



ABOUT RDI

RDI strengthens rural people, places, and economies in the Pacific Northwest.

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RDI is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

We work in rural communities in:

- Oregon
- Washington
- Northern California
- Idaho



About RDI



1990 State of Oregon forms response to spotted owl listing

1992 State of Oregon forms nonprofit *Rural Development Initiatives*

2002 Leadership Program forms (~8k grads to date)

2014 Moving leaders to economic action – a return to our roots

2018 Shift policy system & narratives

OUR GOALS



- Develop Networks of Rural Leaders
- Revitalize Rural Economies
- Elevate Rural Voices and Priorities

Since 1991 RDI has:

- Trained 8,000 rural leaders working for community and economic vitality
- Engaged 700+ rural Latinx in financial literacy trainings
- Helped create and implement local economic development initiatives in hundreds of rural communities

Since 2016 RDI has:

- Directly connected with over 300+ rural businesses
- Developed actionable economic priorities and strategies in over 40 communities, downtowns, regions, and sectors
- Facilitated and convened policy focused discussions (water resources, future of farms and ranch, **broadband**, and many more.

Our Perspective on Broadband

- Fundamental to economy building
- Is a top 3 issue for rural business retention, expansion, and attraction efforts
- Multi-sectoral impacts – Education, healthcare, recreation, tourism, ag, forestry
- Capacity building and technical assistance is under-resourced
- Issue of equity

Collaborative Opportunities

- Leverage organizational assets (connections to rural businesses and growing policy service portfolio)
 - Legislative Advocacy
 - Issue Awareness
 - Coalition/Network Building
 - Build and Leverage Rural Social Capital for Scalable Projects and Policies



THANK YOU!