








**Guided by EXTENSIVE community engagement, R5DC has secured funding and worked beside MANY partners to deliver the following capacity in the last five years:**

	<p><b>Financial</b></p>	<p>Offers access to capital; <a href="#">7 lending pools</a> funds intentionally provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minority borrowers that address equitable access to capital</li> <li>• ventures apply for microloans (many women owned enterprises and farms)</li> <li>• households installing new septic systems or wells for environmental benefits</li> </ul> <p>When we delivered our millions of COVID loans through EDA we asked companies to tell us how they would improve incomes or employee ownership opportunities. R5DC fiscally administers funds for groups like "<a href="#">100 Rural Women</a>" while they are in the process of getting their 501c3.</p>
	<p><b>Built</b></p>	<p>Secured \$2.5 million to advance a 10,000 sq. ft. <a href="#">regional food hub &amp; processing facility</a> which included artist led "<a href="#">art carts</a>" that accompanied a new local foods <a href="#">mobile market</a> for social community engagement.</p>
	<p><b>Natural</b></p>	<p>Delivered <a href="#">Climate planning and projects</a> with small towns and facilitation of watershed planning. Developed a \$3.5 million renewable energy "<a href="#">Solar Schools</a>" 6 site project.</p>
	<p><b>Individual</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated business planning and market analysis for regional local food hub, <a href="#">Sprout MN</a>, who now serve 104 low-income/BIPOC farmers.</li> <li>• Sponsored health and wellness workshops for framers to increase mental health and decrease Veteran and farmer suicide.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Intellectual</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted w/a <a href="#">feasibility study for Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe</a> - construction workforce training program.</li> <li>• Taught <a href="#">grant writing</a> to non-profits, local units of government, and consortiums - focus on Food Co-ops. Authored a grant writing <a href="#">TOOLKIT</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Farmer training</a> (post-harvest handling, food safety, business succession and more).</li> <li>• Delivered planning: <a href="#">Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy</a> (CREDS) including pandemic response/recovery planning, <a href="#">transportation</a> &amp; broadband planning, and municipal <a href="#">comprehensive plans</a>.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Political</b></p>	<p>Hosted farmer and county planning and zoning to revise ordinances. Encouraged the MN Dept of Agriculture to receive grant applications in languages <a href="#">other than English</a>, and they did...this was a first for a MN state agency.</p>
	<p><b>Social</b></p>	<p>Offered <a href="#">indoor winter farmers markets</a> with cultural focus on Somali, Latino, Tribal, Youth and Amish through dance, art, and food to help the region bridge difference. Delivered over 150 Doctor prescribed CSA's a year <a href="#">to low-income veterans</a>, persons living with mental health issues or in opioid/drug recovery programs.</p>
	<p><b>Cultural</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-curated story sharing via artist expressions; music, poetry, cartooning, videos, &amp; visual art</li> <li>• Launched a <a href="#">Welcoming Communities Program</a> that served 10 communities to develop welcoming community projects and delivered Intercultural Inventory Assessments (IDI) to over 400 people of the region.</li> <li>• Started a "<a href="#">Justice System Consortium</a>" of peace officers and diverse community members</li> <li>• Shared stories of Rural MN welcoming community actions and experiences through the "<a href="#">Rural Equity Action Guide</a>" and the "<a href="#">Rural Reveal</a>"</li> </ul>