



United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture



BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT



FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY



YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY



FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



# Community & Rural Development at NIFA Brent Elrod

*National Association of  
Community Development  
Extension Professionals Annual  
Conference  
18 May 2015*

# USDA NIFA

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# Sonny Ramaswamy

"Nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas, and their value and impact through the agriculture industry can be felt both domestically and internationally. To help these communities remain prosperous and viable, we need to support discovery of new ways that promote economic viability among producers, small businesses, and communities in rural America."

*USDA Announces \$14 Million in Grants Supporting Economic Growth for Rural Communities, February 25, 2015*

# Priorities and Alignment

- Efforts support NIFA, REE, and USDA goals
  - *USDA Strategic Plan for FY 2014-2018*
    - Goal 1: Assist Rural Communities to Create Prosperity so They Are Self-Sustaining, Repopulating, and Economically Thriving
  - *REE Action Plan for FY 2012*
    - Goal 7- Rural-Urban Interdependence and Prosperity
      - Strategy 2: Support information and technology transfer and translational research, “transformational extension,” to inform citizens and enable and support vibrant and resilient communities;
      - Strategy 4: Build new partnerships with underserved and non-traditional populations.
  - *NIFA Strategic Plan for FY 2012-2017*
    - Goal 7- Ensure the development of Human Capital, Communities, and a diverse Workforce through research, education, extension and outreach programs in food and agricultural sciences to support a sustainable agriculture system.



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# Program Long-Term Outcomes

- NIFA's Community & Rural Development program:
  - Promotes excellence in research, academics and outreach that fosters rural vitality and sustainability, utilizing the
- Regional Rural Development Centers as a primary vehicle to organize multi-disciplinary teams that:
  - Enhance workforce development and employability;
  - Invigorate economic and community development; and
  - Increase rural health and safety.



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# Key Partners/Stakeholders

- Land-grant Universities, Cooperative Extension Service
- Professional Associations (NACDEP, ANREP, NEAFCS)
- USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Rural Development
- USDA Office of Advocacy & Outreach
- HHS Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Veterans Affairs Office of Rural Health
- Small Business Administration
- Economic Development Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency



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# Community & Rural Development (CRD) Grant Programs

- Small Business Innovation Research – Rural Development (SBIR-RD) objectives:
  - stimulate technological innovations in the private sector;
  - strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs;
  - increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts; and
  - foster and encourage participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms in technological innovations.



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# Community & Rural Development (CRD) Grant Programs

- **Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs)**
  - Community Assessment & Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning & Evaluation (CAPE)
    - SAMHSA Phase II funding
  - Agriculture Marketing Service Training & Technical Assistance
    - AMS funding
  - Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center
    - AMS, NRCS, RD funding
  - Stronger Economies Together (SET)
    - RD Phase V funding



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# Workforce Development and Employability

- Self-employment strategies
- e-commerce
- Rural skills gaps



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# Economic and Community Development

- Stronger Economies Together (USDA RD)
- What Works?
- Food Systems (AFRI grant)
- Entrepreneurial growth strategies
- Innovations in agriculture webinars
- Broadband/e-commerce



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# Rural Health and Safety

- CAPE (SAMHSA)
- Ready Communities (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
- RIDGE – Purdue (Economic Research Service)



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# System Capacity Development

- Rural Development Webinars, Trainings, and Workshops for LGUs
- Post-Docs & Graduate Students
- National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center (NARDeP)
- Turning the Tide on Poverty



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