



Regards to Rural Conference 2020 Request for Proposal Due Date: January 31

Are you interested in presenting your ideas to a rural audience?

If you have a passion for helping rural communities thrive and you would like to share your expertise and innovative ideas with community leaders who can really make a difference—**we want to hear from you!**

Be a part of the 2020 Regards to Rural Conference to help shape the future of rural communities with innovative and inspiring workshop presentations. Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) is searching for high impact presenters for the Regards to Rural Conference held **Friday and Saturday, October 9 & 10 at Sunriver Resort in Central Oregon.**

The Regards to Rural Conference is a unique event that offers educational and skill-building sessions, as well as networking opportunities for community members and leaders throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The conference provides an opportunity to share best practices, discuss rural priorities, explore innovative economic models, share success stories, and spark new innovative ideas for strengthening the economic and social vibrancy of rural communities.

PRESENTER LOGISTICS

- Speaking is on a volunteer basis; therefore, we are unable to offer an honorarium.
- Presenters are encouraged to stay for the day they are presenting for which there is no cost. If you would like to stay for the entire conference, you will be given a discounted rate upon registration for this event. Details regarding discounted presenter registration rates will be given at a later date after proposals have been accepted.
- Expenses are non-reimbursable, including mileage and lodging. Meals will be provided on-site at the conference facility.
- Please bring a jump drive that includes your presentation.
- Please provide your own materials (handouts) for your presentation.
- Laptops, microphones, projectors, and easels will be provided in all rooms.

SESSION CONSIDERATIONS

Our audience is comprised by 300 traditional and non-traditional leaders from rural and urban places across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Participants represent a diversity of backgrounds and have a shared interest in creating positive impacts within their rural communities. In a casual atmosphere, participants are offered a variety of sessions and interactive opportunities to understand rural issues

and to sharpen their community building skills. This is accomplished through keynote presentations, panel discussions, and informal round-table discussions with rural community and economic development experts, decision makers, entrepreneurs, and people who care about rural. Please keep the following structure in mind as you consider topics for submission:

- The conference theme is **“Regards to Rural 2020: Connect. Innovate. Elevate.”**
- Presentations will be selected based on the general appeal, fit with the conference theme and consider the following areas of focus:

Equitable Access to Resources: How do rural communities build local expertise and attract more capital and philanthropic investment?

Rural Matters: What communication tools and public policy strategies help elevate our collective rural voice?

Building Equitable Economies and Entrepreneurship: How can rural places encourage place-based investment and creative ideas to promote community vitality for all populations?

Developing Diverse and Inclusive Rural Leadership: How can rural places support hardworking local volunteers, encourage aspiring leaders, and ensure inclusive community vitality?

- Each concurrent session is generally 90 minutes long, with five sessions held during the same time slot.
- The framework of your session should be a dynamic, interactive experience with crafted questions and activities that will challenge, energize, and inspire our conference participants.
- Applications must be submitted for one topic only.

SESSION SUBMISSION CONSIDERATIONS

- Presenters should submit a detailed description of the topic as well as any supporting materials such as outlines, sample presentation, or video clips.
- Presenters who offer resources/services that may be of interest to attendees/companies should refrain from “selling” their services during the course of their presentation but are encouraged to participate as an exhibitor.
- All selected presenters will be expected to sign a release allowing RDI to photograph, video record, and post session presentations and materials to the conference website.
- Dynamic presentations on best practices that include how-to steps, examples of successful communities or groups, and tools and information that participants will take home and start using immediately are highly desirable.

Proposals will include the following information:

- Name, title, and organization
- Contact information: address, phone, and email
- Type of Session: presentation (individual presenter) or panel (multiple presenters and how many)
- Proposed title and summary of the proposed session (100 words maximum)
- Description of how the session will fit the theme and criteria (100 words maximum)
- Any relevant experience with the proposed session

Please submit your proposal via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/r2r20>

We appreciate your interest. We will contact you by Friday, March 6th to let you know if you have been selected.

Deadline is Friday, January 31st.