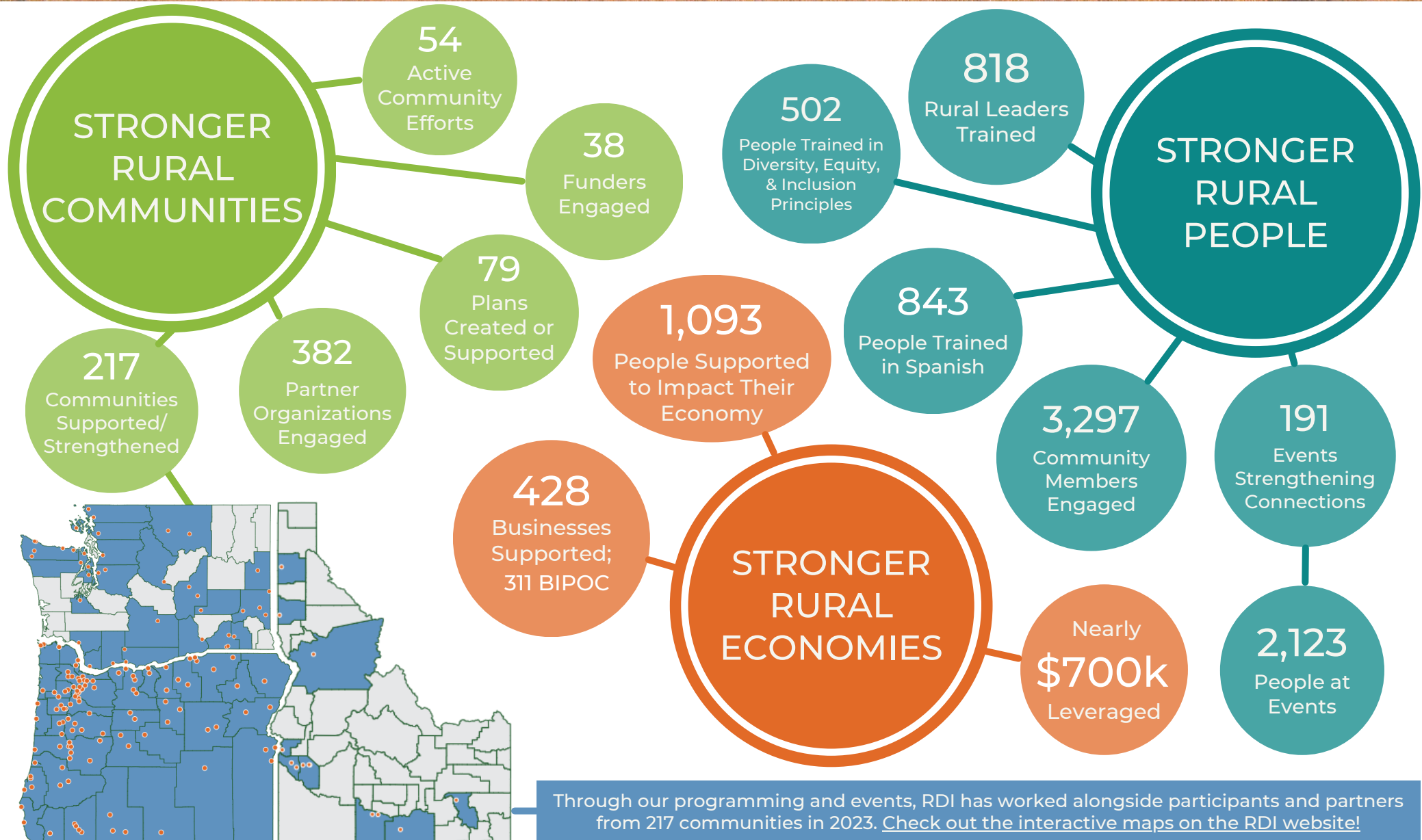


RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES 2023 IMPACT REPORT





BUILDING LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN RURAL VITALITY

RDI's Rural Community Leadership program provides a foundation for vital rural communities by training a critical mass of connected leaders. Over the last 20 years, we have trained over 10,000 leaders in rural communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 2023, RDI brought this opportunity for people to get involved at the community level while building their own individual skills to new, emerging, and active leaders in four rural communities in Oregon and Washington. Cohorts included the 19th year of partnership with the Sherwood Trust, and a leadership training for Othello, WA, as part of the USDA Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge.



RDI's Collective Rural Leadership programs create diverse pipelines of engaged rural community members working together to lead local action and solutions.

Our trainings include Rural Community Leadership, Lunchtime Leadership, and the Rural Civic Engagement Project.



“ I attended this Cohort and came out feeling empowered and connected to the community like never before. I also learned how to be more aware of the various perspectives that impact and change our community daily. Learning how to ask effective questions helped us reach innovative solutions in cultivating our culture and what we have to offer. ”

~ Rural Community Leadership
Program Participant



TAKING ACTION FOR CHANGE

As part of our trainings for leaders to understand and advocate for rural-specific issues at the local, state, and federal level, RDI partnered with the Center for Women's Leadership to create “Turn Up Your Voice,” a Rural Civic Engagement program focused on educating and connecting women leaders throughout rural Oregon. Topics included understanding local and state government, how to create support for the rural issues they face in their communities, and how to develop messaging. The final session took place in Salem, where participants gathered to meet with their representatives to speak up about the concerns they're facing in their communities.

“ This was such a great opportunity. The conversations were engaging...the participants and program leaders were compassionate, intelligent, and powerful, kind women. ”

~ Turn Up Your Voice Participant

BUILDING RURAL LATINO WEALTH

As our Spanish-language team continues to meet the needs of people in rural communities, we created more opportunities including our Gana, Ahorra, Invierte personal finance education training and a Small Business Grant program. We continued delivering Pasos al Éxito financial literacy and business trainings for new and aspiring entrepreneurs, with trainings for starting and running food businesses and home-based child care businesses. Program participants reported feeling empowered and eager to try something new to improve their lives and their livelihoods.

“ We liked it a lot...we were unaware of this type of support and we are very excited to have financial stability. ”

~ Gana, Ahorra, Invierte Participant



RDI was honored to be the recipient of a Business Oregon Economic Equity Investment Program grant award to support Latinos in rural Oregon to build wealth through personal investing/ financial education, and small business start-up and growth. Through this award, RDI provided Small Business Grants to past participants of our Spanish-language programs. These grant opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners to start a new business or expand an existing one were awarded to child care, food, marketing, construction, and landscape businesses across Oregon.

We also launched our wealth building training, Gana, Ahorra, Invierte, in response to demand for investment-focused education. This personal finance training taught in Spanish is focused on personal money management, investment fundamentals, and retirement planning. Participants learned about building wealth to create safety nets for themselves and their families, with an opportunity to receive investment seed money. Thanks to the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders and Wells Fargo for their support of this effort.



RURAL PLACEMAKING IN OTHELLO, WA

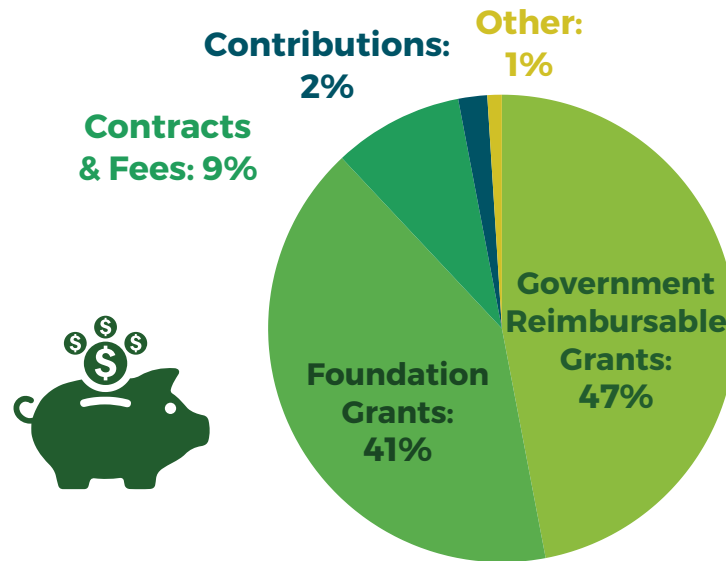
We were thrilled to partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the City of Othello, Adams County Development Council, Innovia Foundation, Avista Foundation, Umpqua Bank, Reinventing Rural, local organizations, and community members on Elevate Othello, a multi-faceted placemaking program to improve community vitality and foster economic growth in the community of Othello, Washington. Through a diverse and engaged community team, focus groups, and local events, Othello developed a community-led vision and action plan that provides a roadmap for Othello to become the community residents want to see. As part of the Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge grant, RDI supported the visioning process and delivered a Rural Community Leadership Training and a youth entrepreneurship training, with more opportunities to come in 2024.

FUNDING IMPACT

This is a provisional summary of RDI's financial activities for the year ending December 31, 2023. Full audited accounts will be available in 2024.

TREMENDOUS THANKS

In 2023, your support strengthened 3,297 people in 217 rural communities.



RDI Expenses 2023

Fund Development



Management & General



Program Services



THANK YOU

RDI is grateful to generous donors and forward-thinking foundations for providing flexible support that allows us to adaptively respond to the needs of rural people, places, and economies. Tremendous thanks to Business Oregon, The Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Sherwood Trust, The Reser Family Foundation, Roundhouse Foundation, Wells Fargo, USDA, and many other funding partners.



“ I’m so grateful for the resources that RDI is willing to share, and feel the door is open for help at any step along the way. ”

~ Economic Vitality Program Participant