

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA and University of Kentucky to Expand Access to Placemaking Resources, Create More Livable Communities for People in Rural America

WASHINGTON, March 15, 2022 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small today announced that USDA has awarded a \$260,000 cooperative agreement to the University of Kentucky to expand access to placemaking resources that will create more livable and vibrant communities for people in rural America.

Placemaking is a collaborative planning and technical assistance process. This process helps leaders from rural communities develop plans to create quality places where people will want to live, work, visit, learn and explore. The plans can enhance a community's capacity to provide people access to economic development opportunities as well as community infrastructure such as affordable housing, safe and reliable transportation, high-speed internet in their homes, and more.

The University of Kentucky's Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky will use the funds to launch a digital toolkit to connect thousands of local leaders with technical assistance providers, funding organizations, planning guides, and other placemaking resources. These tools will make it easier for local leaders to build placemaking plans in their own communities.

USDA and the University of Kentucky will host a virtual workshop on May 23 and 24 for local leaders across the nation to connect with placemaking experts and funding organizations. Local leaders also will access examples of successful placemaking strategies. USDA and the University of Kentucky will issue a save the date to stakeholders and partners in the coming weeks.

Interested parties may [sign up to receive updates from USDA](#) about the toolkit and the virtual workshop.

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