

BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES



MICHIGAN OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY

To build prosperity, rural communities need the resources and capacity that will prepare them for solutions and opportunities to complex issues like housing, childcare, the workforce, health, transportation and more. Rural communities need strong leadership and governance, diverse partners, plans and pipelines of viable projects if they're going to be able to secure and use funding effectively – they need to be ready with an organizational foundation that allows them to capitalize on opportunity.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

ORP SUPPORT



ASSESSMENTS, VISION AND PLANS

- Understand community needs and resources to identify solutions
- Build a community vision that captures the goals and hopes for the future
- Develop plans and strategies that create a roadmap to achieve the community's vision
- Create concepts and plans for projects that implement community's vision and plans

- Rural Readiness Grants to support studies and plans that catalyze action and investment
- Rural Readiness Network staff support to initiate early-stage planning or visioning processes
- Rural Readiness Network staff support with community assessments, readiness assessments, and asset mapping
- Rural Readiness Network connections to partner agencies and organizations that can provide fellowships, internships or training



STAFF, LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE

- Provide accountable staff support to effectively lead community initiatives and projects
- Ensure staff and officials have training and information needed to support community initiatives, including grant application and reporting, project management and planning processes
- Ensure staff and officials have training, skills and procedures to lead complex projects, navigate conflict and ensure effective community participation

- Rural Readiness Grants to support staff and consultants for leadership development training to build skills and expertise among emerging rural leaders
- Leadership peer networks to provide support and training for rural leaders
- Rural Readiness Network connections to partner agencies and organizations that can provide fellowships, internships or training



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- Understand the community's perspectives on issues and projects
- Communicate regularly and work effectively with diverse community organizations, businesses and neighboring communities
- Provide opportunities for meaningful community engagement and two-way dialogue
- Regularly share information with the public about key issues, needs and solutions

- Rural Readiness Grants to fund community engagement processes and collaborative initiatives
- Rural Readiness Network staff support to convene partners and initiate community engagement processes
- Rural Readiness Network staff support to coordinate events, trainings and other community learning opportunities



PROJECT FINANCING, MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Establish and maintain effective, transparent, and accountable procedures, processes, and systems that support community projects and goals

- Rural Readiness Grants to fund grant writing staff or consultants, provide grant writing or other technical training and conduct early-phase design or engineering to launch projects
- Rural Readiness Network connection to partner agencies and funders that can provide technical planning support, training or funding

The Office of Rural Prosperity understands that rural needs are diverse and complex, and offers targeted, responsive support to communities around specific needs.

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