

Business Programs • Socially Disadvantaged Group Grants

Learn More About Cooperative Development

Designed to provide technical assistance to Socially-Disadvantaged Groups in rural areas, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Nebraska Cooperative Development Center (NCDC) is doing just that. A recipient of funding from the USDA Rural Development Socially Disadvantaged Group Grants program (SDGG) NCDC is working to promote cooperative development services in underserved communities, provide workshop training in cooperative basics, and offer individualized support for groups.



UN-L Nebraska Cooperative Development Center.

Grant funded opportunities are available to Native Americans, Latinos, and women in rural Nebraska. In what will be an ongoing effort, NCDC has begun to address group ventures with Santee Sioux, Omaha Nation and Ponca tribal members. Individual consultations with Latino farmers in Colfax and Adams counties are underway. Outreach and workshops for women are in the planning stages.

Gardening, beading, farming and art workshops have introduced the advantages of working cooperatively. Seven workshops have been attended by 32 individuals. An additional 50 individual consultations have been made.

The key strength of the multi-owner or cooperative business model not seen in other businesses is the power of a group of people working together, sharing their individual talents and experiences, to build a successful business. People build cooperatives. Cooperatives build jobs, trust, communities, opportunity and hope. Cooperatives provide 2.1 million jobs in the U.S. and create annual wages of more than \$75 billion. Cooperatives help build a better world and a better Nebraska. The funding provided by USDA Rural Development's Socially Disadvantaged Group Grants program is an integral part of the future of rural Nebraskans.

Obligation Amount: \$165,970 Grant

Date of Obligation: 9/22/2016

Congressional District: Representative Fortenberry, District 1; Senators Fischer, Sasse

Partners:

Demographics: Rural Nebraska; Native Americans in Santee and Macy; Latinos in Columbus, Schuyler, Lexington, Crete and Hastings; women in east-central Nebraska

Impact: Cooperative development education, business and job creation.
