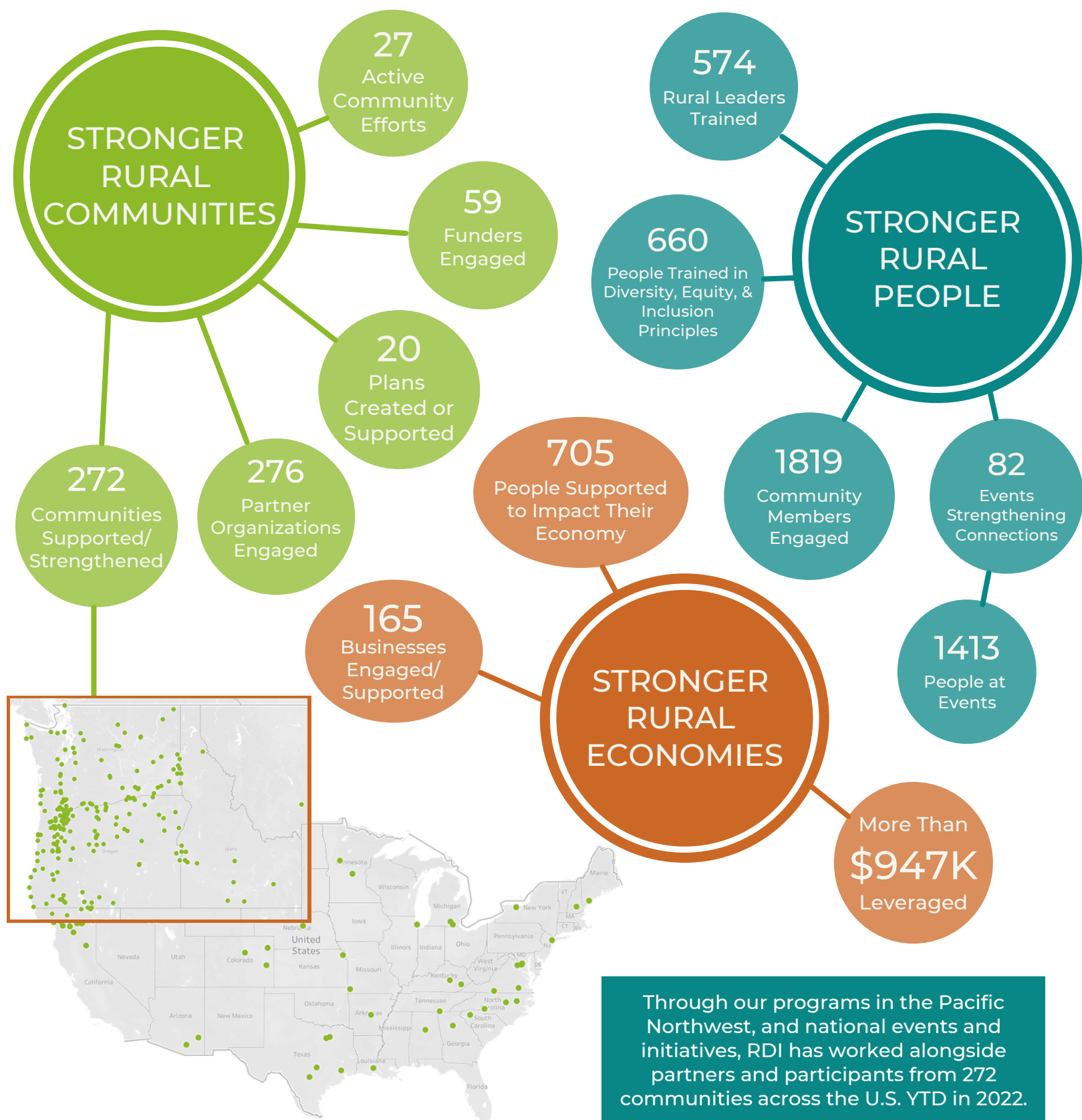


RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Q2 2022 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



RDI Q2 2022 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



REGARDS TO RURAL IMPACT



RDI hosted our 12th biennial Regards to Rural Conference on May 20-21 at the Wildhorse Casino and Resort on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. 300 rural community members, leaders, and stakeholders gathered to learn from an inspiring lineup of speakers and to build lasting connections with one another. Conference sessions focused on equity in rural public policy, rural economic development, and diverse rural leadership.

Rural sociologist Benjamin Winchester (above) delivered a spirited and data-driven keynote address, "The Rural Choice: Opening New Doors and Welcoming New Neighbors." Benjamin built the case that rural is thriving, not dying, and that we must work together to change the rural narrative.

Justin Maxson, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development, made a guest appearance at the conference to meet with representatives from rural Pacific Northwest organizations and to present the audience with a vision and promise for a more effective, efficient, and accessible USDA RD.

RDI thanks the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for hosting us, with special thanks to Marcus Luke for the opening invocation, and to all who shared knowledge and inspiration during the Innovative Energy Projects Tour.



I walked away with a more positive identity around rural communities and feeling a sense of empowerment due to the connections the conference provided.



Regards to Rural was diversity and inclusion in action; demonstrated, modeled. It is the way rural leads - by doing. In a world where we hear more about what divides us than unites us, we collectively demonstrated how rural does and learns DEI... Regards to Rural is what rural vitality looks like.



Shared learning experiences strengthen the relationships between community members who attend together. That connection goes back home with you and gives new energy to do the hard work you want to tackle together.



Convening rural leaders and organizers is incredibly important - so often we are remote and unable to access this type of training and networking. R2R makes this work better, more effective, and aligned to better meet current equity and rural-focused needs.



96.5%

of R2R attendees said that it is important that RDI offer this type of conference again

74.1%

of R2R attendees said the conference inspired them to take new actions in their community

94.7%

of R2R attendees said their reasons for attending the conference were satisfied

