Walton Family Foundation Awards Rural LISC $1.4M Grant to Address Economic Equity in the Delta

Two-year grant focuses on economic asset creation in areas of Mississippi & Arkansas

Washington, DC – Rural LISC today announced a transformational, two-year, $1.4 million grant award from the Walton Family Foundation to support an economic asset building strategy in the Delta, targeting Coahoma County, Mississippi, and Jefferson and Phillips Counties, Arkansas. Grant support will be utilized to directly strengthen a place-based geographic strategy to address economic challenges relating to: wealth generation, business and housing ownership, access to capital, and workforce development opportunities.

“Moving the needle in the Delta will require aligning private foundational support, public investment and non-profit know-how around local strategies to transform economic inequities, particularly in rural, BIPOC communities. Rural LISC is uniquely qualified to bring about systemic change in the Delta due to our ability to leverage additional investment that directly stems from our network of community-based organizations, funders and allies,” said Caitlin Cain, LISC Vice President and Rural Director.

The support model focuses on homeownership, workforce development, and small business development and technical assistance to address systemic inequities affecting low- to moderate-income households. Rural LISC’s plans include work to increase: the regional homeownership rate; culturally-contextualized housing counseling services; the pipeline for new/improved affordable rental housing; the relationships between employers, educational institutions and workforce intermediaries.

“It will take a coalition of community leaders and organizations like Rural LISC working together to build a generation of prosperity in the Delta,” said Kim Davis, Walton Family Foundation Home Region Program senior advisor. “With strong partnerships focused on providing communities with financial opportunities and education, Delta residents can work toward home and land ownership and build wealth and financial security for their families for generations to come.”

To access details on Rural LISC’s work across investment pillars, visit www.lisc.org/rural.

About Walton Family Foundation
The Walton Family Foundation is, at its core, a family-led foundation. Three generations of the descendants of our founders, Sam and Helen Walton, and their spouses, work together to lead the foundation and create access to opportunity for people and communities. We work in three areas: improving K-12 education, protecting rivers and oceans and the communities they support, and investing in our home region of Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta.

**About Rural LISC**

Launched in 1995, Rural LISC is the rural component of LISC, 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](http://www.lisc.org/rural).

**About LISC**

With residents and partners, LISC forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America – great places to live, work, visit, do business and raise families. Since 1979, LISC has invested $24 billion to build or rehab more than 436,320 affordable homes and apartments and develop 74.4 million square feet of retail, community and educational space. For more, visit [www.lisc.org](http://www.lisc.org).

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