



United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement

CENTERS OF COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

Centers of Community Prosperity represent the partnerships between USDA and USDA stakeholders including USDA agencies, cooperative extension, other federal departments, and private sector partners, such as, non-governmental and philanthropic organizations, community development financial institutions, and others. Centers of Community Prosperity work to foster hope and opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Centers of Community Prosperity

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

MISSION

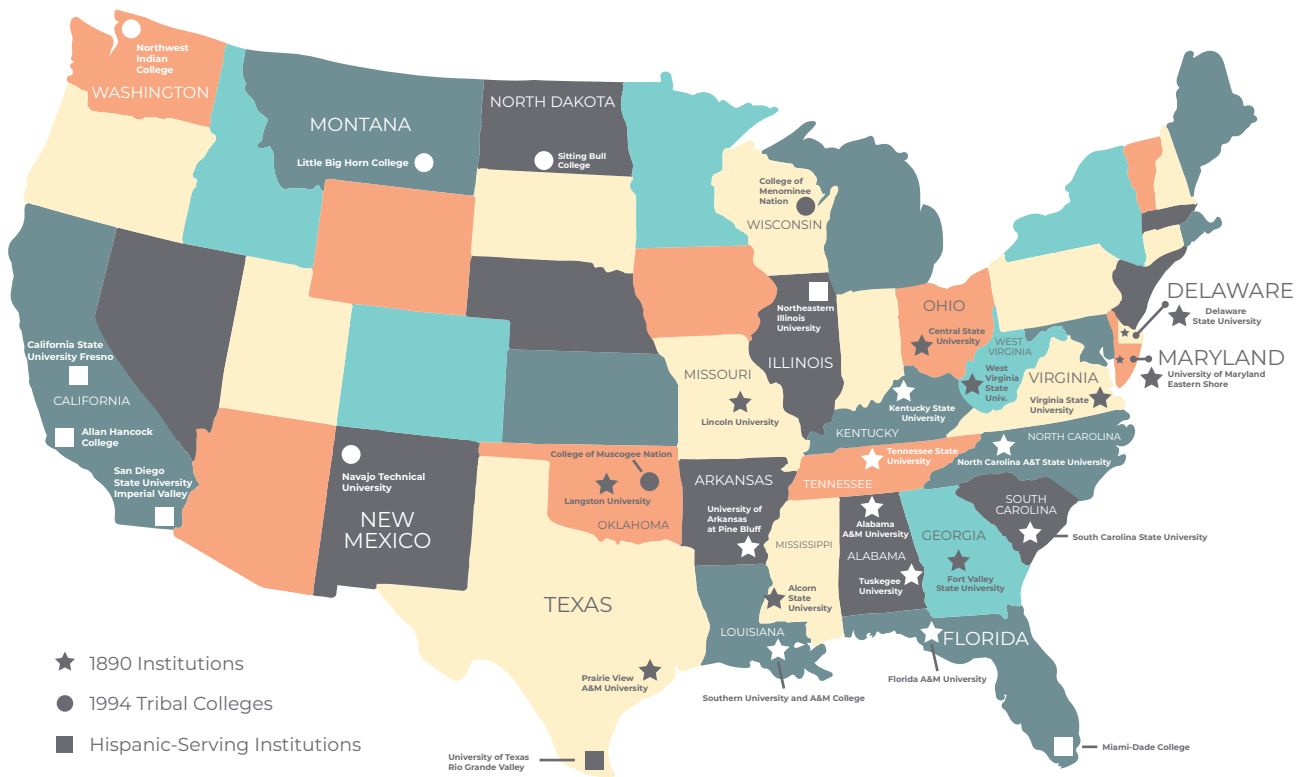
To develop partnerships with business and agribusiness, faith-based, education, elected, and other community leaders to identify key challenges and develop strategies for success. This will include the most effective and efficient utilization of all available resources, both public and private, to assist these communities in acquiring the education and tools necessary to foster hope and opportunity, wealth creation and asset building.

VISION

To establish a sustainable development process focusing on locally driven, bottom-up solutions to address challenges in rural and underserved communities. This process will create a "Climate of Success" that fosters hope and opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building, for our families, farmers and ranchers, and businesses. These communities will be safe, healthy, educated, and growing.

PLAN OF ACTION

- ◆ Establish Centers of Community Prosperity that **foster hope and opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building**;
- ◆ Strengthen partnerships and align Centers of Community Prosperity with 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land-Grant institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other public and private entities guaranteeing exceptional customer service and opportunities;
- ◆ Identify efficient and sustainable processes and effective strategies that will **establish 200 Communities of Faith and Opportunity** by end of 2019; and
- ◆ Help communities establish "Local Prosperity Councils" that engage the OneUSDA team, Federal, State, regional organizations and public and private entities.





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RURAL PROSPERITY



INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL PROSPERITY

Rural America includes 72% of the nation's land and 46 million people. Rural areas encompass regions that focus on agricultural production as well as places where work is more often found in industries such as manufacturing, mining, and forestry. They include locales that are prosperous and rapidly-growing, locales that are chronically depressed, and everything in between. Rural America is home to many different racial and ethnic demographics and a wide array of economic activities. These residents live in a variety of settings, from counties bordering suburbs to remote and isolated areas.

The Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement develops and maintains partnerships focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities in the United States, and connects those communities to the education, tools, and resources available to them through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and initiatives.





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Communities of Faith & Opportunity Process

USDA COMMUNITY PROSPERITY TRAINING SUMMIT



- Communities and organizations attend Summits at higher education institutions and other locations around the country.

LOCAL PROSPERITY COUNCIL



- Communities form Local Prosperity Councils, including key partners from business, education, government, and other fields.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



- Local Prosperity Councils submit a needs assessment, addressing challenges and assets, to U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal partners link community challenges to potential federal resources, programs, and initiatives.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture sends Local Prosperity Councils individualized reports on potential connections to federal resources, programs, and initiatives.

IMPLEMENTATION



- Local Prosperity Councils implement strategies and commit to interfacing with at least 3 federal resources, programs, or initiatives.
- USDA Centers of Community Prosperity provide outreach and training workshops on select challenges including youth, veterans, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, urban agriculture, and farm stress, to be presented by USDA staff, higher education institution faculty, or other.
- Local Prosperity Councils, Centers of Community Prosperity, and U.S. Department of Agriculture regularly communicate on status of progress.

RECOGNITION



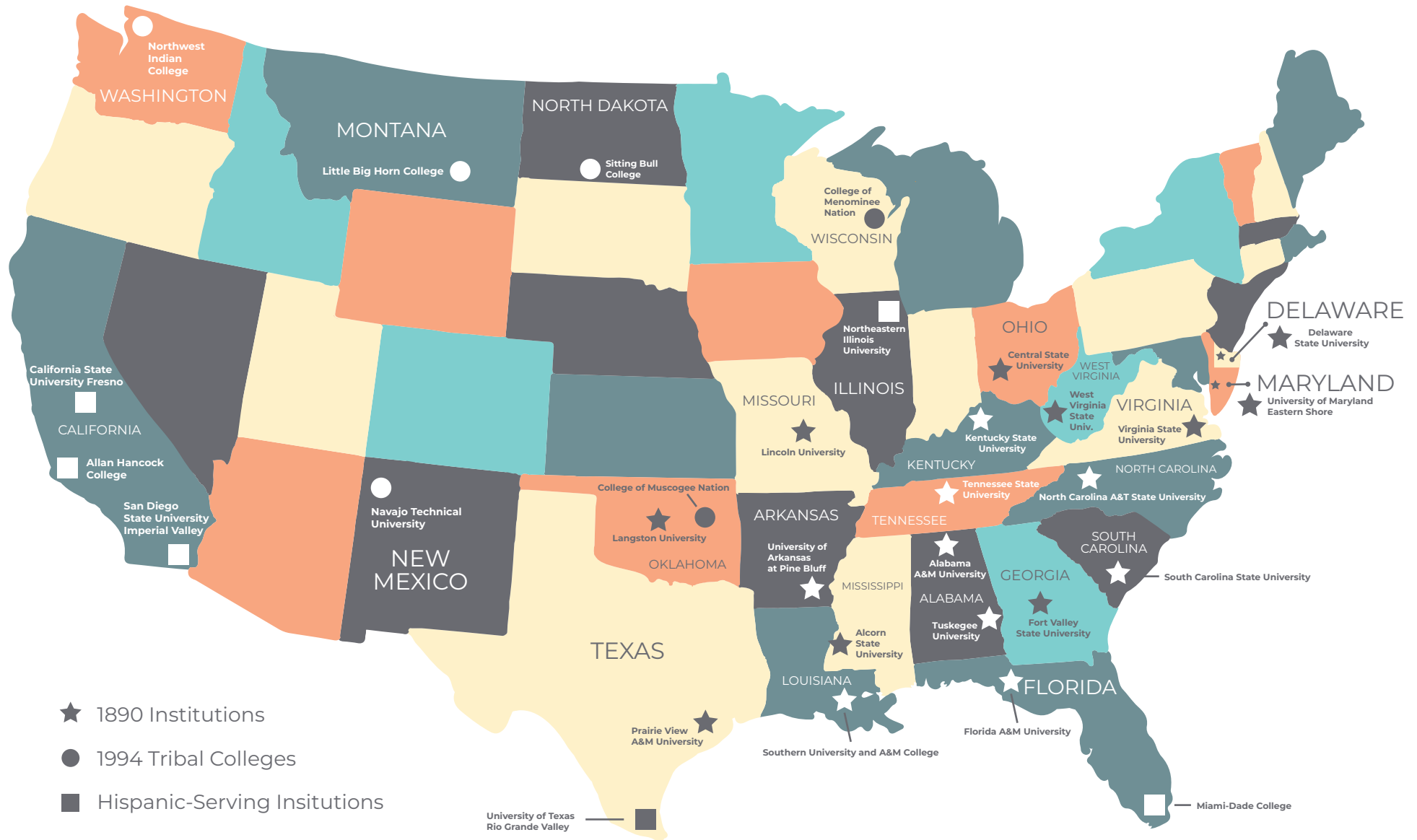
- USDA recognizes Local Prosperity Councils as Communities of Faith and Opportunity.



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Centers of Community Prosperity Success

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Centers of Community Prosperity convene state, federal and tribal partners, land-grant universities, Hispanic serving institutions, tribal colleges, historically black colleges and universities, national development organizations, non-profit organizations, faith leaders, veterans, and other strategic partners, to focus on the White House Rural Prosperity Taskforce recommendations, as well as the executive orders regarding the Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives, as well as the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.

National Community Prosperity Summit

- Hosted 4 National Community Prosperity Summits where over 1,000 institutional and community partners completed the Leadership in Economic Alliance Development (LEAD) workshop facilitated by extension personnel.
- Created approximately 500 asset maps and action plans to be implemented upon return to communities (LEAD curriculum).
- Convened participation from over 14 USDA agencies, as well as from the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration, Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Success Stories from the Field

- EDGE was awarded a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to renovate a building in rural West Virginia to act as and education, training and aggregation center to support our regional food system in September 2018 in the amount of \$138,724.00. The Central Appalachian Network will also provide REDI assistance that will be used as an opportunity to identify solutions to improve the quality of life, food desert and opioid misuse issues in McDowell and Mercer County, West Virginia and Tazewell County, Virginia. They have also helped members of EDGE's Teach, Heal, Reclaim, Invest, enVision, Entrepreneurship (THRIVE) Program receive high tunnel assistance from NRCS.
- Penn State Harrisburg received a leadership endowment of \$2.5 million to establish the Douglas W. Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research. The endowment will be used to establish the center which will provide outreach to veterans and community organizations and support them with the resources they need to be most successful in combating substance abuse.
- Fountain of Life Ministries recently received a grant from the Pa. Office of Attorney General in the amount of \$20,000.00. The grant is to help with a festival that benefits local organizations fighting the opioid epidemic. The event is called LifeFest and was held in August 2019 in Middletown Pa. (LifeFestrocks.com).





Become a Community of Faith and Opportunity

https://msudafvm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3CPN4ZzqzEGCHoF