Who are the Cooperators?

USDA has cooperative agreements with National Association of Counties; Rural Community Assistance Partnership; McClure Engineering Company; and Purdue University Extension/Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky. Each is experienced in building capacity and maximizing access to planning resources for rural communities.

On what topics can the Cooperator assist?

- Convening partners
- Identifying community challenges and opportunities
- Creating and implementing actionable economic development plans

What is an actionable economic development plan?

An actionable economic development plan includes:
- Evidence-based assessments;
- Quantifiable goals;
- Plans to improve the local and regional economy; and
- Metrics to track implementation and progress.

Who may apply for this program?

Rural communities with 50,000 or fewer people are eligible to apply.

How to apply

1. Contact RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov to request an application.

2. Submit an optional one-page letter of interest to the Rural Development Innovation Center, RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov, by March 8, 2019.

3. Submit a completed application, using subject line “REDI Application” to RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov by April 5, 2019.

For questions

McClure Engineering
Alex Holland
Email: aholland@mecresults.com

National Association of Counties (NACO)
Cheryl Burnett
Email: CBurnett@naco.org

Rural Community Assistance Partnership
Ashley Zuelke
Email: AZuelke@rcap.org

Purdue University and the University of Kentucky
Lionel J. Beaulieu
Email: ljbe@purdue.edu

USDA Rural Development Innovation Center:
Christine Sorensen
Email: Christine.Sorensen@wdc.usda.gov

Visit www.rd.usda.gov to learn more or contact your local office for assistance. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

February 2019