

Building Rural Livelihood

*Using Community Foundation Programs & Grantmaking to Improve Rural Community
& Economic Development Outcomes*

July 25 – 26, 2002 ♦ Jurys Washington Hotel
Washington, DC



RDP Program and Grantmaking ~Resource Guide

Rural Development Philanthropy Program and Grantmaking Resource Guide

We need your help!

This draft ***RDP Program and Grantmaking Resource Guide*** provides a listing of national and regional organizations, along with brief descriptions and web addresses, that can assist and inform you as you develop programs and grantmaking to improve rural community and economic development outcomes.

Organized according to the “Six What’s” outlined in your *Thinking and Action Framework for Designing RDP Program and Grantmaking Efforts*, this guide will link you to comprehensive rural community and economic development (CED) organizations as well as groups knowledgeable about and committed to these specific CED outcomes. It’s divided into sections:

1. Rural community and economic development in general
2. Improve employment
3. Strengthen families
4. Strengthen non-profits
5. Increase civic capacity
6. Steward natural and cultural resources
7. Address potential necessary conditions (to enable 2-7)

This guide is a work-in-progress. Over time *and with your help*, the guide will be revised and refined. Our goal is to edit this guide into an on-line tool of the “Top Ten” best resources for data, best practices and emergent learning related to community economic development and the “Six What’s.” These “top ten” sources will be *the* field-tested, go-to organizations when it comes to researching and designing RDP programs.

To achieve that goal, however, we will need your help! Please review this “kitchen-sink” version of the Guide. What rural-savvy, can’t-do-without-’em organizations do you rely upon to inform your RDP program and grantmaking decisions? Are they listed? If not, let us know what and how you rely on these organizations. Of the organizations listed, which ones are your “go-to” guys? Let us know that as well.

We hope to have a refurbished version of the Guide sometime soon. So, please forward your suggested additions (or subtractions) to Mridulika Menon, Program Associate at mmenon@aspeninstitute.org. ***Thanks!***

Brushy Fork Institute

<http://www.berea.edu/BrushyFork/>

The Brushy Fork Institute serves the people of Appalachia by working to develop strong leadership in the mountains. Working with both existing and emerging leaders, they draw on local understanding and vision to help communities build for tomorrow.

Communities by Choice

<http://www.communitiesbychoice.org>

Communities by Choice is a national network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to learning and practicing sustainable development. Their mission is to share knowledge and resources that advance the practice of sustainable development. They are working to build a learning network, manage knowledge and resources, build the capacity of network participants and redirect resources in support of sustainable development. In addition to providing high-value resources through the Internet and helping to connect practitioners with one another, Communities by Choice offers consulting services, including services related to: organizational development and planning for community-based groups working on sustainable development; Information technology planning; design of local and regional web communication networks; hosting online conferences and/or list serves; workshop facilitation and design and creation of funding vehicles to support collaboration among nonprofits practicing sustainable development.

Community Development Society International

<http://www.comm-dev.org/>

The international Community Development Society (CDS) is a professional association for community development practitioners and citizen leaders around the world representing a variety of fields such as education, health care, social services, government, utilities, economic development practitioners, citizen groups.

CFED (Corporation For Enterprise Development)

<http://www.cfed.org>

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) envisions widely shared, sustainable economic well-being and an inclusive economy where everyone is fully engaged and appropriately rewarded. CFED promotes asset-building and economic opportunity strategies—primarily in low-income and distressed communities—that bring together community practice, public policy, and private markets in new and effective ways. The Corporation for Enterprise Development works to: create systems and incentives that encourage all Americans to acquire and hold assets; Identify, preserve and build upon human, social, financial, and environmental assets, especially in low-income communities; and advocate for economic development policies and practices that build an inclusive and dynamic economy.

The Heartland Center for Leadership Development

<http://www.heartlandcenter.info/>

The Heartland Center for Leadership Development is an independent, nonprofit organization developing local leadership that responds to the challenges of the future. A major focus of the Heartland Center's activities is practical resources and public policies for rural community survival. Heartland Center programs and publications stress the critical role played by local leadership as communities and organizations face the challenges associated with changing times. Programs of the Center emphasize that local capacity is critical -- and renewing local leadership essential -- as towns, cities and states work to remain competitive today and in the future.

The Highlander Center

<http://www.highlandercenter.org/>

The Highlander Center aims to overcome poverty, bigotry and economic injustice in Appalachia and the South. Their strategy for doing so is by getting at the roots of injustice requires building grassroots movements for change led by those most affected by oppression. Highlander provides tools for building organizations capable of leading movements. Today, Highlander is working with youth, new immigrants, and poor people of all colors to bring grassroots struggles into a new global era.

Mountain Association for Community Economic Development

<http://www.maced.org>

In 1976, ten community development organizations in Central Appalachia created MACED as a provider of technical assistance to community-based groups in the region. Through the years MACED has worked with people and organizations to improve life in mountain communities, particularly for low-income people. MACED has always engaged in both community development and business development, working closely with local actors ranging from grassroots community organizations to bankers. MACED regularly collaborates at the state, regional and national levels with other organizations in the community development field.

MDC

<http://www.mdcinc.org/>

MDC's mission is to advance the South through strategies that expand opportunity, reduce poverty, and build inclusive communities. They analyze trends to identify challenges that impede progress for the South and its people, and address those challenges from multiple angles. Their core strategies include developing responsive public policies; demonstrating effective programs; building institutional and community capacity for progress; and informing the public dialog.

The National Rural Funders Collaborative (NRFC),

<http://www.nrfc.org>

The National Rural Funders Collaborative (NRFC) is a funding initiative to reinvest in and revitalize rural American communities faced with persistent poverty. NRFC funders and partners are also committed to developing A Learning Network to Expand Resources for Rural Communities and Families: a forum through which funders and partners can share and leverage collective knowledge, influence and dollars to help expand the availability and impact of human, technical and financial resources for rural families and communities facing persistent poverty. NRFC is an outgrowth of the Rural Funders Working Group, a forum of more than 200 rural funders and organizations sponsored by the Neighborhood Funders Group.

The National Center for Small Communities (NCSC)

<http://www.smallcommunities.org/ncsc/>

NCSC is a national, non-profit organization devoted to serving the leaders of America's smaller communities. The Center envisions a future where elected leaders of small communities have the skills and resources to: draw upon strengths and talents of the diverse members of their communities to solve local problems; expand local economies while preserving community character; protect local natural resources for future generations; and protect the health and welfare of their citizens. See: The Thriving Hometowns Network, a compilation of community and economic development case studies drawn from small communities an online searchable database (<http://www.smallcommunities.org/ncsc/THN.htm>).

The Rural Center

<http://www.ncruralcenter.org>

The mission of the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center is to develop, promote, and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. The center serves the state's 85 rural counties, with a special focus on individuals with low to moderate incomes and communities with limited resources. The Rural Center operates a multi-faceted program that includes conducting research into rural issues; advocating for policy and program innovations; and building the productive capacity of rural leaders, entrepreneurs and community organizations. The center is a private, non-profit organization, funded by both public and private sources and led by a 50-member board of directors. The Rural Center maintains a database of major economic and social indicators for each of North Carolina's 100 counties <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/databank/index.html>. Also see the resource guide.

Rural Funders WorkingGroup

<http://www.nfg.org/rural/>

The mission of the Rural Funders Working Group is to increase the awareness of funding needs in rural communities and to foster greater involvement and partnership efforts in responding to the needs of rural communities. They carry out their mission by activities such as: facilitating dialogue among regional and national foundations, corporations, government agencies and non-profit intermediaries; promoting greater attention to rural issue and rural communities within the Council on Foundations; interacting and forming strategic alliances with other COF affinity groups on rural issues and needs; and providing periodic information to our members and others about rural needs and important rural partnerships.

Southern Rural Development Initiative (SRDI)

<http://www.srdi.org/>

The Southern Rural Development Initiative (SRDI) is a bottom-up intermediary -- a regional collaborative working together to dramatically increase the flow of philanthropic and development capital to the South's poorest rural communities. SRDI is fundamentally about ensuring that the South's persistently poor rural communities have the essential capital to make them just, sustainable and livable places -- places that today's youth will want to work and live in. They think strategically about public capital, philanthropic capital and private capital. SRDI partly produced *The Philanthropy Index*— “a step-by-step process for measuring your rural community's potential for creating a charitable fund”. The Index is the product of the Southern Philanthropy Consortium, a collaboration between [SRDI](#), the [Southeastern Council of Foundations](#) and the [Foundation for the Mid South](#). For more information on *The Philanthropy Index* visit: <http://www.philanthropyindex.org/>

Yellow Wood Associates, Inc.
<http://www.yellowwood.org/>

Yellow Wood Associates, Inc. (YWA) is a consulting firm providing specialized services in rural community and economic development since 1985. YWA's services include rural economic research, market analysis, strategic planning, and program development and evaluation. YWA provides training programs in community capacity building and how to select and measure appropriate indicators of community progress. YWA specializes in community capacity and economic development, natural-resource-based economic development in agriculture, forestry, and water resources, and business development. YWA provides clients with customized analyses and models of successful intervention in rural areas around the United States and abroad.

American Society of Training and Development

www.asted.org

American Society of Training and Development is a professional association and leading resource on workplace learning and performance issues. ASTD's website features training issues, trends, policy and a searchable database.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation Jobs Initiative program

<http://www.aecf.org/jobsinitiative/index.htm>

Launched in 1995, the Annie E. Casey Foundation Jobs Initiative program provides funding and support for community-based initiatives in five cities in order to help young, low-income workers find meaningful jobs and to identify national employment and training models. Jobs projects are being launched in fields such as construction, healthcare, manufacturing, and teleservices.

Association for Enterprise Opportunity

<http://www.microenterpriseworks.org>

Association for Enterprise Opportunity supports the development of strong and effective U.S. microenterprise programs to assist underserved entrepreneurs in starting, stabilizing, and expanding businesses. The website lists resources of Microenterprise organizations and various related research.

Business Coalition for Workforce Development

www.workforceinfo.net

A coalition of over 20 national business organizations dedicated to "helping implement effective workforce systems in their communities nationwide." The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers are members. The site features WIA materials and includes links to each member business organization.

The Center for Rural Affairs

<http://www.cfra.org/>

The Center for Rural Affairs, a private, non-profit organization, is working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities.

Center for Rural Entrepreneurship

<http://www.ruraleship.org/>

The primary goal of the Center is to be the focal point for efforts to stimulate and support private and public entrepreneurship development in communities throughout Rural America.

CFED (Corporation For Enterprise Development)

<http://www.cfed.org>

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) promotes asset-building and economic opportunity strategies—primarily in low-income and distressed communities—that bring together community practice, public policy, and private markets in new and effective ways. CFED promotes microenterprise and development finance to expand access to business training, technical assistance and capital in low-income communities and distressed regions across the nation.

Economic Opportunities Program (EOP) – The Aspen Institute

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/eop/index.html>

The Economic Opportunities Program (EOP) produces information and encourages dialogue on innovative community-based strategies for employment and income generation in disadvantaged communities. The website includes details regarding information on the program's various projects including a number aimed at research and improving practices in the microenterprise industry.

EntreWorld

<http://www.entreworld.org>

The EntreWorld is an online resource—centralizing the most important entrepreneurial resources from the best sites, combining it with content, and making all the information easy to find.

First Nations Development Institute

<http://www.firstnations.org/>

The First Nations Development Institute is a Native American nonprofit whose primary mission is to promote culturally appropriate economic development by and for Native peoples by serving as an educator, advocate, researcher, funder, fund raiser, and purveyor of information, resources and ideas.

Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies

<http://www.icesa.org/>

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies is the national organization of state administrators of unemployment insurance, employment and training services, and labor market information programs in USA. The mission of NASWA is to strengthen the National Workforce Development Network through information exchange, liaison and advocacy. The Center for Employment Security Education and Research is the education and research arm of NASWA devoted to improving government services to America's workers and employers.

Jobs for the Future

<http://www.jff.org/>

Jobs for the Future partners with leaders in education, business, government, and communities around the nation to: strengthen opportunities for youth to succeed in postsecondary learning and high-skill careers; increase opportunities for low-income individuals to move into family-supporting careers; and meet the growing economic demand for knowledgeable and skilled workers.

Mountain Association for Community Economic Development

<http://www.maced.org>

In 1976, ten community development organizations in Central Appalachia created MACED as a provider of technical assistance to community-based groups in the region. Through the years MACED has worked with people and organizations to improve life in mountain communities, particularly for low-income people. MACED has always engaged in both community development and business development, working closely with local actors ranging from grassroots community organizations to bankers. MACED regularly collaborates at the state, regional and national levels with other organizations in the community development field.

The National Commission on Entrepreneurship

<http://www.ncoe.org/>

The National Commission on Entrepreneurship was created to focus public policy on the role of entrepreneurship in the national economy and to articulate policies that will foster its continued growth. The NCOE is a resource for anyone interested in entrepreneurship and public policy and the website has links to various research and reports relating to the field.

The National Main Street Center

<http://www.mainst.org/>

The Main Street program is designed to improve all aspects of the downtown or central business district, producing both tangible and intangible benefits. Improving economic management, strengthening public participation, and making downtown a fun place to visit are as critical to Main Street's future as recruiting new businesses, rehabilitating buildings, and expanding parking. Building on downtown's inherent assets—rich architecture, personal service, and traditional values and most of all, a sense of place—the Main Street approach has rekindled entrepreneurship, downtown cooperation and civic concern.

The Roberts Enterprise Development Fund

<http://www.redf.org/>

The Roberts Enterprise Development Fund evolved out of a six year effort to expand economic opportunity for the homeless and very low-income individuals through the creation of social purpose business ventures. In order to support the creation of these social purpose businesses, a practice of Venture Philanthropy was developed wherein REDF provides access to core capital (in the form of operating support "investments") as well as access to business technical assistance, an array of program supports such as information management, computer and internet support services and access to the marketplace.

Welfare Information Network

www.welfareinfo.org

The Welfare Information Network website has information on welfare reform and includes user-friendly links to reports, surveys, models and updates on issues ranging from employer incentives to employability skills.

Government related**National School-to-Work Office**

www.stw.ed.gov

Funded by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, the National School-to-Work Office has a database of models, templates, tools and research related to school-to-work. The site also features a list of "technical assistance providers" (TAPs) categorized by area of expertise. Funds may be available to pay for approved TAPs. Information on grants is also included.

Small Business Administration

www.sba.gov

SBA's website includes statistics and trends related to small business, information on resources for small enterprises, and details of initiatives designed to mentor and assist businesses with workforce development and related issues.

US Department of Labor- Employment and Training Administration

<http://www.doleta.gov/>

The Employment and Training Administration seeks to build the labor market through workforce training and the placement of workers in jobs through employment services. This website is designed to direct adults, youth, dislocated workers and workforce development professionals to information on these programs and services.

Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://www.aecf.org>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private, charitable organization dedicated to promoting public policies, human services reform and innovative programs that meet the needs of today's disadvantaged children and families in the United States. It supports a number of initiatives and provides services addressing various issues related to its mission. For instance, Rebuilding Communities (RCI) (<http://www.aecf.org/rci/>) is designed to provide the supports needed to help transform troubled, economically disenfranchised neighborhoods into safe, supportive and productive environments for children, youth and their families. The Foundation works in partnership with community-based organizations on comprehensive strategies to reverse social isolation and disinvestment in low-income neighborhoods. Family to Family (<http://www.aecf.org/familytofamily/index.htm>) includes principles, strategies, and tools to confront the real problems faced by child welfare systems. The website also contains links to related resources.

Casey Family Services

<http://www.caseyfamilyservices.org/>

Casey Family Services is a fully licensed and accredited non-profit child welfare agency providing a broad range of programs to meet the changing needs of vulnerable children and families. Casey Family Services today offers foster care for children, as well as post-adoption, preservation and reunification services for families. Casey Family Services operates as the direct services arm of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (<http://www.aecf.org/>).

National Center for Resource Family Support

<http://www.casey.org/cnc/>

This is the national information and referral arm of Casey Family Programs (CFP), a direct service operating foundation that provides an array of services for children and youth, with foster care as its core.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<http://www.cbpp.org>

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is one of the leading organizations in the country working on fiscal policy issues and issues affecting low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The Center conducts work on many areas relevant to redesigning the safety net programs in the states, including welfare, Medicaid and child health, food assistance, employment, housing, immigrant benefit issues, low-income tax policy, state-level data analysis, and income and poverty trends.

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV)

<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/>

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) was founded to provide informed assistance to groups committed to understanding and preventing violence, particularly adolescent violence. Since that time, their mission has expanded to encompass violence across the life course. In an effort to establish more complete and valuable information to impact violence-related policies, programs, and practices, CSPV works from a multi-disciplinary platform on the subject of violence and facilitates the building of bridges between the research community and the practitioners and policy makers.

Child Welfare League of America

<http://www.cwla.org>

Child Welfare League of America is an association of more than 1,100 public and private nonprofit agencies that assist over 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a wide range of services. CWLA programs and services touch on virtually all aspects of protecting America's children. Find updated descriptions of current activities, fact sheets, briefing papers and related materials.

Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth (CCFY)

<http://www.ccfy.org>

The Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth (CCFY) is a network of over 185 community foundations in communities across the United States dedicated to securing improved conditions for children, youth and families.

CFED (Corporation For Enterprise Development)

<http://www.cfed.org>

CFED promotes asset-building and economic opportunity strategies—primarily in low-income and distressed communities—that bring together community practice, public policy, and private markets in new and effective ways. CFED has started IDA Initiatives (Individual Development Account) and the website describes a number of Nationwide, Population-Specific and System-Building IDA initiatives and provides related contact information.

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

<http://www.ncaf.org>

The National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) serves as an advocate and lobbyist for low-income programs. NCAF members are Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and state and regional associations of CAAs. NCAF works on a broad range of issues and programs including: the Community Services Block Grant, Head Start, Low-income Home Energy Assistance, Welfare Reform, Employment and Job Training, Housing and Shelter for the Homeless, Services for Older Americans, Health, Nutrition, Tax and Income Policy, and Energy Conservation Programs.

Search Institute

<http://www.search-institute.org/aboutsearch/>

The Search Institute mission is to advance the well-being of adolescents and children by generating knowledge and promoting its application. The institute generates, synthesizes, and communicates new knowledge, convenes organizational and community leaders, and works with state and national organizations. The framework is grounded in research on child and adolescent development, risk prevention, and resiliency.

The Southern Institute on Children and Families

<http://www.kidsouth.org/home.html>

The Southern Institute endeavors to improve opportunities for children and families in the South, with a focus on disadvantaged children. It works to encourage public/private sector collaboration on behalf of children and families and seeks to remove bureaucratic and other barriers that restrict access to needed services.

The University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center

http://www.hsr.umn.edu/rhrc/mission_areasof.html

The University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center's mission is to conduct research and disseminate information that will help policymakers better address the unique health care needs of rural America. Primary areas of research include: rural health care financing (e.g., issues related to managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance); rural systems building (e.g., issues related to networks, managed care organizations, provider sponsored organizations, alternative models for small rural hospitals, and health personnel); and outcomes and delivery of care in rural areas (e.g., issues related to quality of care and implications of technology diffusion).

BoardSource

<http://www.boardsource.org>

BoardSource, formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, is a resource for practical information, tools and best practices, training, and leadership development for board members of nonprofit organizations worldwide. Through their programs and services, BoardSource enables organizations to fulfill their missions by helping build strong and effective nonprofit boards.

The Center for Non-Profit Technology

<http://www.cnpt.org/>

The Center for Non-Profit Technology is a nonprofit organization providing technological assistance to nonprofit organizations and individuals. Their products and services include computer consulting, networking, training, database and Internet applications as well as web hosting and design.

Community Wealth Ventures

www.communitywealth.com

Community Wealth Ventures is a for-profit subsidiary of Share Our Strength (<http://www.strength.org/>), a leading nonprofit anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization based in Washington, DC. SOS launched Community Wealth Ventures on the premise that every organization can increase its social impact by building on its own internal assets, rather than relying on support from external organizations.

CompassPoint Nonprofit Services

<http://www.compasspoint.org>

CompassPoint Nonprofit Services is a nonprofit training, consulting and research organization with offices in San Francisco and Silicon Valley. Through their services, they provide nonprofits with the management tools, concepts and strategies necessary to shape change in their communities.

Council on Foundations

<http://www.cof.org/>

The Council on Foundations is a membership organization that serves the public good by promoting and enhancing responsible and effective philanthropy. The website includes "Foundation News and Commentary" and links to foundation and corporate giving home pages.

Foundation Center

<http://fdncenter.org/>

The Foundation Center's mission is to support and improve institutional philanthropy by promoting public understanding of the field and helping grantseekers succeed. The website contains information about the Center and issues of its publication, "Philanthropy News Digest".

The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations

<http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/hauser/>

The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations is an interdisciplinary research center at Harvard University based at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. It seeks to expand understanding and accelerate critical thinking about nonprofit organizations and civil society among scholars, practitioners, policy makers and the general public. The website has links to resources and research related to the field.

Independent Sector

<http://www.independentsector.org/>

The Independent Sector's mission is to promote, strengthen, and advance the nonprofit and philanthropic community to foster private initiative for the public good. The Independent sector website has information on their various services, research and conferences.

IU Payton Philanthropic Studies Library

<http://www-lib.iupui.edu/special/ppsl.html>

The library was established to support the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy and the growing interdisciplinary field of philanthropy. It houses a collection of books, periodicals, dissertations, and audio-visual resources on the subject of philanthropy.

Neighborhood Funders Group

<http://www.nfg.org/>

The Neighborhood Funders Group is a national network of grantmakers working to expand support for organizations that help low-income people improve their communities. NFG has established Rural Funders Working Group whose mission is to increase the awareness of funding needs in rural communities and to foster greater involvement and partnership efforts in responding to the needs of rural communities.

Nonprofit Sector Research Fund, The Aspen Institute

<http://www.nonprofitresearch.org/information1524/information.htm>

The Nonprofit Sector Research Fund awards research grants and organizes convenings to expand knowledge of the nonprofit sector and philanthropy, improve nonprofit practices, and inform public policy related to nonprofits. The Fund seeks to enhance nonprofit research by increasing the legitimacy and visibility of nonprofit scholarship; encouraging new investments in sector research; supporting the exploration of tough, neglected questions and enlarging the number of creative scholars and practitioners interested in pursuing nonprofit studies. The website lists a number of resources on other organizations doing similar work in the field, as well as links to various publications.

INCREASE CIVIC CAPACITY

The Aspen Institute - Community Strategies Group (CSG)

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/csg/index.html>

The Community Strategies Group (CSG) structures and contributes to focused learning that supports the innovation of organizations and funders working to achieve more widely shared and lasting prosperity in communities. CSG helps organize peer exchange and critical examination opportunities for rural practitioners in policy and program review. The website links to list of online publications and especially useful is the “Measuring Community Capacity Building” workbook, downloadable at <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/csg/pdfs/ccb.pdf>

The Aspen Institute Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives

<http://www.aspenroundtable.org/>

The Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives was established as a forum in which people engaged in the field of comprehensive community initiatives (CCIs)—including foundation sponsors, directors, technical assistance providers, evaluators, and public sector officials—could meet to discuss the lessons that are being learned by initiatives across the country and to work on common problems they are facing. The website offers various research and a link to ‘Community Building Resource Exchange’—resources and information about innovative community building efforts to revitalize poor neighborhoods and improve the life circumstances of residents and their families.

Academy for Educational Development

<http://www.aed.org>

AED is committed to solving critical social problems in the U.S. and worldwide through education, social marketing, research, training, policy analysis and innovative program design and management. Major areas of focus include health, education, youth development, and the environment. AED has pioneered many approaches to working constructively with youth through Center for Youth Development and Policy Research and the National Training Institute for Community Youth Work.

First Nations Development Institute

<http://www.firstnations.org/>

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National Association of Towns and Townships

<http://www.natat.org/>

The purpose of the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) is to strengthen the effectiveness of town and township government. NATaT does this by educating lawmakers and public policy officials about how small town governments operate and by advocating policies on their behalf in Washington, D.C. NATaT seeks flexible and alternative approaches to federal policies to ensure that small communities can meet federal requirements.

The National Center for Small Communities (NCSC)

<http://www.smallcommunities.org/ncsc/>

The National Center for Small Communities (NCSC) is a national, non-profit organization devoted to serving the leaders of America's smaller communities. The Center envisions a future where elected leaders of small communities have the skills and resources to: draw upon strengths and talents of the diverse members of their communities to solve local problems; expand local economies while preserving community character; protect local natural resources for future generations; and protect the health and welfare of their citizens. See on the website—The Thriving Hometowns Network, a compilation of community and economic development case studies drawn from small communities an online searchable database. For information visit <http://www.smallcommunities.org/ncsc/THN.htm>.

Government Related

National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP)

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/>

The National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP) works to strengthen rural America through collaborative partnerships. The NRDP brings together partners from local, state, tribal, and federal governments, as well as from the for-profit and nonprofit private sector. The NRDP has three main components: State Rural Development Councils (SRDC); National Rural Development Council (NRDC); The National Partnership Office (NPO)

State Rural Development Councils

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/what.html#srdc>

The State Councils form the primary components of the Partnership and bring together key rural players in their states to address critical community concerns and to respond to fast-breaking opportunities. State Councils are responsible for creating their own mission, structure, operating guidelines, and action plan. Each Council hires a senior-level executive director who works with the Council leadership.

National Rural Development Council

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/nrdc.html>

The National Rural Development Council (NRDC) consists of senior program managers representing over 40 Federal agencies as well as national representatives of public interest, community based, and private sector organizations. The NRDC provides guidance for the Partnership and works on behalf of the State Councils at the national level.

The National Partnership Office

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/nrdc.html#meetings>

The National Partnership Office (NPO) in Washington, DC is housed within the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is the NRDP's administrative center. The NPO provides the Partnership with oversight and programmatic and technical support.

American Farmland Trust

<http://www.farmland.org/>

American Farmland Trust is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1980 to protect the nation's farmland. AFT works to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment.

American Forests

<http://www.americanforests.org/>

American Forests is a non-profit citizen conservation organization and hosts the Forest Policy Center. The Center helps build the capacity of citizens to participate in forest policy issues and implement ecosystem restoration projects.

The Aspen Institute- Communities Strategies Group: Community-Based Forestry

<http://www.aspencsg.org/cbf>

Community-Based Forestry is a participatory approach to forest management that strengthens communities' capacity to build vibrant local economies—while protecting and enhancing their local forest ecosystems. See their directory of resources related to community based forestry searchable by content area or resource or both (<http://www.aspencsg.org/cbf/resource/>). Also check out *Planting Seeds*- their periodic newsletter available online.

Community Forestry Resource Center

<http://www.forestrycenter.org/>

The center promotes responsible forest management through collaboration, support and assistance to sustainable forestry cooperatives and associations of private forest owners. On their website—are links to forestry organizations throughout the US and overseas. The Center helped put out "Balancing Ecology and Economics"—a guide to forest owner cooperation.

Design Workshop

<http://www.designworkshop.com/home.html>

Design Workshop plans and designs new projects in fragile desert, mountain, and prairie environments. Combining principles of smart growth, sustainable design, and ecological planning, Design Workshop reconciles economic needs with the preservation of scenic, cultural, and ecological values.

Glynwood Center

<http://www.glynwood.org>

Glynwood Center advances their mission of helping communities integrate their natural resources, cultural heritage, and economic development potential by training community leaders, working intensively with communities to catalyze change, staging conferences, providing resources, and engaging in a wealth of other initiatives.

HandMade in America

<http://www.handmadeinamerica.org>

HandMade in America was created when a handful of Western North Carolinians, struggling to find fresh approaches to economic development and renewal in their mountains, realized that the answer didn't necessarily lie in newly recruited industry, but could potentially be found in the invisible industry of craftspeople already working throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains. The mission of HandMade in America is to celebrate the hand and the handmade, to nurture the creation of traditional and contemporary craft, to revere and protect the resources and to preserve and enrich the spiritual, cultural and community life of the region they serve.

The Heartland Institute

<http://www.heartland.org/>

Heartland's mission is to help build social movements in support of ideas that empower people. Such ideas include parental choice in education, choice and personal responsibility in health care, market-based approaches to environmental protection, privatization of public services, and deregulation in areas where property rights and markets do a better job than government bureaucracies.

High Country News

<http://www.hcn.org>

High Country News is a bi-weekly newspaper that reports on the West's natural resources, public lands, and changing communities and is a respected source for environmental news, analysis and commentary on water, logging, wildlife, grazing, wilderness, growth and other issues changing the face of the West.

The Land Trust Alliance

<http://www.lta.org/>

The Land Trust Alliance is the national leader of the private land conservation movement, promoting voluntary land conservation across the country and providing resources, leadership and training to the nation's 1,200-plus nonprofit, grassroots land trusts, helping them to protect important open spaces.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

<http://www.lincolninst.edu/main.html>

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is a nonprofit educational institution whose mission is to study and teach land policy, including land economics and land taxation.

Mountain Association for Community Economic Development

<http://www.maced.org>

In 1976, ten community development organizations in Central Appalachia created MACED as a provider of technical assistance to community-based groups in the region. Through the years MACED has worked with people and organizations to improve life in mountain communities, particularly for low-income people. MACED has always engaged in both community development and business development, working closely with local actors ranging from grassroots community organizations to bankers. MACED regularly collaborates at the state, regional and national levels with other organizations in the community development field.

National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Inc.

<http://www.rcdnet.org/>

NARC&DC serves as an advocate for local Councils to identify, address and solve challenges to sustain and improve quality of life in their own communities. By working together on local RC&D Councils; communities, all levels of Government, and grassroots organizations work together to develop and implement solutions to widespread problems and to develop opportunities that will help sustain rural communities, local economies, and natural resources.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation

<http://www.nationaltrust.org>

The National Trust is a private nonprofit organization that provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities.

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org>

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Penn Center- St. Helena Island, SC

<http://www.beaufort-sc.com/penn/>

Penn Center has worked on many community-based projects, such as bringing public water to the islands, helping farmers to buy and market cooperatives and advocating better housing and health care for low-income people.

Rocky Mountain Institute

<http://www.rmi.org/>

Rocky Mountain Institute is an entrepreneurial, nonprofit organization that fosters the efficient and restorative use of resources to create a more secure, prosperous, and life-sustaining world.

The Sonoran Institute

<http://www.sonoran.org/si/>

The Sonoran Institute is a nonprofit organization that works collaboratively with local people and interests to conserve and restore important natural landscapes in western North America, engaging partners such as landowners, public land managers, local leaders, community residents, and nongovernmental organizations.

Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)

<http://www.rcap.org/>

Rural Community Assistance Program is a resource for community leaders and others who need technical assistance services and training related to rural drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, solid waste programs, housing, economic development, comprehensive community assessment and planning, and compliance with environmental regulations. RCAP activities help rural communities below state income averages to develop the capacity to acquire and maintain the basic services essential to improve their quality of life.

Smart Growth

<http://www.smartgrowth.org>

Smartgrowth provides resources and links to events and publications related to the field. Its also has a link to the Smart Growth Network (SGN) which was established in response to increasing community concerns about the need for new ways to grow that boost the economy, protect the environment, and enhance community vitality.

Sustainable Communities Network

<http://www.sustainable.org/>

The Sustainable Communities Network web site provides resources on what has worked for other communities, and to promote a lively exchange of information to help create community sustainability in both urban and rural areas.

U.S. Public Interest Research Group

<http://www.uspirg.org/>

U.S. PIRG's research and advocacy supports a staff of attorneys, scientists, and other professionals who monitor government and corporate decisions and advocate on the public's behalf. On the website users can link to <http://www.environmentatrisk.org> and find information and resources regarding Toxic Waste, Clean Air, Forests and Wild Places down to a state level basis and action steps.

Yellow Wood Associates, Inc.

<http://www.yellowwood.org/>

Yellow Wood Associates, Inc. (YWA) is a consulting firm providing specialized services in rural community and economic development. YWA's services include rural economic research, market analysis, strategic planning, and program development and evaluation. YWA specializes in community capacity and economic development, natural-resource-based economic development in agriculture, forestry, and water resources, and business development.

Government Related

Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service

<http://www.reeusda.gov/>

The mission of Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well being, and communities. Its primary functions are: to program leadership to identify, develop, and manage programs to support university-based and other institutional research, education, and extension and to ensure fair, effective, and efficient administration of Federal assistance implementing research, education, and extension awards and agreements.

US Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov>

EPA's mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land. EPA works closely with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes to develop and enforce regulations under existing environmental laws. EPA is responsible for researching and setting national standards for a variety of environmental programs and delegates to states and tribes responsibility for issuing permits, and monitoring and enforcing compliance. All this information can be found on their website, as well as EPA's Strategic Plan, annual report, and policy resources.

The Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

Established in 1905, the Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service is committed to strengthening rural America through forest resources and related natural resources opportunities. The Forest Service's also runs Rural Community Assistance Programs. The overall goal is to facilitate and foster sustainable community development -- linking community assistance and resource management.

The Funders' Network For Smart Growth and Livable Communities

<http://www.fundersnetwork.org/>

The Funders' Network is an active resource and focal point for foundations, nonprofit organizations and other partners working to solve the environmental, social, and economic problems created by suburban sprawl and urban disinvestment. It informs funders of critical policy and grassroots developments; enables program staff to share effective strategies and tools; builds the capacity of key constituencies to promote smart growth and livable communities; and raises awareness about the interdisciplinary nature of these issues and the need for sustained engagement by a diverse coalition of funders.

POTENTIAL NECESSARY CONDITIONS

WATER/AIR QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY

Green- Watch

<http://www.green-watch.com/>

The mission of Green- Watch is to monitor environmental organizations. The website allows users an access to a searchable database of 538 groups that identifies the activities, leadership, and funding of environmental groups. Green-Watch also produces timely news reports, analysis, and perspectives of the environmental movement, highlighting in particular the top 20 largest green groups.

National Drinking Water Clearinghouse

<http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/ndwc/>

The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC) at West Virginia University is a public service organization that collects, develops, and distributes timely drinking water-related information. NDWC also puts out On Tap, a magazine, which reports on technical, financial, maintenance, operations and management, source water protection, and health issues relevant to small drinking water systems available online at http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/ndwc/ndwc_publications.htm

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Applied Rural Telecommunications Online Clearinghouse (AeRie)

<http://bcn.boulder.co.us/aerie/>

Aerie provides rural communities throughout the United States and the world a toolkit of resources to help them meet their economic and community development goals using telecommunications. Aerie offers a directory of economic development resources, an overview of basic telecommunications concepts, a schedule of upcoming conferences and events, and background information on rural infrastructure.

The Benton Foundation's Communications Policy Project

<http://www.benton.org/>

This project promotes public interest values and noncommercial services for the National Information Infrastructure through research, policy analysis, print, video, and online publishing, as well as outreach to nonprofits and foundations. Several papers dealing with rural access to electronic information are available online. Cyber pages offers a nice collection of telecommunications links.

The Center for Non-Profit Technology

<http://www.cnpt.org/>

The Center for Non-Profit Technology is a nonprofit organization providing technological assistance to nonprofit organizations and individuals. Their products and services include computer consulting, networking, training, database and Internet applications as well as web hosting and design.

The Economic TeleDevelopment Forum

<http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/3896/>

The Economic TeleDevelopment Forum provides information, thought-provoking ideas, and commentary on the interdependent relationship between telecommunications infrastructure investment, and sustainable community economic development.

The Information Technology Resource Center

<http://www.npo.net/itrc/>

The Information Technology Resource Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping nonprofits effectively utilize computers and other technology.

The Markle Foundation

<http://www.markle.org/index.stm>

The Markle Foundation works to realize the potential of emerging communications media and information technology and promotes the development of communications industries that address public needs. Markle pursues its goals through a range of activities, including analysis, research, public information and the development of innovative media products and services.

The Morino Institute

http://www.morino.org/about_index.asp

The Morino Institute is a nonprofit organization that explores the opportunities and risks of the Internet and the New Economy to advance social change. On the website users can find, information on the Morino Institute as well as a directory of public access networks.

NetAction

<http://www.netaction.org/>

NetAction is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting use of the Internet for effective grassroots citizen action campaigns, and to educating the public, policy makers, and the media about technology policy issues.

Rural Telecommunications Congress

<http://www.ruraltelecon.org/Congress/default.htm>

The Rural Telecommunications Congress is a national membership organization dedicated to assuring rural communities and rural residents in the United States of America have access the information and support they need to obtain and use advanced telecommunications services, particularly broadband digital communications, for community and economic development.

Government Related**Institute for Telecommunications Sciences**

<http://www.its.blrdoc.gov/>

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences is the chief research and engineering arm of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

The National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA)

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/>

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is the Executive Branch's principal voice on domestic and international telecommunications and information technology issues. NTIA works to spur innovation, encourage competition, help create jobs and provide consumers with more choices and better quality telecommunications products and services at lower prices. Visit the website to find links to resources, publications and grants related to the field.

Grantmakers in Health

<http://www.gih.org/>

The mission of Grantmakers In Health is to help foundations and corporate giving programs improve the nation's health. It works to build knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of individual grantmakers and the field of health philanthropy as well as seeks to foster communication and collaboration among grantmakers and with others.

National Rural Health Association

<http://www.nrharural.org/>

The mission of National Rural Health Association is to improve the health and healthcare of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. The website provides links to the research, publications and information on conferences related to the field

Office of Rural Health at Oregon Health Sciences University

<http://www.ohsu.edu/oregonruralhealth/>

OHSU educates health and high-technology professionals, scientists and environmental engineers, and it undertakes the indispensable functions of patient care, community service and biomedical research. Further, the Office coordinates efforts to improve rural health systems, provides technical assistance to rural communities, recruits health care providers, advises hospitals about the Critical Access Hospital option, and serves as a clearinghouse for information on rural health issues.

Rural Recruitment and Retention Network

<http://www.3rnet.org/>

The National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3R Net) was set up to help health professionals locate practice sites in rural areas throughout the country. It is made up of state organizations such as State Offices of Rural Health, AHECs, Cooperative Agreement Agencies and State Primary Care Associations. Each organization has information regarding rural practice sites in their respective states.

Telemedicine/Rural Medicine Resources

<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hw/telemed/>

This is an online educational resource containing links to various journals and magazines as well as projects and various going ons related to the field of telemedicine.

Government Related

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

<http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/>

The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) promotes better health care service in rural America. The Office is in charge of informing and advising the Department of Health and Human Services on matters affecting rural hospitals, and health care, co-ordinating activities within the department that relate to rural health care, and maintaining a national information clearinghouse.

SCHOOLS/ TRAINING SYSTEMS

AEL

<http://aelvis.ael.org>

AEL is a nonprofit, regionally oriented education research, development, and service institution. Its mission is to link the knowledge from research with the wisdom from practice to improve teaching and learning. AEL works closely with schools, school districts, and states to develop, test, and refine practical products and processes that address needs expressed by local educators. Resources thus developed are then available to others working on similar problems.

Community Development Society International

<http://www.comm-dev.org/>

The international Community Development Society (CDS) is a professional association for community development practitioners and citizen leaders around the world representing a variety of fields such as education, health care, social services, government, utilities, economic development practitioners, citizen groups.

Organizations Concerned About Rural Education

<http://www.ruralschools.org/>

The OCRE coalition of more than two dozen organizations is dedicated to improvement of public education and economic development in rural America.

The Rural Challenge

<http://www.ruralchallenge.org/>

The Rural School and Community Trust is a national nonprofit organization rooted in rural America. The Trust works with a network of schools and community groups striving to improve the quality of education and community life and to improve state policy on education especially in those rural places distressed by historic patterns of poverty and racism or stressed by declines in population, major changes in population composition and fundamental economic change.

The Rural Education Technology Alliance

<http://www.ruraleducation.org/>

The Rural Education Technology Alliance (RETA) is an organization of five leading technology companies committed to working with rural educators and education organizations to assess and address the unique technology needs of rural schools. By working with education organizations and rural leaders, RETA aims to help implement strategies to improve educational technology in rural areas. The RETA website includes a searchable list of rural education resources.

Government Related

ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools

<http://www.eric.ed.gov>

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is a federally supported system of 16 clearinghouses and supporting organizations that makes various written materials about education accessible to all who are interested. The ERIC system produces a computer-searchable bibliographic database of the literature in education. The ERIC system is funded by the U.S. Department of Education through its National Library of Education.

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ruraled/index.asp>

Information about resources for rural schools, recent data, periodic studies and tabulations about rural schools prepared by the National Center for Education Studies (NCES) at the U.S. Department of Education are available at this website. The site provides access to recent data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), as well as access to resources available through selected contractors and grantees of the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Education Association

<http://www.nea.org/lac/modfacts/>

Information on the condition of the schools in each of the states has been compiled by the National Education Association and may be found on its website

NEA's Legislative Action Center

<http://congress.nw.dc.us/nea/home/>

On the website one can learn more about the key legislative issues affecting public education and take action on behalf of America's children at NEA's Legislative Action Center.

TRANSPORTATION

Community Transportation Association of America

<http://www.ctaa.org/>

The vision of Community Transportation Association of America is to ensure public and community transportation future to served a society that now includes a growing population of seniors needs new and expanded community transportation alternatives.

NADO Regional Transportation Online Center

<http://www.nado.org/rtoc/index.html>

The website contains best practices related to transportation programs, including rural transportation planning processes. The Electronic Library which contains back issues of the *Regional Transportation Connector* and other online transportation publications. The website also has links to Intelligent Transportation Systems: a shared Internet resource containing up-to-date news, insight, and resources for transportation professionals and agencies and links to rural transportation planning organizations, state departments of transportation and academic centers.

Government Related

Essential Air Service Program

<http://ostpxweb.ost.dot.gov/aviation/>

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs carries a broad portfolio of responsibilities covering domestic and international aviation, international trade, and a range of other international cooperation and facilitation issues. The office both develops and coordinates Departmental policies in the areas of aviation and international affairs.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

<http://www.faa.gov>

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the element of the U.S. government with primary responsibility for the safety of civil aviation. The FAA's major functions include: regulating civil aviation to promote safety and fulfill the requirements of national defense; encouraging and developing civil aeronautics, including new aviation technology; developing and operating a common system of air traffic control and navigation for both civil and military aircraft; research and development with respect to the National Airspace System and civil aeronautics; developing and implementing programs to control aircraft noise and other environmental effects of civil aviation; and regulating U.S. commercial space transportation.

Federal Highway Administration

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>

The vision of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is to create the best transportation system in the world for the American people through proactive leadership, innovation, and excellence in service. They also provide expertise, resources, and information to continually improve the quality of our nation's highway system and its intermodal connections.

Federal Railroad Administration

<http://www.fra.dot.gov/site/index.htm>

The Federal Railroad Administration was created to promulgate and enforce rail safety regulations, administer railroad assistance programs, conduct research and development in support of improved railroad safety and national rail transportation policy, provide for the rehabilitation of Northeast Corridor rail passenger service, and consolidate government support of rail transportation activities.

Rural and Agricultural Transportation Data and Information Resources

<http://ntl.bts.gov/ruraltransport/>

This website supports the collaborative efforts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to address rural and agricultural transportation issues that support and enhance rural economic development, rural life and mobility; ensure the efficient movement of agricultural products on the nation's highways, rail systems, waterways, and air in national and global trade and maintain the global competitiveness of American agriculture.

Transportation Toolbox for Rural and Small Communities

<http://ntl.bts.gov/ruraltransport/toolbox/index.html>

The Transportation Toolbox for Rural Areas and Small Communities was designed to assist public and private stakeholders in planning, developing, and improving rural areas and small communities, especially through transportation and related projects.

Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21)

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm>

The contents of the TEA-21 web site are organized according to the legislation, cross reference, summary of the TEA-21, information about the outreach sessions and various related publications.

U.S. Department of Transportation

<http://www.dot.gov/>

This website provides information about the Department's organization, key officials, mission, and other important information related to managing the Department and accomplishing their mission.

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

Farmland Information Center/Library

<http://www.farmlandinfo.org/>

American Farmland Trust is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1980 to protect USA's farmland. AFT works to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment. The Center/ Library contains links to information related to farming.

The Philanthropy Index

<http://www.philanthropyindex.org/>

The Index is the product of the Southern Philanthropy Consortium, a collaboration between SRDI, the Southeastern Council of Foundations and the Foundation for the Mid South. The Philanthropy Index is a step-by-step process for measuring your rural community's potential for creating a charitable fund. It uses "hard" data about a community, compiled from national sources like the Internal Revenue Service and the Census Bureau, to create an objective measure of the financial wealth that exists within households and businesses within a community. It also poses a number of subjective questions for leaders in a community to answer that measure the level of community involvement from individuals and businesses in a community and the likelihood of being able to engage community members in creating a charitable fund. You can download the complete Philanthropy Index Guidebook and Workbook online at http://www.philanthropyindex.org/aboutindex_download.asp

Regional rural development centers

Four regional rural development centers collaborating to support research and extension efforts to improve the lives of people living in non-metropolitan areas of the United States. The collaborating organizations are: North Central Regional Center for Rural Development at Iowa State University; Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development at Pennsylvania State University; Southern Rural Development Center in MSState and the Western Rural Development Center at Utah State University.

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

<http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/rdev/RuralDev.html>

The mission of the NCRCD is to initiate and facilitate rural development research and education programs to improve the social and economic well-being of rural people in the region. The NCRCD also provides leadership in rural development regionally and nationally by identifying, developing and supporting programs on the vanguard of emerging issues.

North East Regional Center for Rural Development in Pennsylvania.

<http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casconf/nercd/nercd.html>

The Northeast Center serves as a regional and national network to catalyze, initiate, facilitate, and evaluate research and educational programs that have the potential to improve the social and economic well-being of individuals in small towns and rural places.

Southern Rural Development Center

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/>

The Southern Rural Development Center aims to accomplish its mission through its goals which are: to stimulate the formation of multi-state research teams; to coordinate the development and revision of educational materials and maintain a centralized repository of educational resources; organize and deliver high priority rural development research and educational workshops/conferences; to provide leadership for the preparation of science-based rural development policy reports and to build partnerships that link the South's land-grant university system with other key entities committed to rural development activities in the region.

Western Rural Development Center

<http://extension.usu.edu/WRDC/>

The purpose of the Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is to strengthen rural families, communities, and businesses by facilitating rural development research and extension (outreach) projects cooperatively with universities and communities throughout the West.

Rural Information Center (RIC) and RIC Health Service (RICHS)

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/>

These websites have information on grant opportunities, foundations, publications, conferences, and more.

Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)

<http://www.rupri.org/>

The Rural Policy Research Institute provides objective analysis and facilitates public dialogue concerning the impacts of public policy on rural people and places. RUPRI conducts policy-relevant research and facilitates public dialogue to assist policymakers in understanding the rural impacts of public policies and programs. In addition, RUPRI involves researchers, practitioners and analysts from numerous other universities, research institutes, governmental units, and other organizations.

W.K. Kellogg Collection of Rural Community Development Resources

<http://www.unl.edu/kellogg/>

The Collection contains rural community development materials funded by the Kellogg Foundation and other selected sponsors of recognized rural programs. Guidebooks, manuals, workshop materials, reports, books, and videos are included.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

<http://www.cfda.gov/default.htm>

This is a searchable database of federal programs.

Economic Research Service (ERS)

<http://www.ers.usda.gov>

The Economic Research Service (ERS) is the main source of economic information and research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of ERS is to inform and enhance public and private decisionmaking on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural development. To accomplish this mission, highly trained economists and social scientists develop and distribute a broad range of economic and other social science information and analysis.

Fedstats

<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

A site on which statistics from 70 different Federal agencies are located.

The Government Information Sharing Project

<http://govinfo.kerr.orst.edu/index.html>

The Government Information Sharing Project was initiated to demonstrate improved access to electronic government information, especially for remote users (such as rural Oregon residents) and the general public.

HOUSING

Affordable Housing Resource Center

<http://www.novoco.com/resource.htm>

This website provides information on all aspects of affordable housing development and redevelopment. Subject headings include state information, policy and legislation, tax and HUD research, financing tools, and a bulletin board.

American Planning Association

<http://www.planning.org/>

The American Planning Association is a nonprofit public interest and research organization representing practicing planners, officials, and citizens involved with urban and rural planning issues. The activities of the organization include educating policy makers on land use planning issues, advocating policy changes to incorporate planning principles at all levels of government, and conducting research on planning topics. The website offers access to reports on a variety of topics including contemporary legislation, planning awards and success stories. Visitors to the site may also find information on consulting services.

Bankrate.com

<http://www.bankrate.com/>

The Nation's largest supporter of grassroots community development, encouraging investment in urban/rural affordable housing, technical support and neighborhood services. Bankrate is an online reference to mortgage rates and investment news, with information on interest rate trends, federal policy and all things economic.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<http://www.cbpp.org>

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is one of the leading organizations in the country working on fiscal policy issues and issues affecting low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The Center conducts work on many areas relevant to redesigning the safety net programs in the states, including welfare, Medicaid and child health, food assistance, employment, housing, immigrant benefit issues, low-income tax policy, state-level data analysis, and income and poverty trends.

Consortium for Housing and Asset Management

<http://www.cham.org/>

CHAM is a national nonprofit organization established by LISC, The Enterprise Foundation, and Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to expand the capacity of community-based organizations and others working in the nonprofit housing industry to responsibly own and professionally manage affordable housing. The website contains links to CHAM publications, regional information, and the CHAM clearinghouse with forms, links, and recommended resources.

Corporation for Supportive Housing

<http://www.csh.org/>

CSH supports the expansion of permanent housing opportunities linked to comprehensive services for persons who face mental health problems, substance abuse, and other chronic health challenges, and are at risk for homelessness. CSH works through collaborations with private, nonprofit and government partners, and strives to address the needs of, and hold themselves accountable to, the tenants of supportive housing. The site provides information on supportive housing and local programs to implement the policies that the organization champions.

The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

<http://www.clpha.org/>

CLPHA represents 55 of the largest public housing authorities in the country who collectively own and manage 40 percent of the nation's public housing stock and administer 20 percent of the low-income housing units assisted under the tenant-based Section 8 program. CLPHA advocates on behalf of public housing and provides data and analysis for ongoing debates about the future of public housing facilities. Find out about CLPHA and current issues in public housing on-line.

Enterprise Social Investment Corporation

<http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/esic/default.htm>

ESIC undertakes a variety of initiatives in fulfillment of the Enterprise Foundation's mission to finance, develop and acquire affordable housing and other community development initiatives in underserved neighborhoods.

Habitat for Humanity International

<http://www.habitat.org/>

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that seeks to lessen the effects of poverty and homelessness by engaging individuals and organizations to help build and remodel houses. Since it was founded in 1976, HFHI has built more than 90,000 houses around the world. The website includes information about HFHI as well as details about special programs.

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

<http://www.nahro.org/>

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) advocates for housing and community development—for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans—particularly those with low- and moderate-incomes.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

<http://www.rcac.org/programs/serv-housing.html>

RCAC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting rural communities achieve their goals and visions by providing them with training, technical assistance, and access to resources. The RCAC Housing Services has three areas of emphasis: farm worker housing, self-help housing and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Additionally, the housing division has begun working with special projects involving the combination of housing with businesses, social services, health care and child care.

Rural LISC

<http://www.ruralisc.org/>

The Mission of Rural LISC is to build the capacity of resident led rural community development corporations (CDCs), increase their production and impact, demonstrate the value of investing in and through rural CDCs, and make the resource and policy environment more supportive of rural CDCs and their work. Rural LISC has special home ownership and housing programs that it runs—see the website.

AARP Foundation

<http://www.aarp.org/>

The AARP Foundation administers programs that assist older Americans. These programs, funded by grants or cooperative agreements with governments or private organizations, provide a wide variety of services including job training, tax assistance, assistance with important lawsuits being decided by the courts, and much more.

The Caring Advocate

<http://www.care4usa.com>

A not-for-profit, self-published, bimonthly printed newsletter founded for the express purpose of providing inspiration, fellowship and support for unpaid Family (Informal) Caregivers. Features include: legislative updates; listings of useful public and selected private agencies; profiles by and for caregivers; listings of online resources; helpful time-saving tips; spotlights on issues faced by caregivers of different ethnicities and special-needs groups; Q & A column; spotlights on individuals who make a difference for others.

Children of Aging Parents

<http://www.caps4caregivers.org/>

Children of Aging Parents is a nonprofit, charitable organization whose mission is to assist the nation's nearly 54 million caregivers of the elderly or chronically ill with reliable information, referrals and support, and to heighten public awareness that the health of the family caregivers is essential to ensure quality care of the nation's growing elderly population.

ElderWeb

<http://www.elderweb.com/>

ElderWeb is an online resource that includes reviewed links to long term care information, a searchable database of organizations, and an expanding library of articles and reports, news, and events. This site was designed to be a research site for both professionals and family members looking for information on eldercare and long term care, and includes links to information on legal, financial, medical, and housing issues, as well as policy, research, and statistics.

National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives

<http://www.nosscr.org>

Representation and advocacy on behalf of persons who are seeking Social Security disability and retirement, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare.

DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

The National Main Street Center

<http://www.mainst.org/>

The Main Street program is designed to improve all aspects of the downtown or central business district, producing both tangible and intangible benefits. Improving economic management, strengthening public participation, and making downtown a fun place to visit are as critical to Main Street's future as recruiting new businesses, rehabilitating buildings, and expanding parking. Building on downtown's inherent assets—rich architecture, personal service, and traditional values and most of all, a sense of place—the Main Street approach has rekindled entrepreneurship, downtown cooperation and civic concern.

FINANCE

Coalition of Community Development Financial Institutions

<http://www.cdfi.org>

The Coalition of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI Coalition) is the lead vehicle for industry-wide ventures and a unified voice of the industry. The Coalition's mission is to increase public and financial support for the CDFI industry through advocacy and public education, information and outreach, and knowledge building.

Community Development Venture Capital Alliance (CDVCA)

<http://www.cdvca.org/>

CDVCA promotes use of the tools of venture capital to create jobs, entrepreneurial capacity and wealth to advance the livelihoods of low-income people and the economies of distressed communities.

Economic Development Finance Service

<http://www.nado.org/edfs/index.html>

EDFS, a member-supported program of the NADO Research Foundation, is a national organization for small business development loan fund professionals and policymakers with a rural perspective.

Financial Planning Association (FPA)

<http://www.fpanet.org/>

The Financial Planning Association is the membership organization for the financial planning community. FPA's primary aim is to be the community that fosters the value of financial planning and advances the financial planning profession. FPA benefits the public by helping to ensure that financial planning is delivered through competent, ethical financial planners.

National Community Capital
<http://www.communitycapital.org>

National Community Capital works to leverage the increased flow of private-sector resources to economically disadvantaged people and communities through community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and by facilitating and supporting direct investments by banks and other conventional financial institutions, other corporations, socially motivated investors, religious institutions, and government. On the website there are links to a number of CDFI organizations.