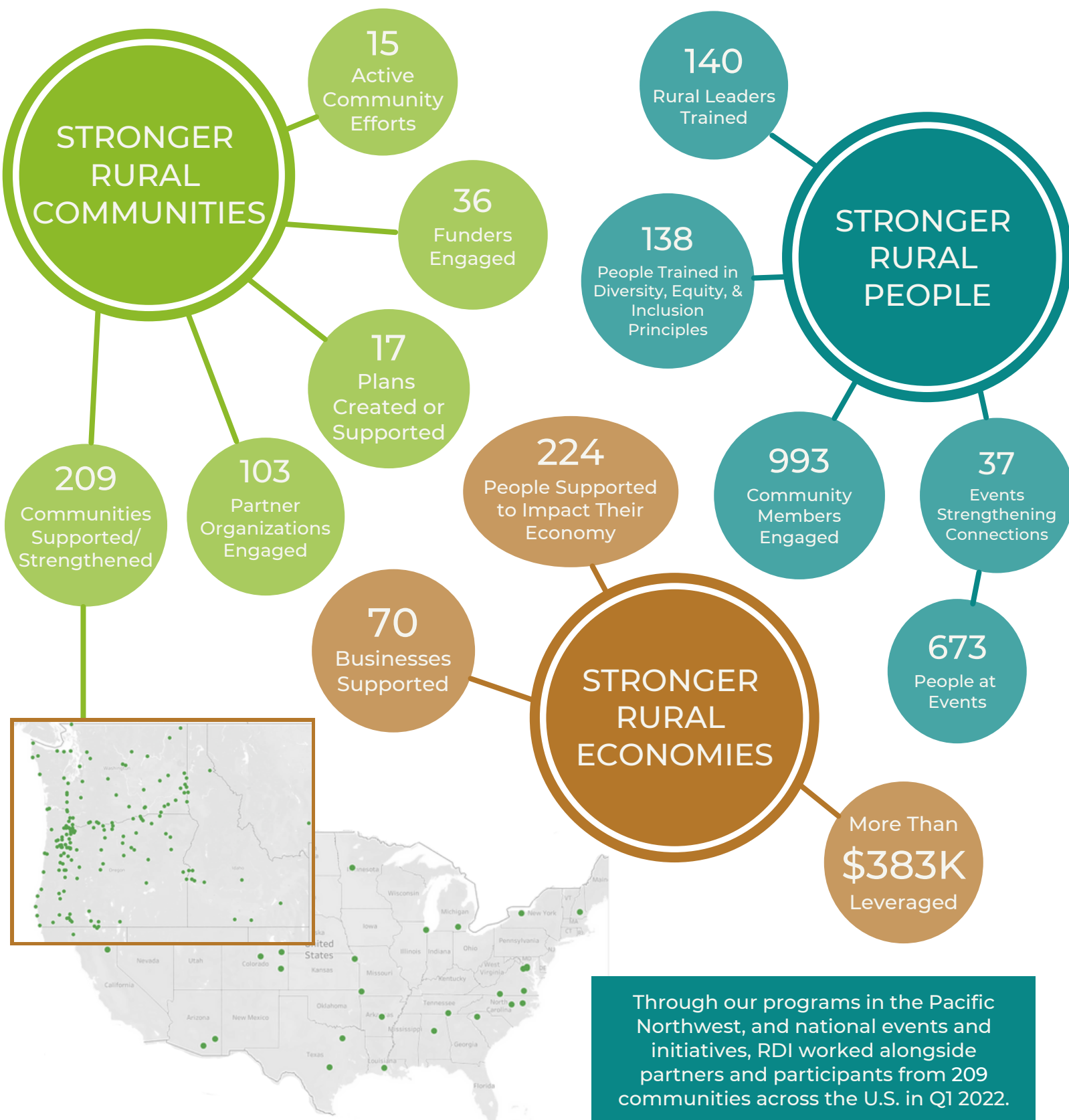


RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES Q1 2022 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES Q1 2022 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



rdiinc.org



FOOD BUSINESS TRAINING

COMMUNITY IMPACT

“ **This training will help my dreams of having my own business.** ”

- Food Business Training Participant



“ **The last two years have shown us that no one party has the right answers to everything. Through the process of discussion and compromise, Oregonians' lives will be better. The governor must rebuild so much trust, communication, compromise.** ”

- Let's Talk
Listening Session Participant



In partnership with the Oregon Capital Chronicle and the Agora Journalism Center, RDI moderated a series of “Let’s Talk” listening sessions aimed at understanding what Oregonians want to learn about the crowded governor’s race.

Consistent themes emerged from the four sessions, which took place in February and March and focused on both rural and urban areas, with one session organized by rural Black leaders. Participants were eager to learn specifics about where candidates stand on issues that Oregon faces; they showed a strong interest in candidate forums, and requested a side-by-side comparison of candidates’ stances on various issues.

Participants repeatedly expressed strong concern over political divides – both political and geographic – with rural participants sharing that rural Oregon’s concerns and opportunities remain largely overlooked by state leadership.

Although participants represented the full political spectrum, they listened to each other with respect and civility, and found common ground on numerous topics – many expressing hope that the next governor will exhibit bipartisanship and collaboration, and will work to bring all sides together.

This spring, RDI delivered our Food Business Training in partnership with the coworking community, Indy Commons, in Independence, OR. The popular training (which has a long waitlist) is offered to Latinx community members and aspiring entrepreneurs interested in learning about the process for selling homemade food, including obtaining permits and licenses.

At the first session, participants had the opportunity to tour a commercial kitchen, and at the end of the five-class training, each person received their Oregon food handler card. Attendees spent the day in the Indy Commons commercial kitchen to prepare tinga de pollo and empanadas for the final session and celebration. Some program participants plan to sell food at the Community Fiesta in Independence in August.

