

National Rural Funders Collaborative (NRFC)

HRSA All Programs Meeting
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Executive Director



NRFC Mission Statement

A Learning Partnership to
Expand Resources for
Communities and Families
Facing Persistent Poverty



NRFC Partners

Private

Mary Reynolds Babcock
Otto Bremer
Calvert Social Investment
Annie E. Casey
Fannie Mae
Ford
Wm Randolph Hearst
F.B. Heron
Wm & Flora Hewlett
W.K. Kellogg
Lumina

Federal

US Dept. of Agriculture
Appalachian Regional
Commission
US Dept. of Health
and Human Services

Place-Based

Alaska Rural Community Health
Economic Strategies
Appalachian Ohio Regional
Investment Coalition
Building Philanthropy to Support
Rural Entrepreneurship in Nebraska
Central Valley Partnership
for Citizenship
New Mexico Rural Livelihoods
Initiative
South Carolina CED Collaborative
for Public Policy (& Capacity Bldg)
Western Maine Sustainable
Development Collaborative



NRFC Investment Criteria

- **HISTORY OF COLLABORATION**
- **COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGY**
- **ACHIEVABLE OPPORTUNITY**



NRFC Learning Framework

Asset Development/ Outcome Achievement:

- **Building Wealth**
- **Building Leadership**
- **Building Family Self-Sufficiency**



NRFC Performance Measurement Model

Place-Based Theories of Change

- What **changes** are we trying to make?
What **opportunities** present themselves for this change?
- What **strategies** are we attempting to pursue?
How can we **prepare** ourselves best to execute these strategies?
- How will we **know** whether we are accomplishing the change?
What **outcome indicators** will we measure so we can make continuous improvements?



NRFC Performance Measurement Model

“Strategic Readiness”

- **“Community Capitals”** as Building Blocks:

	<u>Indigenous</u>	<u>Built</u>
Family Self-sufficiency	<i>Natural Capital</i>	<i>Economic Capital</i>
Leadership	<i>Cultural Capital</i>	<i>Political Capital</i>
Wealth	<i>Human Capital</i>	<i>Social Capital</i>

- What Strategies for Transforming Capital into **“Capacity”**?
- **Capacity for what?** Both **Outcomes** and **Opportunities**
- Both **Outcome Measures** and **Indicators of Strategic Readiness**



NRFC Approach to Policy

Forging a Policy of Practice

- ***Identify Lessons at the Regional Level*** based on the successes and setbacks experienced by collaborative partners working for strategic, sustainable change
- ***Build an Alternative National Rural Agenda*** through connecting lessons drawn from regional practice to policy development and implementation at the state, regional & federal levels



NRFC Models for Community-Based Rural Transformation

Healthcare As a Focal Point

- **Village-Based Health Provider System – Alaska**
- **Community Benefits:**
 - Greater, More Affordable Access to Healthcare
(family self-sufficiency)
 - Identification/Training of Village-Based “Healers”
(leadership development)
 - Career Ladder to Increase Economic Opportunity
(wealth creation)



NRFC Models for Community-Based Rural Transformation

Citizenship/Participation As a Focal Point

- **Citizenship/Civic Participation – Central Valley**
- **Community Benefits:**
 - Improved Quality of Life/Better Jobs through Legalization
(family self-sufficiency)
 - Greater Participation/Self-determination via Education
(leadership development)
 - Better Paying, Healthier Jobs via Strong NP Sector
(wealth creation)



NRFC Models for Community-Based Rural Transformation

Economic Opportunity As a Focal Point

- **Rural Livelihoods – New Mexico**
- **Community Benefits:**
 - Culturally Based Opportunities for Low-wealth Families
(family self-sufficiency)
 - Skills Competence Leads to Greater Civic Participation
(leadership development)
 - Revitalized Local Economies through Entrepreneurship
(wealth creation)



NRFC Lessons Learned

- **Focus on Healthy Communities, not simply health or healthcare:** Rural health and healthcare strategies will have limited impact unless they are part of a larger, comprehensive community-based strategy for healthy communities with economic opportunity, openness to civic participation and new leadership and other supports for family self-sufficiency
- **Focus on Opportunities, not simply outcomes:** Outcomes are achievable only in timeframes of decades or generations; opportunities may be realizable within months or a few years and are good indicators that families and communities are empowered, engaged and enabled.
- **Focus on What is Working/on Success, not simply on needs/solutions:** Traditional “needs assessments” start with what is lacking and then provide interventionist “solutions” that are neither community-based nor sustainable. An “asset-based” approach begins with what families and communities can do for themselves and builds capacity onto that.
- **Focus on Collaboration and Shared Resources, not building institutions:** The old model for “meeting needs,” in healthcare and other fields, was building institutions fully equipped to meet those field-specific needs. Life is not so neat and traditional institutions are having to reinvent themselves to stay relevant as resources and partners for community revitalization and improvement.

