

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Invites Partners to Join the Rural Workforce Innovation Network (RWIN)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 2021 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Bette Brand today invited new members to join a national network of public-private partners to help create and improve access to jobs in America’s rural towns and communities.

The [Rural Workforce Innovation Network \(RWIN\)](#) was established in 2018 to create a forum for public and private partners to help increase access to workforce opportunities across rural America. The network includes governmental entities, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations and private businesses actively working to improve workforce development in their local communities.

RWIN helps rural leaders:

- Build partnerships;
- Develop tools and resources to meet the needs of rural employers and employees; and
- Share information on emerging trends, best practices and workforce development resources.

To join, interested parties must submit a [membership form](#) to USDA. Members may join the network on a continuous basis.

USDA also is inviting interested parties to attend a monthly series of public virtual workshops to create strategies to support rural workforce development. Workshop topics will focus on addressing workforce development needs using Rural Development programs, emerging industry trends, best practices and leveraged community resources.

Interested parties can join the kick-off workshop on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. Eastern Time to discuss the improving broadband access to advance rural workforce development. Register to attend at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rwin-january-virtual-meeting-broadband-solutions-for-the-rural-workforce-tickets-134538304691>.

The registration information for additional workshops is available at www.rd.usda.gov/rwin. For more information or questions about RWIN, please contact RD.Innovation.RWIN@usda.gov.

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