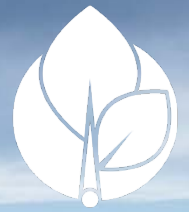


RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Q2 2021 - YEAR TO DATE



www.rdiinc.org



STRONGER RURAL COMMUNITIES

47
Active
Community Efforts

113
Funders
Engaged

31
Plans
Created or
Supported

191
Partner
Organizations
Engaged

215
Communities
Supported/
Strengthened

STRONGER RURAL PEOPLE

181
People
Trained in
Leadership

2,015
Community
Members Engaged

147
Events
Strengthening
Connections

471
People Trained in
Diversity, Equity,
& Inclusion
Principles

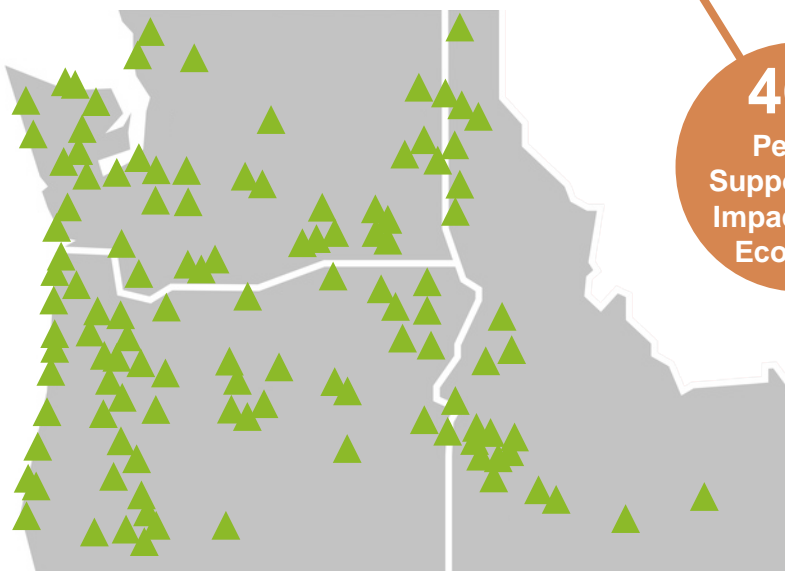
1,209
People at
Events

STRONGER RURAL ECONOMIES

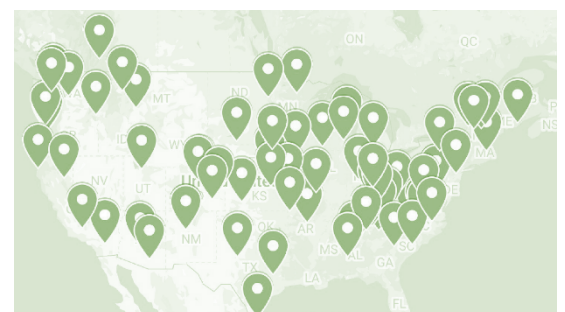
273
Businesses
Supported/
Engaged

More Than
\$328,000
Leveraged

464
People
Supported to
Impact Their
Economy



Through the national RuraLead initiative and other events, we also worked alongside partners and participants from across the U.S.



SPOTLIGHT ON RURAL FORWARD: EXPLORING FRESH PERSPECTIVES

The one-day virtual convening on June 3 drew nearly 140 engaged and energetic attendees who participated in discussions focused on rural leadership development, entrepreneurship, and public policy.



Seeking Common Ground: Looking Past the Rural-Urban Divide

Academic expert Steven Beda kicked off the day with a historical perspective of the complex topic of the rural-urban divide. During the ensuing discussion, panelists engaged in rich conversation, responding to attendee questions and comments about the rural narrative and how it shapes our cultural beliefs, behaviors, and norms.

“I appreciated the intersectional lens—addressing housing, historic context, etc.—and the celebration of ruralness and recognition of lived experience as so key.”
~ Rural Forward Participant

“Collaboration must come from a place of equity. The discussions around equity often feel like a beginning point as opposed to something that should really be built into our processes to begin with. None of this work gets finished or started in a silo.”
~ RuraLead Field Builder Abigail Scholar

RuraLead Northwest: Advancing Community Leadership

This session explored the RuraLead learning initiative, which is aimed at understanding the state of rural leadership development around the nation. Conversations centered around how we can take collective action toward stronger, more equitable rural communities in the Northwest.

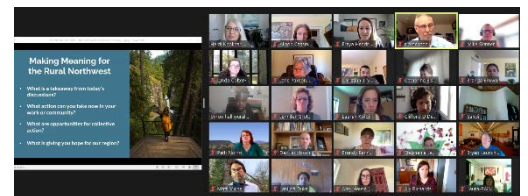
Rural Entrepreneurship: Building on Lessons Learned

The afternoon session focused on lessons learned from the Rural Opportunity Initiative program, a two-year in-community effort that supported rural entrepreneur ecosystem building in Oregon. Participants and entrepreneur support partners brainstormed next steps to chart a path for building stronger rural entrepreneurial ecosystems throughout the Pacific Northwest.

“This event inspired me to help promote the expansion of knowledge necessary to be financially successful, both personal and in business, by educating our entrepreneurs at a younger age.”
~ Rural Forward Participant



If you missed the sessions or want to revisit them, [click here](#) to access the recordings.



Tremendous thanks to the following for their generous support of Rural Forward sessions:

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