

Note from the Executive Director

We experienced a complicated start to the year as we and our partners navigated unexpected challenges to our funding streams. Nevertheless our year started strong as we conducted dozens of trainings and events in the first quarter of 2025. We launched two community leadership cohorts in Milton-Freewater in Spanish and English, and continued supporting economic and community development in 24 communities in OR, WA, CA, and ID through our Main Street Economic Vitality Program, as well as in Oregon’s Illinois Valley and McKenzie River area. We held two wealth building trainings in Spanish in Independence and Milton-Freewater, and conducted Latino youth leadership sessions in the Columbia River Gorge area.

Rural Partner Highlight

RDI partners with state Main Street programs in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to strengthen the economic vitality capacity of local Main Street organizations. “The asset-based information helped us to identify what is valuable in our community and what we can do better.”

Empowering Entrepreneurs

Aspiring entrepreneurs in Independence, OR, learned to transform their home cooking into a recipe for small business success through Empieza tu Negocio de Comida, RDI’s Food Business Training. Participants of this Spanish-language program learn everything they need to know to run a small food business, including how to price products, navigate inspections, market effectively, and obtain the proper licenses. One attendee, an active community member and local vendor, is working toward acquiring a food trailer to boost income and create seasonal job opportunities for students in Polk County. This program was delivered with generous support from Business Oregon, Indy Commons, and Polk County.



Grand Opening of Cocina Mi Pueblo, Cottage Grove, OR



457

Rural People Engaged



58

Small Towns and Rural Regions Across OR, WA, ID, & Northern CA Served



\$50,986

Directly Invested in Rural Communities



72

People Increased Community Leadership Confidence and Skills



22

Latino and Youth Participants in Leadership Trainings



37

People More Comfortable Managing Finances



21

Businesses Have Better Access to Support



7

Businesses Started
Including 1 Childcare Business

“ We started our Tortilleria... the amount of information has helped us tremendously. ”

~ Food Business Training Participant