Our Approach

Rural LISC understands that resilient and inclusive rural communities are vital for a thriving nation. For nearly 30 years, we have partnered with grassroots organizations in rural areas, serving as a connector and cross-pollinator, linking local partners to national opportunities and aggregating resources they might not otherwise access. Our extensive network, encompassing more than 150 partners, allows us to cover a large national footprint and support rural residents and partners in creating vibrant communities.

Our approach focuses on identifying local priorities and opportunities, and delivering tailored support through integrated strategies and programs. By working closely with our partners and leveraging our network, Rural LISC helps rural communities become great places to live, work, and innovate.
Rural LISC at Work

To effectively support rural communities, we concentrate our efforts on these key programmatic areas: Creative Capital, Digital Equity, Financial Prosperity, Housing, Small Business, & Workforce. By focusing on these areas, Rural LISC ensures that our integrated strategies and programs are tailored to meet local needs. Through collaboration and resource aggregation, we empower rural areas to thrive and achieve sustainable growth.

Creative Capital

Since 1995, Rural LISC has invested more than $2.75B in grants, loans, lines of credit, repayable investments and equity into local community development organizations.

Digital Equity & Broadband

Since 2020, 150 Digital Navigators trained in 20 states and more than $30MM has been leveraged to build rural broadband infrastructure. The Broadband Help Hub was launched in 2023 to support rural broadband development.

Housing

Since 1995, Rural LISC has supported the development of more than 52,000 affordable housing units. Rural LISC is focused on bringing financing, knowledge, and technical resources needed to create affordable housing opportunities for rural communities.

Small Business

Through Rural LISC’s Business Development Organization (BDO) program, more than 50 rural BDOs engage in a national learning cohort. In 2023, ten of the BDOs receiving funding from Rural LISC, served more than 15,000 small businesses.

Workforce & Financial Prosperity

Through Rural LISC’s Rural Works and Rural Financial Opportunity Center programs, more than 15,000 individuals were served with workforce and financial stability supports in 2023, with more than 4,000 job placements.

Rural LISC Resources

Capacity Building

Rural LISC partner organizations leverage LISC support to enable new capacity building resources, resulting in $213MM matching funds raised by CDCs. More than $600MM in grants and loans and an additional $2B in affiliate financing has been mobilized, leveraging $5B in financing for more than 2,700 Rural LISC supported developments.

Technical Assistance and Training

In 2023 alone, more than 9,500 hours of technical assistance and training were provided to our partners in rural communities. In addition to deploying our subject matter experts in the field and facilitating peer connections, webinars are offered monthly and the Rural LISC Seminar is hosted annually, bringing more than 350 rural leaders from across the country to learn about innovations in the field.

Find out more about Rural LISC by visiting lisc.org/rural.