

## **Kellogg Foundation Rural People Rural Policy Network Building**

The Council Center for Rural Virginia has added accomplishments to our list because of the new relationship with the Kellogg Foundation/Rural People Rural Policy . Our working partnership with the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center (VRHRC) has been strengthened in the process.

### **Rural Opportunity**

RPRP affords rural groups an opportunity they would not otherwise have. The Center Council has been fortunate to be part of the RPRP learning initiative.

### **Time & Learning from our Colleagues**

The advantage of RPRP being a multi-year initiative allows time for the strengths rural people bring to the table to come to the front. Peer learning and sharing draws out best practice from organizations based on experience, and helps identify ways to effectively help build capacity at home. We've learned from our colleagues!

### **Networking**

Opportunity to network and learn as rural leaders has caused us to step up a notch and new leaders have emerged from the groups.

### **New Partnerships**

A new working partnership was created when the Center Council partnered with the Virginia Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy (OMHPHP) to help develop Virginia's State Rural Health Strategic Plan.

### **Infrastructure-Broadband**

A new partnership has been created with the Virginia Telehealth Network (VTN), a Commonwealth-wide collaboration with a focused vision of all Virginians having ready access to quality healthcare regardless of their location being driven by existing and future information and telecommunications technology solutions.

### **Collaborative Opportunities**

New collaborative opportunities have evolved due networking with our RPRP colleague, People Incorporated . . . the opportunity to serve on an advisory committee working with low income community programs to institute *New Markets Tax Credit* to qualified groups through a CDIF Fund.

### **Benefit of Appalachian Cohort Membership**

Because of the Appalachia Cohort membership, we have generated relationships to expand entrepreneur educational curriculum to rural areas of Southwest Virginia through the University of Virginia at Wise and the Ohio University Voinovich Center.

### **Foundation Opportunities Expanded**

Through newly developed networks and leaderships established in RPRP opportunities have been created with the Associations of Community Foundations to expand community foundations opportunities into rural Virginia where they had not been offered before.

### **New Networks to Support Foundation Opportunities**

Because of the membership in the Appalachia Cohort, we have expanded the network of contacts in Southwest Virginia to benefit the initiatives of the Center for Rural Virginia to gain support for the Community Foundation expansion into rural areas through support of the Virginia General Assembly. The Center introduced a bill to the 2008 General Assembly to support this initiative ... The bill passed!

### **Farm Bill Initiative**

Because of the Network at the National Rural Assembly we have expanded the activities to inform Virginia of the Farm Bill initiatives through Partners for Rural America.

### **Food Security and Food Policy Council**

Through a partnership with the Appalachia Cohort Southwest Virginia Members we are working to expand programs on food security and policy to establish a state wide network for creating an *Executive Order in Virginia for a Commonwealth Food Security and Food Policy Council*.

### **RPRP Meeting Dates**

#### **2007**

**May 7 – 11, 2007** we participated in Peer Learning Session one at Nebraska City, The Lodge. This was the RPRP Grant Program

**August 8 – 9, 2007**, Appalachia Cohort meetings in Charleston West Virginia

**August 27 – 29, 2007** we participated in the Community Foundation Program at Nebraska City, The Lodge. This was not part of the RPRP Grant Program.

**October 1 – 6, 2007** we participated in Peer Learning Session two in Scottsdale, Arizona, Radisson Fort McDowell. This was part of the RPRP Grant Program.

#### **2008**

**February 21 – 22, 2008**, Appalachia Cohort meetings in Charleston West Virginia

**March 10 – 14, 2008**, we participated in Peer Learning Three in Memphis TN at the Peabody Hotel. This was part of the RPRP Grant Program

### **Scheduled**

We are scheduled to participate in the National Rural Assembly in Washington DC – June 15 – 18, 2008. This will be part of the RPRP Grant Program.

We are scheduled for Peer Learning Four October 13 – 17, 2008. Don't know where.

Also, Appalachia Cohort meeting in Charleston West Virginia scheduled in June in Maryland.