



Established in 1995

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## BY THE NUMBERS

Total Investment  
\$812.6 million

Dollars Leveraged  
\$1.8 billion

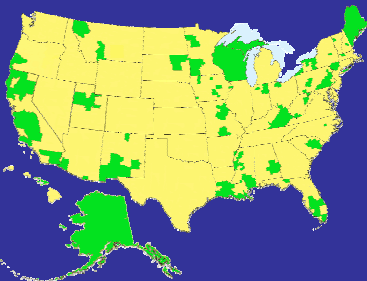
Affordable Homes  
21,818

Commercial, Industrial  
and Community Facilities  
2.45 million sq. ft.

Small Businesses Assisted  
450

Jobs Created  
5,219

Rural LISC Service Areas  
*highlighted in green*



## HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Bringing New Opportunities to Rural Communities** – Rural LISC serves 60 Partner CDCs working to transform distressed rural communities in 31 states. It builds the capacity of resident led rural community development corporations (CDCs), increasing their production and impact, demonstrating the value of investing in and through rural CDCs, and making the resource and policy environment more supportive of rural CDCs and their work. Here are examples of Rural LISC at work with Partner CDCs, using the five components of LISC’s Building Sustainable Communities model to bring new opportunities into communities across rural America.

**Stimulating Economic Activity** – Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, London, KY, managed a resident-led initiative to foster economic progress through the federal Empowerment Zone program. A decade of progress by residents in three rural Appalachian counties has resulted in 3,658 new jobs, one for every seven residents; incomes up 35 percent, and poverty down 31 percent.

**Increasing Family Income and Wealth** – Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana in Kalispell developed a financial literacy program called “Free to Choo\$e”. Each participant who completes the 12 week family financial education is eligible to receive a \$300 line of credit at the local Credit Union, a partnership with a financial mentor and access to checking and savings accounts.

**Fostering Livable, Safe and Healthy Environments** – Fayette County Community Action Agency in Uniontown, PA, grew the “healthy community” idea beyond its initial economic scope to include the health of residents, by creating a Healthy Living program. It expanded its medical and dental clinic twice to accommodate 8,000 patient visits a year, maintains a food bank to provide people with healthy food choices, and activated plans for healthy neighborhoods in Uniontown and nearby Brownsville.

**Improving Quality Education** – Pennsylvania partners Housing Development Corporation Mid-Atlantic in Lancaster, and Tamaqua Area Community Partnership in Tamaqua, developed service learning programs in area high schools. In Lancaster, students engaged in-depth study of affordable housing issues through readings, guest speakers and visits to local homeless shelters, creating a survey to gauge the quality of life needs of people residing in two affordable housing developments. In Tamaqua, students established a regional “magazine” to promote economic and tourist opportunities in the region.

**Developing, Preserving and Investing in the Physical Environment** – Southern Mutual Help Association in Louisiana is completely revitalizing an existing neighborhood in New Iberia: the 600 acre West End/Hopkins Street District. In a culturally significant, primarily African American locality, fallen into disinvestment and disrepair, without a grocery store, sidewalks or curbing, the project has attracted key partners and public/private investment, and recently broke ground on a \$1 million supermarket. Incorporated in its 10 year master plan are a community garden in the town center and a culture and arts magnet school based in the area’s black cultural heritage, including the “Chitlin Circuit” music of historic Hopkins Street.