

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Q1 2020 YEAR TO DATE



www.rdiinc.org

## STRONGER RURAL COMMUNITIES

61  
Active  
Community  
Initiatives

78  
Rural  
Leaders  
Elevated

49  
Educated in  
Access to  
Capital

24  
Fundors  
Engaged

37  
Plans  
Created or  
Supported

123  
Partner  
Organizations  
Engaged

27  
Communities  
With Greater  
Capacity to  
Support Their  
Economies

More Than  
\$158,000  
Leveraged

## STRONGER RURAL ECONOMIES

799  
People  
Served

55  
Events  
Strengthening  
Social  
Capital

134  
Businesses  
Engaged

315  
People at  
Events

99  
People  
Trained in  
Economic  
Vitality



“RDI has totally reinvigorated the town of Falls City. From the first meeting a year ago to the grant writing class, they’ve helped members of my community get involved. We’re healing, growing, and feeling better about our future.”

~ Ready, Set, Grant Participant

## LOCAL LEADERS AIM TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE YOUTH

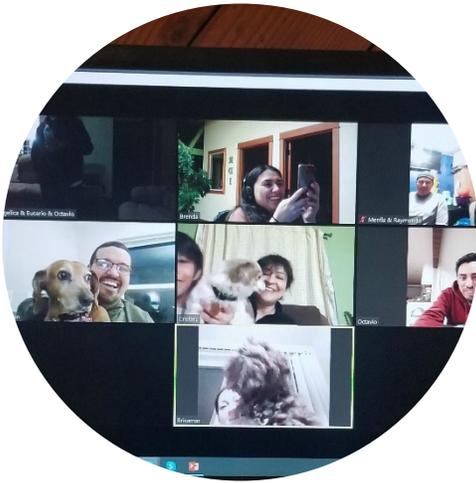
RDI's Rural Community Leadership is currently serving four regions in rural Washington. The third cohort in Mason County reached consensus on a project to help homeless youth in their region. Each year, an estimated one in four young people in Washington state face a housing crisis within a year of leaving foster care, criminal justice facilities, or behavioral health institutions. To help meet a need, the cohort has formed teams to work on a project to provide storage lockers for youth 13-24 without permanent homes. Lockers will be located throughout Mason County, Washington, in support of organizations providing services and support to homeless youth. The Rural Community Leadership Program trains rural leaders to build community capacity and create community vitality.



## CONNECTING VIRTUALLY DURING A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, RDI has switched to virtual delivery to continue serving rural communities across Oregon and Washington. A group of Pasos al Éxito participants from Prineville, OR, were not only eager to finish RDI's Starting a Business program via online meetings, but they welcomed the opportunity to learn new technology.

Many of them are now using virtual meetings for their businesses and personal lives, and one participant asked RDI to meet virtually rather than having a phone call. These uncertain times have required rapid shifts, and RDI is grateful to continue connecting with those we serve during this time of social distancing. RDI's Pasos al Éxito program builds the financial and entrepreneurial skills of rural Latino community members.



## CHANGING THE ACCESS TO CAPITAL CONVERSATION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

During the 2020 legislative session, RDI facilitated a community discussion with frontline experts on Oregon's access to capital legislation focused on potential impact on rural communities. The interactive webinar drew more than 50 registrants from throughout Oregon interested in learning about the proposed legislation and ways communities can look for more resources to support residents starting their own businesses. Panelists included Sayer Jones, Co-Chair, Oregon Growth Board, and Lynn Meyer, Director of Lending, Community LendingWorks. The discussion focused on barriers facing borrowers, especially those in rural, such as remoteness, access to technical assistance, and predatory lending. A similar bill being considered in Washington made this the first time state-level initiatives in two states are trying to solve problems in the CDFI landscape. As Sayer Jones put it, "By and large, this is a rural issue." Listen to the webinar recording here: [bit.ly/ruralcapital](https://bit.ly/ruralcapital)

