

## News

Posted on April 7, 2007

### **Rural Poverty Initiatives Get Boost**

The National Rural Funders Collaborative, a Dallas-based consortium of eleven U.S. foundations, has announced its support for five initiatives across the country that will work to build or enhance rural economies, foster long-term community change, and address disparities of race, class, and power in poor rural areas.

Each grantee will receive \$150,000 to \$300,000 annually for two years, with the possibility of an additional three years of funding. The grantees are located in areas of the country specifically targeted by the NRFC — the rural South, California and the West, and the northern Great Plains. In the South, the Tallulah Conversion Project, an initiative of the Louisiana Delta Coalition for Education and Economic Development, is converting a former juvenile prison into a "success center" providing adult education and job training, while New Orleans-based marketumbrella.org is working to increase access to markets and other opportunities for urban and rural farmers throughout the Gulf Coast and Mid South region.

In rural California, the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association and El Pájaro Community Development Corporation are working to develop small businesses as an alternative to seasonal farm work in northern Monterey County and southern Santa Cruz County. Similarly, Rai\$ing Change, a public-private initiative in south Monterey County, is seeking to restructure the area's rural economy through employment and business ownership opportunities. And further east, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation and the Native American Community Development Corporation are collaborating to move Native American reservations in Montana and Wyoming toward economic sovereignty and self-determination.

"Our five new grantees...are focused on lifting up portions of their rural populations that are often left behind and are committed to creating connections and opportunities where none have existed before," said NCRF executive director Jim Richardson. "Initiatives like these provide invaluable models and lessons for other areas as we work together to create a strong and vibrant economy throughout rural America."

*"National Rural Funders Collaborative Announces Major Investment in Regional Initiatives." National Rural Funders Collaborative Press Release 4/04/07.*

Primary Subject: Community Improvement/Development

Location(s): California, Dallas, Louisiana, Montana, New Orleans, Texas, Wyoming

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=174600024>