

Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc.

Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc. (WRP) was created in 1992 under the National Initiative on Rural America which established a state-by-state network to improve the coordination of rural development programs and serve as a catalyst for future initiatives. During the ensuing 25 years, WRP has been a dynamic and non-partisan forum for identifying, discussing, and addressing issues affecting rural areas.

As Wisconsin's federally designated Rural Development council, WRP embraces a comprehensive approach to rural development through collaboration and cooperation among a wide array of partners including local, state, tribal, and federal governments, as well as for-profit businesses and nonprofit private sector organizations.

Simply stated, WRP strives to improve the quality of life in rural Wisconsin. WRP is uniquely positioned to sponsor and promote collaborative activities designed to address issues of rural importance. Since its inception, WRP has built a solid profile of rural leadership that is grounded by its work in local communities and extends to collaborative partnerships across a wide spectrum of communities and organizations.

Mission:

"The mission of Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc. (WRP) is to coordinate the identification, discussion and problem solving of issues impacting rural communities in Wisconsin."

Vision:

"Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc. (WRP) will be Wisconsin's voice for collaborative action on issues to grow rural communities."

Goals:

- Build Collaborative Partnerships
- Identify Critical Rural Needs
- Coordinate Private/Public Community Leadership
- Communicate Rural Policy Initiatives

WRP is an active advocate for locally-based solutions focused on core issues and opportunities. WRP encourages private/public partnerships for sustainable rural community development. We foster and celebrate local initiatives and projects that promote stewardship and expansion of community and natural resources including:

- Broadband Access and Adoption
- Community Infrastructure and Systems
- Child and Health Care Access
- Housing Financing and Construction
- Transportation Maintenance, Access and Use
- Agriculture and Natural Resource Use & Conservation

WRP is a neutral, nonprofit organization that brings together a cross section of residents, organizations and leaders that

cross political affiliations and organizational boundaries to advance initiatives important to rural communities throughout the state. From community centered initiatives that build upon local citizen-based efforts, to an annual statewide Summit, WRP is focused on addressing issues and building collaboration between community, state, federal, nonprofit, and private sector leaders.

WRP has designed and implemented highly effective programming to identify and address key issues that impact rural life. The portfolio of events includes:

- 4 annual Small Community forums;
- Town-by-town community development listening and planning forums;
- Annual statewide Rural Summit conference;
- Top Rural Development Initiative awards; and
- State of Rural Wisconsin - a compendium of rural Wisconsin data.

WRP holds, as its central value, the integration of community based solutions that support Wisconsin's quality of life while promoting economic opportunity, social equality and environmental accountability. WRP is proud of its legacy of utilizing a strong network of thoughtful and effective leaders to analyze and make crucial recommendations on Wisconsin rural policy and implement construction community change.

Partnership Needed.

WRP welcomes anyone interested in joining our work on behalf of rural communities in Wisconsin. Partnership opportunities are extended to any individual, private-sector business, government agency, tribal entity, and other profit or non-profit organizations that:

- Reside in, have a physical office location in or work as an employee or volunteer within Wisconsin state boundaries;
- Endorses WRP's mission and vision for rural Wisconsin
- Commits to helping expand the partnership network; and
- Actively wants to participate in the work of WRP



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