://www.rural.gov/community-networks/wi>

**RPN Community Networks  
HUD Assigned Cohort 1 “Signature Projects” -  
Community Network Demographic Profiles**



# RPN Community Networks HUD Assigned Cohort 1 “Signature Projects” - Community Network Demographic Profiles

- At the RPN CN Signature Project “Kick-Off Meeting” and following the “Kick-Off” Meeting ODED staff and a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) on rotation to HUD for each of the RPN CN Cohort 1 Signature Projects communities assigned to HUD
  - Collected demographic information and profiles
  - Reviewed RPN CN Selection Process Data and Other Data such as:
    - Persistent Poverty Counties
    - Opportunity Zones
    - CDC's Social Vulnerability Index
    - Economic Innovation Group's [Distressed Communities Index](#)
  - Collected and Reviewed HUD, DOT, and USDA Select Group of Housing and/or Other Equities
    - HUD
      - Housing Equities
      - CART Data
      - CPD CDBG and ESG Funding and Action Plans
    - USDA
      - Rural Development (RD) Multifamily Properties (as of 2019)
      - Single Family Housing Active Loans (as of 2016)
    - DOT
      - Thriving Communities: selected projects and runners-up
      - Reconnecting Communities: selected projects
      - RAISE/BUILD/TIGER: 2009-2022
      - Areas of Persistent Poverty FTA grant program, FY 2021

**The following Pages Illustrate an Example of Data Collected for one RPN CN**

# RPN Kentucky Highlands Community Network

## Priorities

---

### Affordable Housing

- Disaster related repair
- Single-family housing
- Multi-family housing
- Low- and very-low-income housing assistance
- Repairs for elderly and disabled homeowners

### Broadband Connectivity

- Connectivity for remote work
- Connectivity for higher education
- Connectivity for primary and secondary education

### Rural Healthcare

- Telemedicine access
- Specialty care in rural communities
- Care for women's services and pediatric care that is accessible
- Prescription assistance for elderly and disabled individuals

### Infrastructure

- Watershed infrastructure
- Major roadway development for industry access
- Water and wastewater system restoration

### Economic Diversification

- Recreation economies for rural communities
- Agricultural economic investment
- Manufacturing investment

### Workforce Development

- Support for local businesses
- Training programs for displaced workers
- Vocational rehabilitation
- STEM development for schools

# RPN Kentucky Highlands Community Network

## Host Entity

---

### **Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation**

Sandi Curd, Ph.D

[s.curd@khic.org](mailto:s.curd@khic.org)

[\(606\) 864-5175](tel:(606)864-5175)

## Partners

---

Accelerating Appalachia

Advent Health Manchester

Baptist Health Corbin

Bell Whitley Community Action Agency

Buckhorn Children and Family Services

Partners for Rural Impact

Christian Appalachian Project

Housing Development Alliance, Inc.

Community Farm Alliance

Corbin United Effort

Daniel Boone Community Action Agency

EKCEP

Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Grow Appalachia

Hazard Community and Technical College

Highlands Housing

Pine Mtn Settlement School

KCEOC Community Action Agency

Kentucky Mountain Housing Development

Kentucky Homeplace

Mountain Association

UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health

The Center for Rural Strategies

UK Cooperative Extension Service

What's Next East Kentucky Prosper Appalachia

Advantage Kentucky Alliance

Appalachian Regional Healthcare

Barbourville Tourism

Berea College- Brushy Fork Institute

Center for Rural Development

CANE Kitchen

COAP, Inc.

HOMES, Inc.

Community Ventures

Cumberland Valley Area Development District

LKLP Community Action Agency

FAHE

Grace Community Healthcare

Harlan Community Action Agency

Henderson Settlement

Hindman Settlement School

KCARD

Kentucky Office of Rural Health

Kentucky River Community Care

Mountain Comprehensive Healthcare

Red Bird Mission

Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation

Kentucky Educational Development Corporation

Vision Granted

Feed the Children



# RPN Kentucky Highlands Community Network

## USDA Rural Development

### Rural Partners Network (RPN) Community Networks: HUD Signature Projects Contact List

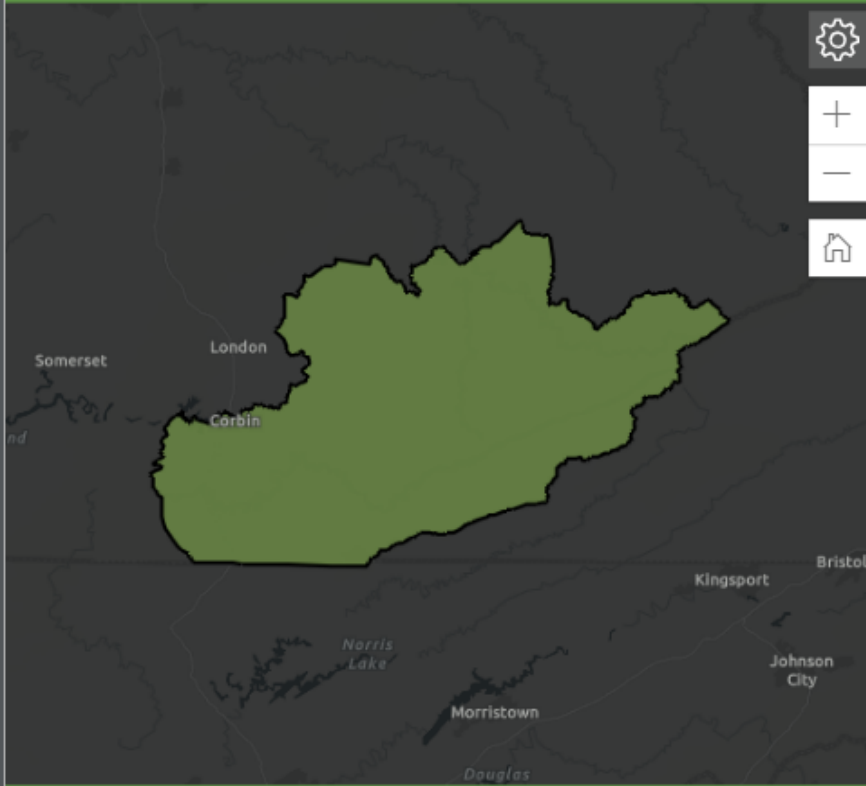
As of 6/27/23

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	COMMUNITY NETWORK (CN) / HUD TITLE
<b>KENTUCKY</b>			
<b>USDA STAFF</b>			
Dr. Thomas Carew	State Director	<a href="mailto:thomas.carew@usda.gov">thomas.carew@usda.gov</a>	Statewide
Rachel Chambers	Community Liaison	<a href="mailto:rachel.chambers@usda.gov">rachel.chambers@usda.gov</a>	Kentucky Highlands CN
Bradford Rodgers	Community Liaison	<a href="mailto:bradford.rodgers@usda.gov">bradford.rodgers@usda.gov</a>	Fulton County CN
Connie Sturgill	Community Liaison	<a href="mailto:connie.sturgill@usda.gov">connie.sturgill@usda.gov</a>	Kentucky Highlands CN
<b>HUD STAFF</b>			
FPM Regional Administrator / Region IV	José Alvarez	Regional Administrator, Region V, Atlanta	<a href="mailto:Jose.A.Alvarez@hud.gov">Jose.A.Alvarez@hud.gov</a>
FPM Deputy Regional Administrator / Region IV	Tiffany C. Cobb	Deputy Regional Administrator, Region IV, Atlanta	<a href="mailto:Tiffany.C.Cobb@hud.gov">Tiffany.C.Cobb@hud.gov</a>
FPM Field Office Director	Ahsaki Thurman	Field Office Director, Louisville	<a href="mailto:Ahsaki.Thurman@hud.gov">Ahsaki.Thurman@hud.gov</a>
FPM Field Office: Other Staff	David Railey	Senior Management Analyst	<a href="mailto:David.Railey@hud.gov">David.Railey@hud.gov</a>
FPM Regional Public Affairs Officer	Gloria Shanahan	-	<a href="mailto:Gloria.Shanahan@hud.gov">Gloria.Shanahan@hud.gov</a>
CPD Field Office Director	Erik D. Hoglund	(Acting), Louisville, KY	<a href="mailto:Erik.Hoglund@hud.gov">Erik.Hoglund@hud.gov</a>
Others		-	

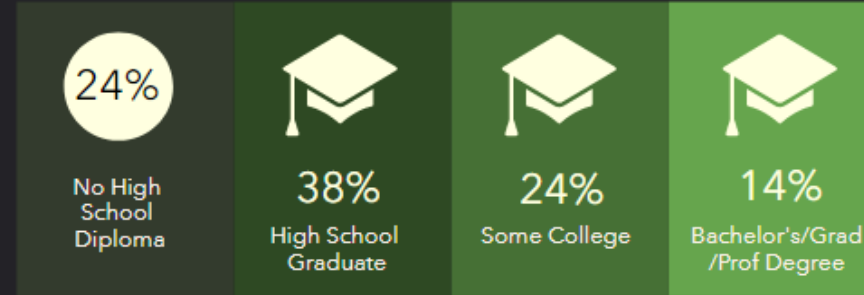
# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Kentucky Highlands Combined Counties

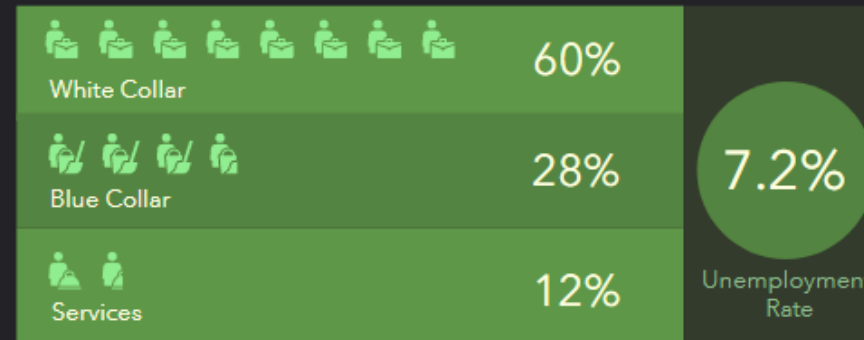
Geography: County



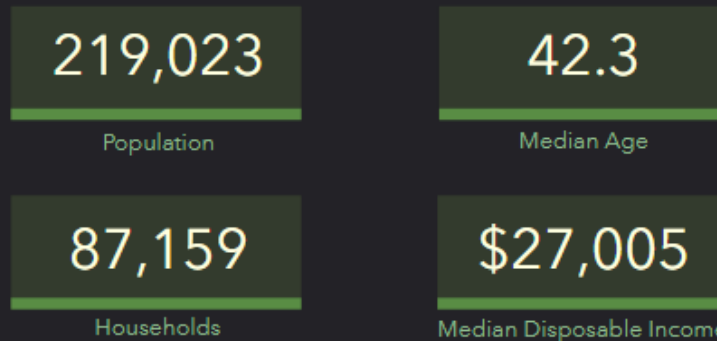
## EDUCATION



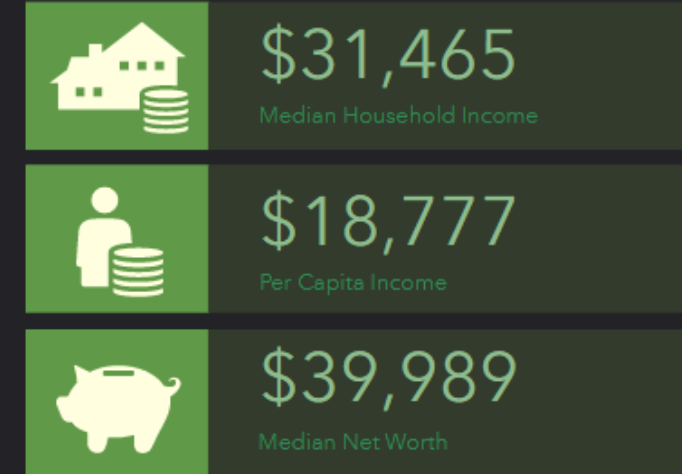
## EMPLOYMENT



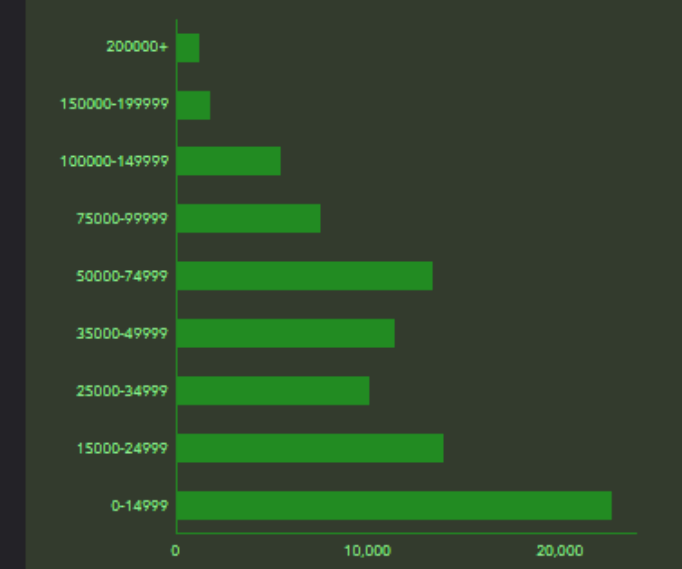
## KEY FACTS



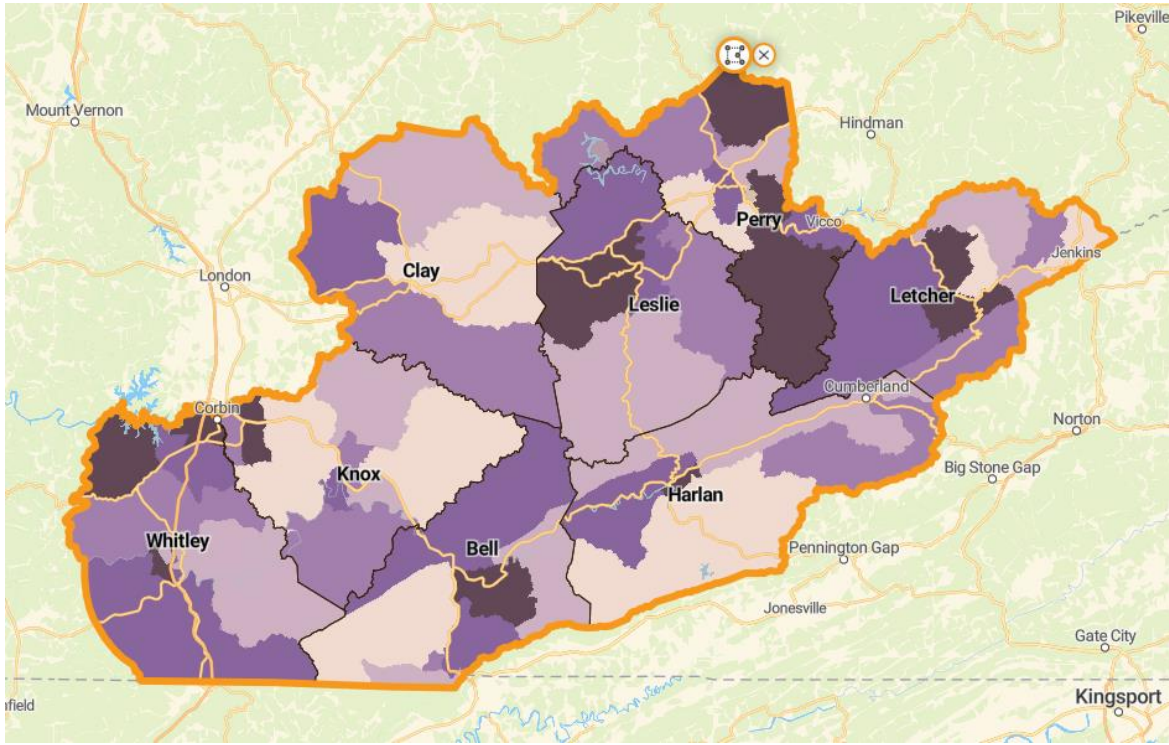
## INCOME



## HOUSEHOLD INCOME (\$)



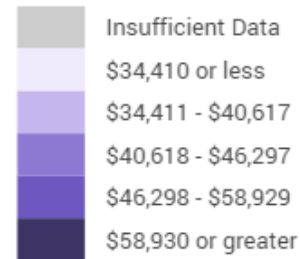
This infographic contains data provided by Esri. The vintage of the data is 2021, 2026.  
© 2022 Esri



**Median Family Income**

Source: Census

Year: 2017-2021



Shaded by: Census Tract, 2020

# Kentucky Highlands Community Network

County	Population	Unemployed	Below Poverty	Spend over 30% on housing	White (%)	Black (%)	Asian (%)	Hispanic (%)	Median Family Income	Median Housing Price	Median Rent	Home Ownership	Renters	Vacant
Bell	27,469	9%	38%	29%	94%	3%	0%	0%	\$31,128.00	\$59,400.00	\$345.00	65%	35%	16%
Clay	20,866	9%	40%	25%	93%	3%	N/A	3%	\$31,990.00	\$55,600.00	\$362.00	71%	29%	14%
Harlan	27,548	11%	36%	25%	95%	3%	0%	1%	\$32,414.00	\$53,500.00	\$335.00	68%	32%	17%
Knox	31,424	11%	35%	25%	96%	1%	0%	1%	\$32,795.00	\$76,900.00	\$370.00	63%	37%	16%
Leslie	10,648	15%	35%	17%	98%	0%	0%	1%	\$37,331.00	\$48,900.00	\$276.00	78%	22%	20%
Letcher	23,011	12%	31%	24%	98%	0%	0%	1%	\$37,542.00	\$58,500.00	\$376.00	74%	26%	14%
Perry	27,329	13%	26%	20%	96%	2%	1%	1%	\$43,024.00	\$73,300.00	\$391.00	74%	26%	15%
Whitley	36,027	9%	25%	25%	96%	1%	0%	1%	\$43,904.00	\$83,800.00	\$427.00	70%	30%	18%

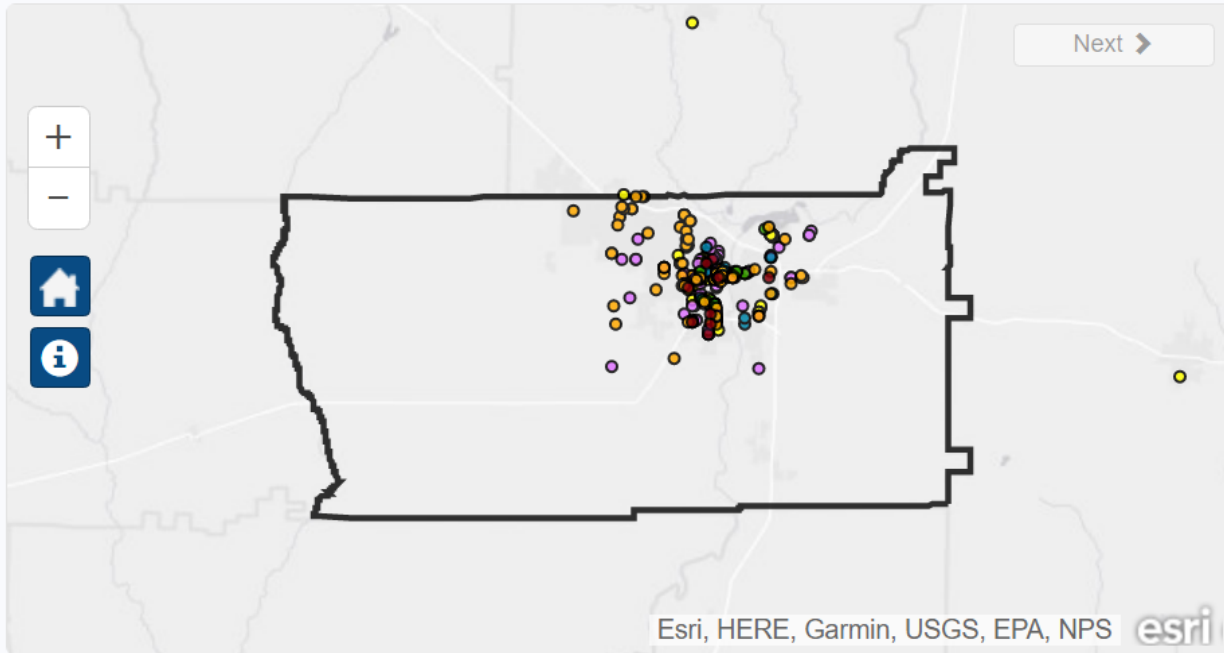
CPD Annual Action Plan							HUD CART					Demographics (CART, Census ACS 5-Year Data)													PolicyMap					Selected DOT Programs			Social Vulnerability		Distressed Communities			
State	County	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	CPD Grants	Rental Assistance	Mortgage Insurance (MI)	Fair Housing	Housing Counseling	Signature	Population	Unemployed	Below Poverty	Spend over 30% on housing	White (%)	Black (%)	Asian (%)	Hispanic (%)	Median Family Income	Median Housing Price	Median Rent	Home Ownership	Renters	Vacant	Persistent Poverty County (CDFI)	Opportunity Zones (Census tracts, CDFI)	USDA RD Multifamily Properties (2019)	USDA SFH Active Loans (2016)	Thriving Communities	Reconnecting Communities	RAISE/BUILD/TIGER 2009-2022	Areas of Persistent Poverty FTA FY2021	Value (0-1)	SVI Indication	Score	Tier
KY	Bell	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 5 projects, 434 units. Project-based rental assistance - 434. PHA: funding FY21/FY20 PH Low-Rent Properties - 663. 3 refinancing/improvements. 1 Housing Choice Voucher Program - 402. 3 PHAs, 98% utilization rate for section 8, 90% occupancy.	MFH: 4 projects, 58 market rate units w/ M, 338 units w/ M. 3 new construction, 3 refinancing/improvements. 1 healthcare/hospitals. SFH: 172 properties insurance in force, 20 defaults.	N/A	N/A	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	27469	9%	38%	29%	94%	3%	0%	0%	\$31,128.00	\$59,400.00	\$345.00	65%	35%	16%	Yes	Yes - 1 census tract	1	165	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System	N/A	0.7992	High	98.5	Distressed
KY	Clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 4 projects, 160 units. Project-based rental assistance - 159, section 811 - 1. PHA: funding FY21/FY20 PH Low-Rent Properties - 32. Housing Choice Voucher Program - 32. 1 PHA, 100% occupancy.	MFH: 2 projects, 106 market rate units w/ M, 184 units w/ M. 1 new construction, 1 healthcare/hospitals. SFH: 106 properties insurance in force, 5 defaults.	N/A	N/A	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	20866	9%	40%	25%	93%	3%	N/A	3%	\$31,990.00	\$55,600.00	\$362.00	71%	29%	14%	Yes	Yes - 2 census tracts	2	213	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System	N/A	0.8405	High	92.7	Distressed
KY	Harlan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 4 projects, 159 units. Project-based rental assistance - 159. PHA: funding FY21/FY20 PH Low-Rent Properties - 316. 1 refinancing/improvements. SFH: 174 Housing Choice Voucher Program - 376. 2 PHAs, 92% occupancy.	MFH: 1 project, 2 market rate units w/ M, 107 units w/ M. 1 new construction, 1 refinancing/improvements. SFH: 174 properties insurance in force, 13 defaults.	N/A	N/A	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	27548	11%	36%	25%	95%	3%	0%	1%	\$32,414.00	\$53,500.00	\$335.00	68%	32%	17%	Yes	Yes - 1 census tract	4	155	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System	N/A	0.8488	High	99.4	Distressed
KY	Knox	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 9 projects, 330 units. Project-based rental assistance - 310, other - 20. PHA: funding FY21/FY20 PH Low-Rent Properties - 203. Housing Choice Voucher Program - 636. 2 PHAs, 95% utilization for section 8, 98% occupancy.	MFH: 2 projects, 90 units w/ M. 2 refinancing/improvements. SFH: 266 properties insurance in force, 25 defaults, 1 REG.	N/A	1 housing counseling agency (KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc.)	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	31424	11%	35%	25%	96%	1%	0%	1%	\$32,795.00	\$76,900.00	\$370.00	63%	37%	16%	Yes	Yes - 1 census tract	6	260	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System; BUILD FY2020 US 25W Widening and Access Improvements	N/A	0.7581	High	95.2	Distressed
KY	Leslie	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 1 project, 20 units. Project-based rental assistance - 20. PH: Housing Choice Voucher Program - 36.	MFH: 1 project, 21 units w/ M. 1 refinancing/improvements. SFH: 39 properties insurance in force, 6 defaults.	N/A	N/A	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	10648	15%	35%	17%	98%	0%	0%	1%	\$37,331.00	\$48,900.00	\$276.00	78%	22%	20%	Yes	Yes - 1 census tract	2	62	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System	N/A	0.6349	Medium to High	99.6	Distressed
KY	Letcher	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 3 projects, 101 units. Project-based rental assistance - 101. PHA: funding FY21/FY20 PH Low-Rent Properties - 104. 1 refinancing/improvements. 1 Housing Choice Voucher Program - 53. 1 PHA, 98% occupancy.	MFH: 2 projects, 82 market rate units w/ M, 180 units w/ M. 1 new construction, 1 refinancing/improvements. 1 healthcare/hospitals. SFH: 104 properties insurance in force, 4 defaults.	N/A	N/A	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	23011	12%	31%	24%	98%	0%	0%	1%	\$37,542.00	\$58,500.00	\$376.00	74%	26%	14%	Yes	No	2	80	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System	N/A	0.7658	High	99.6	Distressed
KY	Perry	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 2 projects, 98 units. Project-based rental assistance - 97, section 811 - 1. PHA: funding FY21/FY20 PH Low-Rent Properties - 273. Housing Choice Voucher Program - 53. 1 PHA, 89% occupancy.	SFH: 214 properties insurance in force, 15 defaults, 2 REG.	N/A	N/A	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	27329	13%	26%	20%	96%	2%	1%	1%	\$43,024.00	\$73,300.00	\$391.00	74%	26%	15%	Yes	Yes - 3 census tracts	3	241	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System	N/A	0.6591	Medium to High	91	Distressed
KY	Whitley	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CoC FY21/FY20 (State)	MFH: 7 projects, 156 units. Project-based rental assistance - 180, other - 16. PHA: funding FY21/FY20 PH Low-Rent Properties - 328. Housing Choice Voucher Program - 562. 2 PHAs, 96% occupancy.	MFH: 2 projects, 88 market rate units w/ M, 88 units w/ M. 1 risk sharing, 1 healthcare/hospitals. SFH: 380 properties insurance in force, 31 defaults, 1 REG.	N/A	N/A	1 Promise Zone site: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (2014)	36027	9%	25%	25%	96%	1%	0%	1%	\$43,904.00	\$83,800.00	\$427.00	70%	30%	18%	Yes	Yes - 2 census tracts	6	360	N/A	N/A	TIGER FY2009 - Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project; TIGER FY2015 Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System; BUILD FY2020 US 25W Widening and Access Improvements	N/A	0.7425	Medium to High	90.5	Distressed

County: Dougherty

[CPD Grants](#)
[Rental Assistance](#)
[Mortgage Insurance](#)
[Fair Housing](#)
[Housing Counseling](#)
[Signature](#)
[Demographics](#)
[Create Map](#)

Map

Details



CPD: Formula Grants	# of 2022 Grantees	FY22 Grant Award	FY21 Grant Award	Variance
<a href="#">Community Development Block Grants</a>	1	\$810,072	\$869,133	-7%
<a href="#">HOME</a>	1	\$535,447	\$496,697	7%
<a href="#">Emergency Solutions Grant</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Housing Opportunities for Persons w/AIDS</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The grantees (CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA) listed in this report may be completely or partially contained by the community you have selected. The funding amounts displayed in the report are associated with the entirety of the grantee jurisdiction, which may extend beyond the boundaries of the community you selected. If jurisdiction selected is not an Entitlement Grantee, this jurisdiction may receive funds from the State Non-Entitlement program.

Source: Office of Community Planning and Development, Systems Development and Evaluation Division and the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS)  
Update Frequency: Annual

# CART Findings: Kentucky Highlands Community Network

- Rental Assistance & Mortgage Insurance
  - All counties have assistance, most with multifamily and single family
  - 12 total PHAs across the counties
- Housing Counseling
  - Knox County has one counseling agency
- Signature
  - Promise Zone site (2014)

# Programs Researched

- Persistent Poverty Counties
- Opportunity Zones
- CDC's [Social Vulnerability Index](#)
- Economic Innovation Group's [Distressed Communities Index](#)
- USDA
  - Rural Development (RD) Multifamily Properties (as of 2019)
  - Single Family Housing Active Loans (as of 2016)
- DOT
  - Thriving Communities: selected projects and runners-up
  - Reconnecting Communities: selected projects
  - RAISE/BUILD/TIGER: 2009-2022
  - Areas of Persistent Poverty FTA grant program, FY 2021

# Other alignment: Kentucky Highlands Community Network

## USDA

- RD Multifamily properties: 8
- SFH Active Loans: 1,536

## DOT

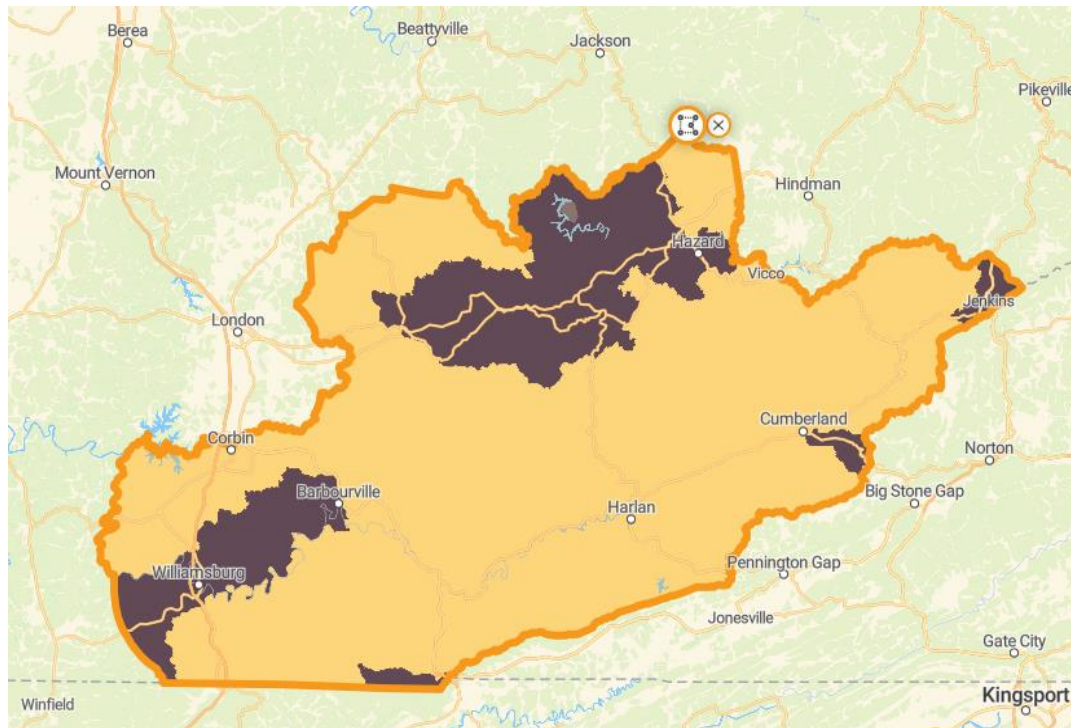
- TIGER FY 2009: Appalachian Regional Short Line Rail Project
- TIGER FY 2015: Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System
- BUILD FY 2020: US 25W Widening and Access Improvements

## Social Vulnerability Index

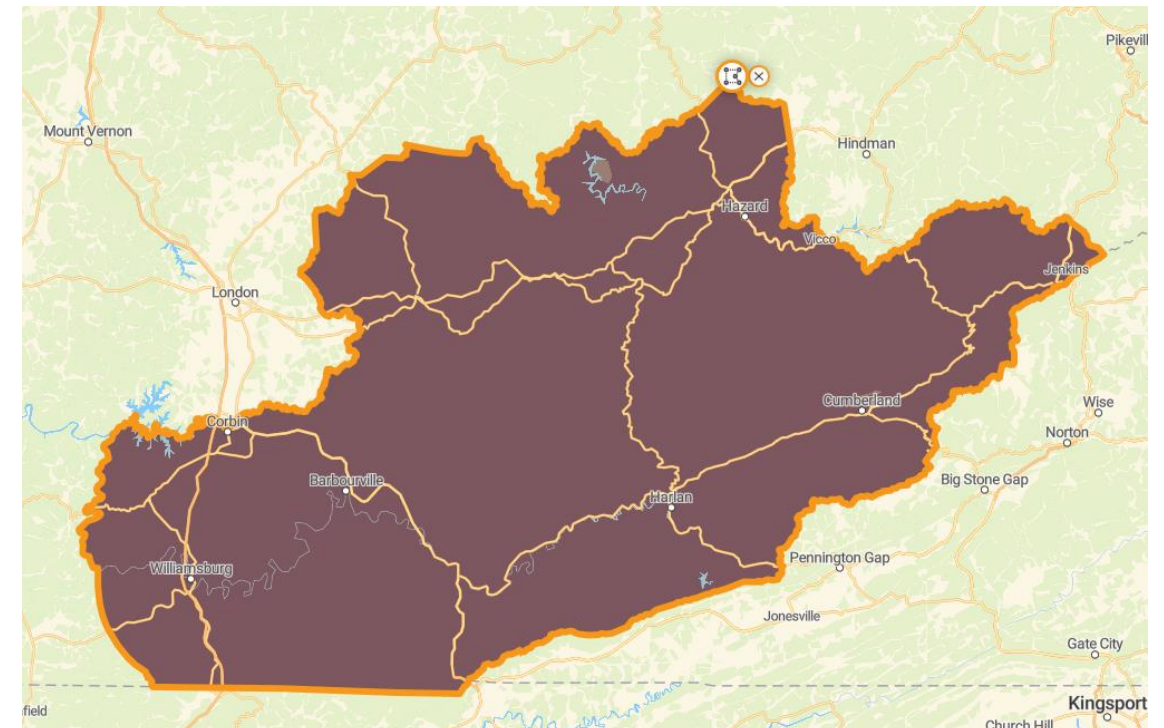
5 counties high, 3 counties medium to high

## Distressed Communities Index

All counties in Distressed tier



Opportunity Zones (census tracts)



Areas of Persistent Poverty (counties)



# CPD Annual Action Plans

- CPD Annual Actions Plans from 2017-2021 (last available year), state level
- Kentucky Highlands: no mention of 8 counties
- Fulton County, KY: no mention in KY/TN plans
- SW GA Regional Commission
  - Colquitt County: named as an Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) coordinated entry implementation site 2018-2021
  - Dougherty County: named as an Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) coordinated entry implementation site 2021

# HUD's Consolidated Plans (ConPlans) and Community and Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)



## Description

HUD has partnered with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to encourage each agency's grantees to conduct strategic planning. Both agencies have developed joint guidance to better coordinate local planning efforts and to help streamline the planning process with the goal that one agency's documents can be adapted for submission to the other agency.

### ***Streamlined, Comprehensive Strategic Planning***

- Reduced Administrative Burden for Grantees and Applicants
- Increased Local and Regional Collaboration
- Program Alignment and Optimized Investments in Revitalized Communities and Resilient Economies

## Resource Links

- [Streamlined, Comprehensive Strategic Planning](#) (PDF)
- [Reducing Administrative Burden through Aligned Planning](#) (PDF)
- [Increased Local and Regional Collaboration](#) (PDF)

## ***Benefits of Joint Planning***

- ***Leverage Resources*** –It takes more than one resource to effectively address today's community and economic development challenges. By aligning EDA and HUD program funds and leveraging these with nonprofit and private investments to address common goals, community and regional stakeholders can close the funding gaps that impede forward progress on critical projects.
- ***Minimize Duplication*** – Both the CEDS and the Consolidated Plan are multi-year strategic plans designed to help communities determine their priority needs, set goals and identify resources to address them.
- ***Coordinated Approach*** – The establishment of joint strategic planning processes facilitates networking and knowledge sharing across jurisdictions and organizations, sectors and projects. These can combine to result in projects that produce enhanced and sustainable community benefits.
- ***Comprehensive Impact*** – A joint planning process requires the participants to focus on the needs and challenges of the entire community such as economic growth and opportunity, infrastructure, safe and affordable housing and public services.

# HUD's Consolidated Plans (ConPlans) and Community and Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)

## Planning Process Similarities

Both the CEDS and the Consolidated Plan content requirements reflect the value that the federal government places in effective collaborative planning processes and strategic, comprehensive, data driven, and inclusive decision making:

Planning Element	CEDS	Consolidated Plan	Joint Planning Alignment
Planning Period	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-year Planning Document</li> <li>• Both agencies allow applicants to adjust planning period to synchronize timing.</li> </ul>
Citizen Participation	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each plan requires consultation with certain groups, many of which are the same.</li> </ul>
Public Comment	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both plans require a 30-day public comment period.</li> </ul>
Strategic Planning Analysis	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both plans use data-driven analysis to identify the area's needs, assess the market and set measurable goals.</li> </ul>
Focus on distressed urban and rural areas	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both plans are outcome-focused.</li> <li>• Both reflect the goal of expanding economic opportunity.</li> </ul>
Similar Intended Beneficiaries	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CEDS focuses on building capacities to create resilient regional economies that produce good jobs in distressed areas.</li> <li>• The Consolidated Plan also has a focus on creating and retaining good jobs for people of low and moderate income.</li> </ul>
Economic Resilience	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both plans incorporate a resilience component.</li> </ul>

## Acknowledging and Leveraging Noteworthy Differences

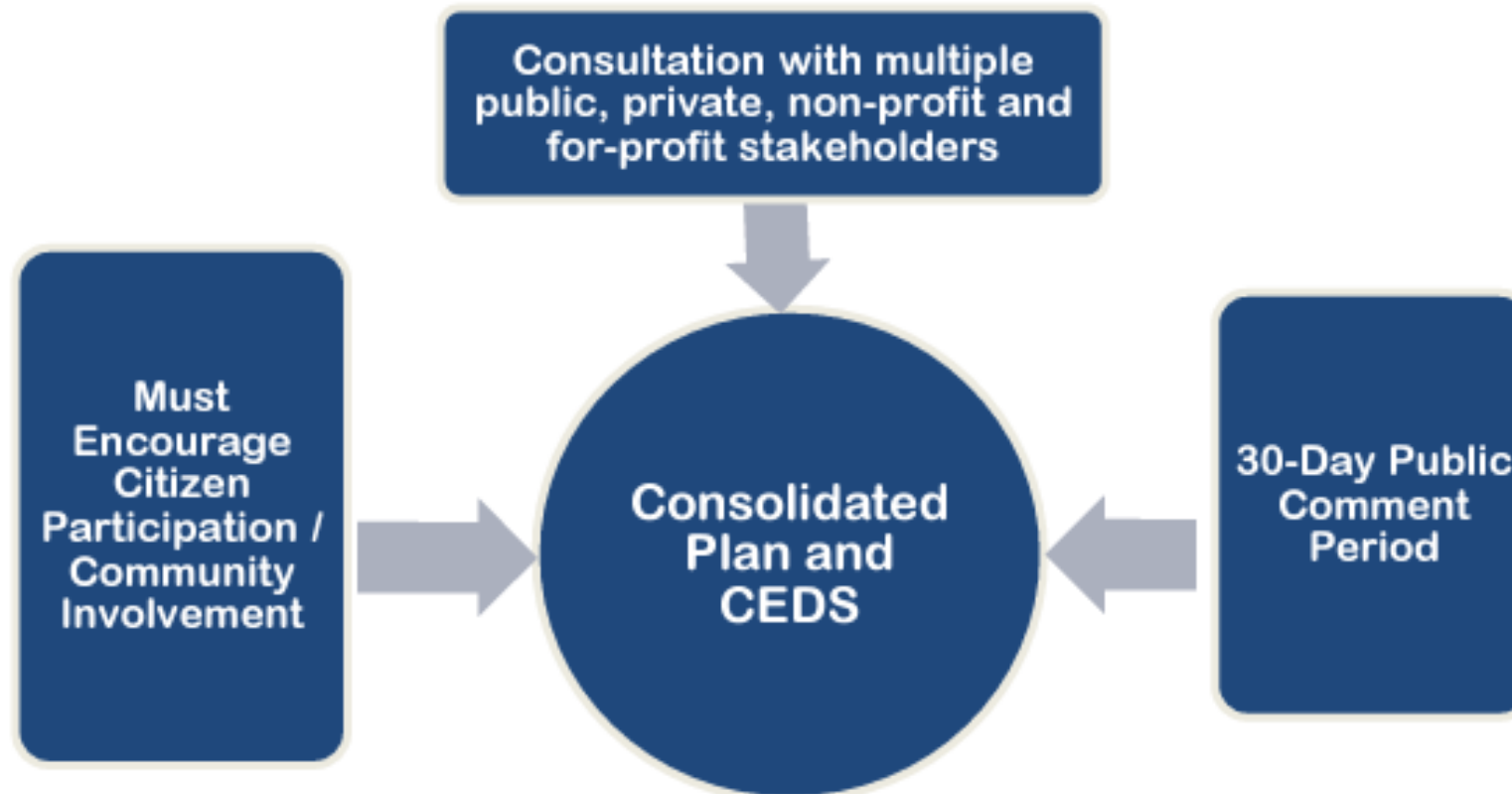
- ***Consider How Funding Flows from Each Agency:***
  - Jurisdictions generally first complete the CEDS, which then enables eligible organizations to compete for EDA funding to support the economic development priorities outlined in the regional plan. Consolidated Plan grantees receive an annual allocation and make funding decisions at the local level.
  - Each annual action plan submitted to HUD identifies proposed projects and the level of funds to support them. CEDS action plans provide estimated costs and sources of proposed funding for priority projects but are not requests for specific program funds. Consider the Format Requirements from Each Agency:
    - The Consolidated Plan has a pre-determined format. The CEDS allows grantees to tell their story in a format that fits their community. You will want to know what must be included in each document.
    - In addition to the economic development needs assessment, the Consolidated Plan consists of a housing needs assessment and a special needs assessment (homeless, disabled, at-risk populations).

## Acknowledging and Leveraging Noteworthy Differences (Continued)

- ***Consider the Scope and Scale of Your Plans and Stakeholders:***
  - The geographic area and time period covered by the CEDS and the Consolidated Plan may differ. Planning time frames may need to be adjusted to synchronize both processes.
  - A CEDS is developed as the economic roadmap for a regional economy, typically made up of multiple counties and local jurisdictions. A Consolidated Plan is typically developed on a larger scale for state plans, or a more localized level for entitlement areas receiving HUD funds. This means that a joint planning process is likely to require both CEDS and Consolidated Plan areas to look beyond their traditional borders when considering projects, impacts and beneficiaries of their plans.
  - States preparing Consolidated Plans may provide guidance or incentives to help nonentitlement jurisdictions prepare joint applications for HUD funding that address regional opportunities. This can assist alignment not only with the EDA CEDS but also with USDA's regional funding incentives.

# HUD's Consolidated Plans (ConPlans) and Community and Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)

This overview summarizes the benefits that EDA and HUD Community Planning & Development grantees and their partners can achieve by leveraging aligned citizen participation public consultation and procedures associated with each agency's respective community and economic development plans.



# HUD's Consolidated Plans (ConPlans) and Community and Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)



The following graphic and table each illustrate key areas of overlap across the CEDS and Consolidated Plan requirements for citizen participation and public consultation.

CEDS and Consolidated Plan Citizen and Public Consultation Organizations	
CEDS	Consolidated Plan
✓ Broad community participation by those who contribute to and benefit from economic development in the region	✓ Citizens/Community Residents
✓ Public Officials	✓ Public Agencies (including public housing authorities, health, social service and other agencies serving low and moderate income individuals)
✓ Community Leaders	✓ Civic Leaders
✓ Private Sector	✓ Community Organizations (e.g. fair housing advocacy groups, Continuum of Care providers)
✓ Workforce Development Boards	✓ Private Agencies (including groups that focus on employment of low-income)
✓ Higher Education (including vocational training and community colleges)	✓ Business Leaders
✓ Minority and Labor Groups	✓ Adjacent Local Governments
✓ Private Individuals	



# HUD's Open Funding Opportunities

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Posted Date	Close Date
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-08</a>	FY 2023 and FY 2024 Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants (RCB)	01/22/2024	03/25/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-48</a>	Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive Grant Program	01/17/2024	03/19/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-33</a>	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Department's Fiscal Year 2023 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program	01/09/2024	02/08/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-74</a>	Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing (SCMF) Discretionary	12/13/2023	03/14/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-96</a>	The Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grants	11/08/2023	02/15/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-49</a>	Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Capital Advance)	10/12/2023	02/20/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-53</a>	Section 811 Project Rental Assistance for Persons with Disabilities	10/12/2023	02/20/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-34</a>	FY 2023 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants	09/06/2023	03/04/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-USP</a>	FY2023 and FY2024 Authority to Accept Unsolicited Proposals for Research Partnerships	07/03/2023	06/30/2025
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-14</a>	FY 2023 Jobs Plus NOFO	06/06/2023	03/12/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-91A</a>	Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRPC) Comprehensive - MODIFICATION	05/11/2023	05/30/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-91B</a>	Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRPE) Elements	05/11/2023	03/28/2024
<a href="#">FR-6700-N-91C</a>	Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRPL) Leading Edge Modification	05/11/2023	04/30/2024



# HUD's FY23 Historical Funding Opportunities

## **New HUD Grants in FY23**

- [FY 2023 Green and Resilient Retrofit Program \(GRRP\) Leading Edge](#)
- [FY 2023 Green and Resilient Retrofit Program \(GRRP\) Comprehensive](#)
- [FY 2023 Green and Resilient Retrofit Program \(GRRP\) Elements](#)
- [FY 2023 HUDRD - Closing the Homeownership Gap and Preserving Homeownership During Economic Decline](#)
- [FY 2023 Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing through Off-Site Construction and Pro-Housing Reforms Research Grant Program Pre and Full Application NOFO](#)
- [FY 2023 Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing \(PRO Housing\)](#)
- [PREVIEW Fiscal Year 2023 Homeownership Initiative Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

## **Continued HUD Grant Funding in FY23 with focus on coordination of planning in housing, neighborhoods, and people**

- [FY 2023 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant](#)
- [FY 2023 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants](#)

# HUD's FY23 Historical Funding Opportunities



<a href="#">Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Competitive Grant: Housing Interventions (HINT) to End the HIV Epidemic Purpose</a>	<a href="#">HUDD - Exploring Office to Residential Conversions (HUDD-EORC) NOFO</a>
<a href="#">Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants</a>	<a href="#">FY2023 and FY2024 Radon Testing and Mitigation Demonstration for Public Housing NOFO</a>
<a href="#">FY2023 and FY2024 Authority to Accept Unsolicited Proposals for Research Partnerships</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 University-Nonprofit Partnerships Engaged in Community-Based Research Designed to Address Homelessness NOFO</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant</a>
<a href="#">Fair Housing Initiatives Program - Education and Outreach Initiative for the American Rescue Plan</a>	<a href="#">FY 2022 Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (VHRMP)</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) Leading Edge</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) Elements</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) Comprehensive</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Capital Fund at Risk/Receivership/Substandard/Troubled Program</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 HUDD - Closing the Homeownership Gap and Preserving Homeownership During Economic Decline</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Housing Mobility-Related Services</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Jobs Plus NOFO</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 HOPE VI Main Street NOFO</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing through Off-Site Construction and Pro-Housing Reforms Research Grant Program Pre and Full Application NOFO</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages NOFO</a>

# HUD's FY23 Historical Funding Opportunities



<a href="#">PREVIEW Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (Pro Housing)</a>	<a href="#">Tenant Education and Outreach</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants</a>	<a href="#">PREVIEW Fiscal Year 2023 Homeownership Initiative Notice of Funding Opportunity</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing)</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Older Adult Home Modification Grant Program</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Healthy Homes Production Block Grant Program</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Lead and Health Homes Technical Studies</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Healthy Homes and Weatherization Cooperation Demonstration</a>
<a href="#">FY2023 Fair Housing Initiative Program - Education and Outreach Initiative NOFO</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Fair Housing Initiative Program - Fair Housing Organizations Initiative NOFO</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Fair Housing Initiatives Program - Private Enforcement Initiative NOFO</a>	<a href="#">FY 2023 Fair Housing Initiatives Program - Education and Outreach Initiative - Test Coordinator Training NOFO</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Capital Advance)</a>	<a href="#">ROSS (Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency) Service Coordinator Program - FY2023</a>
<a href="#">FY 2023 Section 811 Project Rental Assistance for Persons with Disabilities</a>	<a href="#">FY 23 Housing Counseling Training Grant Program</a>
<a href="#">FY 23 The Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP)</a>	<a href="#">Fiscal Year 2023 Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant Program NOFO.</a>
<a href="#">Fiscal Year 2023 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program</a>	<a href="#">Fiscal Year 2023 Indian Housing Block Competitive Grant Program NOFO</a>



**Q&A**  
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SESSION

## ***Erich Yost***

Senior Community Planning and Development Specialist

*Office of the DAS for Economic Development*

***Office of Community Planning and Development***

***US Department of Housing and Urban Development***

[Erich.M.Yost@hud.gov](mailto:Erich.M.Yost@hud.gov)

714.955.0801

