



News Release

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USDA Announces Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation will Receive Technical Assistance

BISMARCK, N.D., June 6, 2019 – Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Joel Baxley today announced the names of [47 rural communities and regions](#) that will receive technical assistance to help create and implement long-term economic development plans.

“USDA and its partners are bringing local leaders and economic development experts together to create opportunity in some of the nation’s most economically challenged rural communities,” Baxley said. “Under the leadership of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, USDA is committed to building prosperity in America’s rural cities and towns.”

USDA is providing the assistance through an initiative called [Rural Economic Development Innovation \(REDI\)](#). USDA’s Innovation Center created REDI to support recommendations identified in the [Report to the President from the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#).

Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation will use technical assistance from Purdue University and the University of Kentucky to create a plan to support developing long-term treatment facilities. This community is affected by the opioid crisis, and the major effort will be targeted towards reducing dependency and improving quality of life. Technical assistance will benefit residents of Rolette county and the town of Belcourt.

“This initiative will provide free expert guidance to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and develop a plan to create a Rehabilitation Center and Juvenile Detention Center for the community,” Clare Carlson, USDA Rural Development North Dakota State Director said. “This technical assistance provides a new level of expertise and professionalism and is a step towards ending the cycle of alcohol and drug misuse in the area.”

Each of the 47 communities and regions will be paired with one of four partner organizations that will provide free technical assistance for up to two years to help rural towns and regions create and implement economic development plans. In September 2018, USDA awarded \$1.2 million in cooperative agreements to these four partners. The agreements will help the partners finance the free technical assistance to the communities and regions announced today.

The partners are the [National Association of Counties Research Foundation](#), the [Rural Community Assistance Partnership](#), [McClure Engineering Company](#), and [Purdue University Extension/Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky](#).

The following is a brief overview of the type of assistance each partner will provide:

- [The National Association of Counties Research Foundation](#) is partnering with the [National Association of Regional Councils](#) to develop a peer-learning program. Local and regional leaders in six rural communities and regions will be trained to implement multi-jurisdictional economic development plans and projects. The program will include workshops, team mentoring, educational webinars, community case studies and interactive learning.
- [McClure Engineering Company](#) is partnering with [CO.STARTERS](#), a Tennessee-based consulting firm, to help four rural communities and regions build plans to spur economic and community development, strengthen workforce readiness programs, and support entrepreneurship.
- [Purdue University Extension/Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky](#) will support eight communities and regions to build long-term economic development plans by leveraging public and private funding sources.
- [The Rural Community Assistance Partnership](#) will provide technical assistance to 30 rural communities and regions through the organization's [WealthWorks](#) model. This model will help rural regions and communities identify and market local assets.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a cornerstone recommendation of the task force.

The REDI initiative was developed by the USDA [Rural Development Innovation Center](#) to support recommendations identified in the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). To view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#) (PDF, 190 KB).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

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