



Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

In 2019, during our strategic planning process, RDI intentionally discontinued our longstanding practice of outlining a two-year Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan. A separate document no longer served the organization because the values of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion were embedded directly into our strategic plan. The following excerpts from the RDI 2020-2024 Strategic Plan demonstrate our internal and external commitments to JEDI.

Commitment to Equity: Race, Place, and Class

RDI recognizes our work is only as successful as our ability to hold ourselves accountable to the rural people and places we serve. As an organization, we are committed to being a learner and champion of rural equity, inclusion, and diversity and understand that is at the intersection of race, place, and class. We intentionally center equity, and stand with others to displace and dismantle historic and systemic oppression, racism, disinvestment, and marginalization.

RDI's Approach

RDI holds the uncompromising belief that answers and priorities, driven by a diversity of local people, benefitting all, and built from a community's assets, are key to achieving rural community prosperity. RDI's four areas of focus are interconnected, reinforcing, and centered around our values and in Equity, Community, and Economy.

RDI works within an ecosystem of other support partners and alongside local rural people and groups to strengthen collective leadership, build robust rural economies, elevate rural voices and the issues they care about, and to increase investment and resources that support local efforts and rural priorities.