

Rural Communities

Central Challenge(s):

Defining “Rural” and unintended consequences of definition

Public funding formulas based on population/per capita

Ability for communities to attract capital and families to create economic security (limited economic base, poverty, and quality of life, health)

Local/regional planning impacts on infrastructure and sprawl

Energy and Resource consumption

Determining the State’s role in reducing disparities

Policy Overview

Economy:

- Extraction-based economy - limited diminishing returns/tax base
- Undervalued and underdeveloped resources - natural resources, social networks, new markets and human capital
- Race, ethnic, poverty concentrations
- Dependent on broader regional development/urban centers

Identity

- Geo. isolated/urban fringe/emerging/bedroom community trends/tipping points
- Gaps in housing/transportation for agricultural workers
- Safety-net intervention (affordable housing programs, public assistance, emergency medical) and rural homelessness
- Uneven access to services/facilities (health/ education/employment)

Infrastructure:

- Inadequate water and sewer
- Lack of alternative forms of transportation
- Risk from impacts of climate change (drought/flood/fire)
- Risks from impacts of concentrated pollutants (health indicators in disadvantaged communities)

Issue Areas

Bridge Urban-Rural connectivity gap

- Asset based community assessment coordination with strategic plans
- Local determination of contextual factors and dynamic multiple outcomes
- Intermodal transit and alternative transportation
- Broadband access

Support regional collaboration

- Long term economic diversification-entrepreneurial development/industry and resource anchored clusters/sustainable industry attraction/global economy
- Affordable housing/transportation for agricultural workers
- Education/job skills development
- Economic adaptation/prosperity

State-level data resource and technical assistance

- Research-alternative economies; intergenerational tracking; data analysis and packaging
- Technical - case studies, capacity building, capital absorption assessment/strategy
- Funding coordination-criteria/application timeframes/venture capital/philanthropic partnerships/funding fairs

Opportunities

What has been your experience with varying definitions and impacts on eligibility for funding or assistance? Any suggested solutions?

Strategies for bridging isolation or building capacity?

What can the State do to more effectively engage local decision makers to inform statewide development patterns and impacts?

Do planning documents and implementation diverge? Where? Why? Thoughts on how to address divergence? Or is it capacity issue?

Questions