RDI

Q2 2026

OUR IMPACT

Cumulative 2026 Data

Highlights of Our Work

Along with convening the 14th Regards to Rural conference, the work to increase local capacity, move community-driven efforts forward, and strengthen relationships that help align resources and elevate rural influence across the Pacific Northwest continued into the second quarter. **Leadership in action:** Through programs in Ontario, Othello, and Milton-Freewater, participants continued building skills, confidence, and connections they are already putting into practice in their communities, including youth and Spanish-speaking leaders stepping into new roles. **Advancing local economies:** In rural communities in OR, WA, and ID, our Main Street Economic Vitality Program is strengthening small businesses, activating downtowns, and building momentum around shared economic goals, alongside regional sector work in maritime, arts and culture, and forestry. **Expanded access to opportunity:** Through our Childcare Business training, Oportunidades en el Bosque, and one-on-one business support, participants are gaining tools to start or grow businesses and build financial stability, broadening access to economic opportunity in rural communities. **Stronger rural voice:** The Rural Visibility Project focus on local capacity for local priorities, connections and collaborations created at Regards to Rural, and engagement with 157 partners and more than 50 legislators and policymakers, connections between rural communities and decision-makers are continuing to strengthen, creating more opportunities for rural priorities to shape policy and investment.

Program Spotlight: Regards to Rural

From Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, to Minnesota, Texas, Vermont, and states in between, 350 participants came together in central Oregon this spring to celebrate rural with a focus on the Power of Place and highlight the spirit, stories, and partnerships that define the rural Pacific Northwest. Attendees of the 14th **Regards to Rural (R2R)** conference connected with one another and learned from rural experts and leaders in the fields of community and economic development, innovation, and public policy. Sessions included presentations and interpretation available in both English and Spanish, and were geared toward providing practical tools for people to implement in their communities, with participants feeling inspired to make change in their rural places. As one attendee commented, "R2R is the only conference that really focuses on rural issues and solutions for rural communities." Click here to see pictures and read more about R2R 2026.

"Regards to Rural celebrates the (often thankless) work done by rural community builders."

~ Regards to Rural 2026 Participant





1,220
Rural People Engaged

105
Small Towns and Rural Regions Across OR, WA, ID, & Northern CA Served

$67,031
Directly Invested in Rural Communities

372
People Increased Capacity/Skills to Collaborate

58
People Trained in Leadership

157
Partner Organizations Engaged

73
Businesses Have Better Access to Support

13
Businesses Started

"This is a rare opportunity for collaboration across nonprofits, local government, etc., in addition to being a great support for rural leaders."

~ R2R 2026 Participant

As a nonprofit, Rural Development Initiatives has been strengthening rural people, places, and economies in the Pacific Northwest since 1991.

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