

RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

Extension Sustainability Summit Call for Presentation Proposals

DEADLINE: October 12, 2015



The Western Rural Development Center and Utah State University Extension Sustainability are pleased to announce proposals for presentations are now being accepted for the second **Extension Sustainability Summit**, that will be held in Portland, Oregon, April 5-7, 2016.

The Summit will bring together Extension personnel and others to present and discuss outreach and education activities in five areas: Land, Climate/Air, Food, Water, and Energy.

The Summit will be organized around the five themes. Presenters will be allotted 15 minutes to present their materials plus five minutes for questions and answers, and will also participate in 30-minute "lightning sessions" following each themed session. The "lightning sessions" will be interactive sessions wherein groups will discuss the materials presented, how they may be applied in their respective work, and envision future directions in Extension regarding sustainability programmatic outreach.

[Read the complete Call for Proposals.](#)

Save the Date for the 2016 Community Development Extension Institute

May 22-24 in Jackson, Wyoming



The Western Rural Development Center's Community Development Extension Institute will be held in Jackson, Wyoming, on May 22-24, 2016. The planning committee, chaired by Duane Williams (University of Wyoming Extension), is busy gathering and analyzing your feedback on the session topics of most interest to you. Stay tuned for the detailed agenda and registration details.

[Take a look back at CDEI 2014.](#)

Extension Climate Science Conference

Registration now open!

The 2015 Extension Climate Science Conference will be December 8-10, 2015 in Bozeman, Montana, at the Montana State University Student Union Building (SUB).



You'll learn about:

- Climate Science Basics
- Montana and Regional Climate Trends
- Stakeholder Perspectives
- Tools and Resources for Extension Programming
- Effective Communication Techniques
- Program-focused Discussions and Opportunities to Collaborate

[Visit the website for details.](#)

Rural Housing and Economic Development Call for Proposals

DEADLINE: September 21, 2015



The National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center (NARDeP) seeks proposals for a book chapter and policy brief describing research and/or outreach programs that address problems associated with housing and economic development in rural areas of the United States. Inadequate housing in many rural areas tends to impair opportunities for healthy living and suppresses economic development. We have special interest on work from the disciplines of economics, family and consumer science, planning, sociology, or related fields relative to:

1. The availability of affordable, safe, and stable housing for vulnerable populations, especially those residing in rural areas, areas of persistent poverty, and in Native American communities.
2. The connection between adequate, affordable, quality housing stock and economic development and economic resilience among rural populations, and vice versa.
3. The development of programs to increase the health and safety of homes and improve energy efficiency.
4. Analysis of homelessness in different county types along the rural-urban continuum.

The items listed below are required to complete and submit your proposal. Incomplete proposals will not be considered. Email ONE document to don.albrech@usu.edu and include the following pages in the order listed:

- Author's Name and daytime contact information including telephone number, email address, job title, organization, mailing address
- Title of your proposal (limited to 12 words)
- Abstract describing your proposal and not to exceed 500 words

- Author's Vita (summary version, not to exceed two pages)

Questions

Please direct your questions regarding this Call for Proposals to:

Don E. Albrecht

Director, Western Rural Development Center

Associate Director, NARDeP

Regional Coordinator, CAPE

Utah State University

don.albrecht@usu.edu

Western Rural Development Center Partnering with University of Vermont on Research on Health Insurance and Economic Development in the Agriculture Sector



[How Are Health Care Changes Impacting Farmers and Rancher](#)

The University of Vermont was awarded a four-year, \$500,000 USDA Rural Communities and Regional Development grant to investigate how health insurance options and health care reforms impact the farm and ranch populations in the United States.

This grant is part of a \$14 million USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture initiative to increase prosperity in rural America. Through research led by the University of Vermont with help from the Western Rural Development Center, and the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, the study will focus on promoting rural community development, economic growth, and sustainability.

[Read more.](#)

EDA Announces Funding for the Regional Innovation Strategies Program

DEADLINE: [October 5, 2015](#)



The **U.S. Economic Development Administration** (EDA) recently announced that applications are now being accepted for the 2015 Regional Innovation Strategies Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO). Under this program, EDA is soliciting applications for two funding opportunities: the i6 Challenge, which funds organizations that help innovators and entrepreneurs turn innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research into viable, sustainable companies; and Seed Fund Support Grants (previously Cluster Grants for Seed Capital Funds), which funds regionally-focused seed capital funds that provide early-stage capital to innovation-based startups with a potential for high growth.

[Click here](#) to view the full announcement with instructions on how to apply.

Living Well and Working Well with a Disability

["The healthier you are the more you are able to do."](#)



The **Living Well and Working Well with a Disability** programs are evidence-based, peer-led health promotion workshops provided by organizations that serve people with disabilities.

Developed by the University of Montana's **Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities** (RTC: Rural), Living and Working Well have been shown to reduce limitations due to common health problems experienced by people with disabilities.

Living Well's focus is on the development of meaningful goals that will increase motivation for making health-behavior changes. Participants in Living Well learn the life skills they need to set and achieve quality-of-life goals and the important role health plays in helping them reach their dreams. **Working Well focuses** on considering the impact of employment on established routines and helps consumers prepare to make this adjustment using the concept of work/life balance. Participants in Working Well learn the skills to maintain life balance, manage stress, and improve their health in support of looking for or maintaining employment.

People who participate in the programs report:

- Improved outlook
- Positive changes in daily activities
- Achieving a goal such as getting a job, going back to school, or leading a more active social life
- Reduced limitation due to secondary health conditions
- Reduced health care costs
- Increased awareness of disability rights/advocacy

For more information on Living and Working Well, please visit the recently redesigned website: <http://livingandworkingwell.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>

Or send email requests to:

livingwell@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Stronger Economies Together Heading into Phase Five

[Celebrating five years!](#)



Stronger Economies Together (SET) celebrates its fifth year by entering into Phase Five. The program is now in place in 30

states with the addition of regions in Iowa and North Dakota. Phase Five also includes regions located in Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, **New Mexico**, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Virginia.

SET is an initiative that enables communities in rural America to work together to develop an economic development blueprint that strategically builds on the current and emerging strengths of their region. Launched in 2010 by USDA Rural Development and the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers (which includes the Western Rural Development Center) and their land-grant university partners, SET has provided the specialized training and technical assistance to help rural areas compete in the global job market by pooling their resources across county boundaries.

[Click here to learn more about SET!](#)

Creating Opportunity and Prosperity through Strengthening Rural-Urban Connections



From the **National Association of Development Organizations**: Metropolitan and rural America are highly connected and interdependent. To succeed, metropolitan America needs a healthy and sustainable rural economy and culture, and in turn rural America needs vibrant, well-functioning cities and suburbs to thrive and flourish. Yet, the prevailing national narrative pits urban versus rural for investments and public resources. A new issue brief from the NADO Research Foundation describes some ways in which regional development organizations and other regional entities are recognizing the importance of connecting rural regions and urban centers.

[Read the NADO brief.](#)

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS



Hometown Competitiveness Webinar Series

22 September 2015

Online

[Details.](#)

Extension Disaster Education Network Conference

6-9 October 2015

Las Cruces, NM

[Details.](#)

Rural Futures Conference

21-23 October 2015

Lincoln, NE

[Details.](#)

National Extension Tourism Conference

27-29 October 2015

Galveston, TX

[Details.](#)

Restoring the West Conference

28-29 October 2015

Logan, UT

[Details.](#)

6th Annual Northwest Climate Conference

3-5 November 2016

Couer d'Alene, ID

[Details.](#)

Extension Climate Science Conference

8-10 December 2015

Bozeman, MT

[Details.](#)

Extension Sustainability Summit

5-7 April 2016

Portland, OR

[Details.](#)

Community Development Extension Institute

22-24 May 2016

Jackson, WY

Details coming soon!

[Visit our website for more event listings!](#)

STAY CONNECTED



wrdc.usu.edu