

National Rural Funders Collaborative (NRFC)

Rural Community College Alliance

San Antonio, Texas

October 7, 2003



The Vision

To Expand Awareness of and Resources for Rural Communities and Families facing Persistent Poverty through:

- *Leveraging our collective dollars, knowledge and influence;*
- *Increasing the impact of human, technical and financial resources; and*
- *Effecting and sustaining positive, measurable change.*

4-10-01



Strategic Approach

- Build on what is already working in rural areas: “from the ground up”
- Look for strategic opportunity
- Think and act regionally
- Break down barriers of race, gender and class; no more “we” and “they”
- Learn from diversity; value history, culture and geography
- Create new leadership opportunities & reinvent traditional institutions
- Work differently through collaboration



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



Threefold Objectives

- *Fund* Strategic Opportunities
 - *Learn* from Best Practices
 - *Inform* Public Policy



Strategic Funding Opportunities:

	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Leverage</u>		<u>Ttl \$ Leveraged</u>
<i>Appalachian Ohio</i>	\$ 250,000	\$1,312,684	(5:1)	\$1,562,684
<i>South Carolina</i>	\$ 150,000	\$ 995,000	(7:1)	\$1,145,000
<i>Alaska</i>	\$ 100,000	\$1,165,562	(12:1)	\$1,265,562
<i>New Mexico</i>	\$ 100,000	\$ 330,000	(3:1)	\$ 430,000
<i>Central Valley</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 550,000	(11:1)	\$ 600,000
<i>Nebraska</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000*	(1:1)	\$ 110,000
<i>Western Maine</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 973,729	(5:1)	\$1,023,729
<i>Arkansas</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 249,208	(5:1)	\$ 299,208
<i>Caia/Farm Brand</i>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$ 227,900</u>	<u>(2:1)</u>	<u>\$ 277,900</u>
	\$ 850,000	\$5,864,083	(7:1)	\$6,714,983

**Mid-term Numbers Only*

Threefold Learning Framework

- ***Build Wealth***
 - Economic revitalization, Entrepreneurship, IDAs
- ***Build Self-Sufficient Practices***
 - Family Economic Success, Improved Quality of Life, Stronger Supports, Access to Services
- ***Build Leadership***
 - Diverse Leadership Structures, Civic Entrepreneurship, Reinventing Institutions



Understanding Theory of Change

- What **changes** (outcomes) are sought?
- What **strategies** are pursued to effect those changes?
- What **capacity** must be built or expanded to implement those strategies?
- What **indicators** can be established to demonstrate that these strategies are making a difference?



“Strategic Readiness” & Place-Based Performance Measures

“Community Capitals” as Building Blocks:

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

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



Entrepreneurship As a Starting Point

Regional Investment – Appalachian Ohio

- **Community Benefits:**

- **One-on-one Facilitation of Emerging Entrepreneurs**

- (leadership development)*

- **Development of Place-Based Networks and Opportunities – Nature Trails, Heritage Festivals, Crafts**

- (wealth creation)*

- **Increased Employment/ Stronger Local Economies/
Stronger Support Networks & Services**

- (family self-sufficiency)*



Economic Development As a Starting Point

Wealth Creation in Low-wealth Areas – South Carolina

- **Community Benefits:**
 - **Support/ Strengthen Community Development Corporations through Public/ Private Support & Access to Capital**
(wealth creation)
 - **Capacity-building for Emerging CDCs/ Grassroots Leaders**
(leadership development)
 - **Increased Employment/ Stronger Local Economies/ Stronger Support Networks & Services**
(family self-sufficiency)



Healthcare As a Starting 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)



Leadership Development As a Starting 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)



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



Public Policy -- Building Wealth

- *Create Incentives for Entrepreneurship*
- *Expand Rural IDA program*
- *Link Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Care Tax Credits*
- *Encourage Alternative Financial Institutions*
 - Community Credit Unions
 - Community Development Financial Institutions
- *Engage Federal Home Loan and Banking Systems*



Public Policy -- Building Family Self-Sufficiency

- *Expand Village-Based Health Provider Model to Other Rural Areas*
- *Increase Tribal Self-sufficiency*
- *Greater Access to Technology*
- *Increase Health Care Coverage provided by Small Businesses*
- *Incent Businesses to Share in Costs of Child Care*
- *Single Point of Access to Health Care/ Human Services*
- *Greater Attention to Prevention and Health Disparities*



Public Policy -- Building Leadership

- *Identify Flexible Planning Money*
- *Encourage Learning and Skills Development*
- *Change the Relationship between USDA/HHS/other federal agencies and Community Based Organizations to a more Collegial one*
- *Form Angel Networks for Entrepreneurship*
- *Encourage Diversity at the Top*
- *Create Opportunities for Emerging Leaders*
- *Include Youth in Rural Decisionmaking*



Working Differently: The Challenge and Value of Collaboration

- In sharing a three fold vision (funding, learning, policy), what are the values that are most important to our success in achieving our goals?
- Are there sufficient opportunities to share our respective missions, expertise and interests with one another?
- How successful are we in breaking down traditional barriers within our collaborative, in overcoming “we” and “they”?
- What can we do to improve collaboration re: funding, learning and policy?
- What are the layers and levels of collaboration? Are we adding value to the larger work of rural funding, practice and policy?

