

For Immediate Release
February 8, 2023



Contact:
Tiffany Taylor-Minor
Rural LISC
ttaylorminor@lisc.org
804-312-5843

Rural LISC Announced as National Leader for USDA's Rural Partnership Network
Technical assistance, economic development services to be provided in 4 state cohort

Washington, DC – Rural LISC, the rural arm of Local Initiative Support Corporation, the largest community development support organization in the country, has been selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a key partner providing training and strategic economic development in a new four state cohort in select rural communities in Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, and New Mexico.

“The Biden-Harris Administration and USDA are committed to ensuring that people living in rural areas have every opportunity to succeed – and that they can find those opportunities right at home in rural America,” USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Torres Small said. “The Rural Partners Network connects rural people to technical assistance through organizations like Rural LISC to build brighter futures together.”

“The Rural Partners Network is transforming the way the federal government responds to rural communities by using our combined resources to work with rural communities to identify community-based solutions to the unique problems these communities face,” said Lee Jones, Executive Director for the Rural Partners Network. “Partnerships with impactful organizations like Rural LISC are essential in providing the level of technical and capacity building assistance needed to ensure rural communities are able to realize their strategic visions. We are immensely thankful for this collaboration and look forward to the continued partnership with Rural LISC.”

“We are excited to have been selected by USDA for this distinct opportunity to bring proven strategies and training to support rural communities,” said Lisa Glover, LISC CEO. “For more than 25 years, Rural LISC has been a convener of community-based programs and a champion for public and private partnership.”

The agreement brings together local community stakeholders, subject matter experts and federal government staff to provide on the ground resources and to strengthen regional leverage.

“The Rural LISC team is uniquely equipped with subject matter experts and committed rural advocates who are able to deliver both programs and resource opportunities to rural communities across the country. We look forward to working with USDA to strengthen the leverage potential of RPN communities,” said Caitlin Cain, LISC Vice President and Rural LISC Director. “This opportunity to work with USDA and its agency partners will have measurable impact to

communities as we focus on Rural LISC's core areas, including workforce development, small business growth, and creative lending.”

About Rural LISC

Launched in 1995, Rural LISC is the rural component of LISC (Local Initiative Support Corporation), the largest community development support organization in the country. Through a partnership base of over 145 organizations spread across 49 states, Rural LISC provides a wide range of services, including financial support, training, technical assistance and capital resources to help rural community partners and developers invest in rural communities. To date, Rural LISC has leveraged nearly \$3.3 billion from public and private sources to produce 35,000 affordable homes and apartments. Rural LISC investments have also produced over 4 million square feet of commercial and community space, including 20 early childhood care centers. Rural LISC technical assistance has touched more than 700 businesses, resulting in over 12,000 jobs supported and/or retained. Rural LISC is committed to ensuring equity and investment in rural America. Learn more at www.lisc.org/rural.

About the Rural Partners Network

The Rural Partners Network (RPN) is an all-of-government program that helps rural communities find resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure, and support long-term economic stability on their own terms. Visit www.rural.gov for more information.

###