

RRDC Impact Data 2018-19

Advancing Rural Prosperity:

How Regional Rural Development Centers Strengthen Rural America

Funding

Federal Base Funding

\$1,899,520

\$474,880 per center



Amount Leveraged

\$2,737,955

How funding was used



Subgrants/
Mini-Grants

\$1,041,018



Supporting
Training Events

\$77,233



Convening
Multi-State Groups

\$334,580



Internal Funding
(salaries, admin costs)

\$1,736,127



76 Workshop/Conferences
Conducted

50 States Participating

99 Universities Participating

1,275 Participants

Multi-state Initiatives

18 Multi-state
Groups



Topics include: local foods,
tourism, rural health, workforce &
economic development, digital literacy,
farm stress, opioids, e-connectivity

Advancing Scholarship

Curricula: **4**

Briefs, Infographics, Reports: **16**

112

Presentations by
RRDC Staff



Research Articles: **24**

Reach



40 Webinars
3,709 Participants



3,872 Newsletter
Subscribers



2,821 Social Media
Followers



47,396 Page Views
38,969 Unique Page Views

Academic Advancement

3 Interns
Employed

7 Post-docs
Employed

6 Graduate Students
Employed

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RRDC Impact Stories 2018-19

Advancing Rural Prosperity: Examples of how
Regional Rural Development Centers Strengthen Rural America

Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

NERCRD researches critical issues facing Rural America, as evident in the fact that the 2019 Economic Report of the President cited three scientific Center studies. One study examines how **population migration** affects which counties are considered “rural”. The other two show how **self-employment benefits** local economies, and how it can be stimulated. Both older and current research is cited, underscoring that NERCRD research has short-and longer-term impacts.

To **promote farmer networks**, NERCRD along with three minority-serving institutions produced a science-based training manual, which supported the development of a Delaware African-American Farmers Association. NERCRD collaborated with USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service to develop a new training platform, including a national peer-to-peer learning network for food systems advocates and entrepreneurs to grow capacity for and strengthen community-based local foods projects.

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

Director Mark Skidmore served as Coordinator for the Extension Opioid Crisis Response Workgroup (EOCRW). EOCRW assembled resources and developed a strategic framework to help Extension play a stronger role in addressing the crisis. It created the **Opioid Response** website and is in the process of establishing the National Behavioral Health Extension Network to support training and technical assistance for the dissemination of science-based behavioral **health resources**.

NCRCRD hosted a workshop that brought together experts in **health and economic development** to explore opportunities for collaboration to address rural challenges. The NCRCRD issued a call for proposals from workshop participants, which resulted in three funded projects: 1) Health Insurance and Access to Care in Rural Places; 2) Rural **Quality of Life** Indicators; and 3) Innovative Models of Mental Health Care for Farmers.

Southern Rural Development Center

SRDC and the National Digital Extension Education Team partnered with the National 4-H Council, Microsoft and Georgia 4-H to train 1,000 youth Digital Ambassadors and adult leaders to address the **digital divide** across 16 states and 91 communities through the 4-H Tech Changemakers program. Led by local youth/adult teams, communities benefited from learning important digital skills designed to help them thrive in a **digital economy** and benefit from high-speed connectivity.

Since 2018, 26 states have joined the Coming Together for Racial Understanding initiative, coordinated by the SRDC. The purpose of the initiative is to build capacity within Cooperative Extension Service (CES) to help communities engage in **civil dialogues** around race and ethnicity. Over 600 CES employees have participated in training, and **community dialogues** began launching in late 2019 with nearly 300 community participants so far. These dialogues will continue to grow in 2020.

Western Rural Development Center

Vast amounts of land in the western U.S. is owned and managed by the Federal Government and **land management** decisions have been prominent and divisive. In response, the WRDC is leading an effort to build a GIS data set that will have extensive information on all land west of the 98th meridian, including **resource availability** and development potential. This will allow exploration of the implications of various policy decisions.

Carbon and Emery Counties in Utah have traditionally been economically dependent on the coal industry. Declines in employment in coal has significant negative implications. Both counties have experienced gradual **economic and demographic decline**. To assist these counties, the WRDC and its partners conducted the Area Sector Analysis Process (ASAP). Through ASAP, the communities were able to identify and attract **industries** that were both desirable and compatible.