

USDA RCDI Grant Update
February 12, 2018

The fourth quarter of 2017 was a bit quieter in the RCDI counties. This is attributed to holiday schedules, year-end accounting, and the new tax system and potential impacts on nonprofits. The new year brought about more activity. Here are some highlights of our progress through January 2018:

On January 18th, the RCDI counties participated in a webinar about USDA grant funding, expectation, requirements, and sharing of experiences to kick off the new year.

Doddridge & Ritchie Counties – Doddridge and Ritchie counties both have a new strategy for utilizing grant funding for year 2, and have provided an email list for their participating nonprofits. Since many of the nonprofits are at differing stages, they are offering various activities throughout the year for training opportunities and strengthening nonprofit capacities that should appeal to all of the nonprofits in some way.

A 2-hour session was held in both counties on January 23rd to get a better understanding of the needs of the nonprofits and the best ways to deliver training based on those needs. This was very successful, and a more formal plan will stem from these sessions for year 2.

Summers County – The Hinton Area Foundation (HAF) is completely volunteer, and has had a bit slower progress as their board members work on engaging the nonprofit community. Summers has a new strategy for year 2 and are working to finalize one aspect of wealth engagement in the next two weeks. They have also provided a list of email addresses for their nonprofits to better communicate nonprofit training opportunities.

Nicholas County – Nicholas County saw a turnover in their board due to some members moving off the board and others coming onto the board. They are finalizing their strategy for year 2 and working on collecting email addresses for the nonprofits in their community. Nicholas has done well utilizing wealth engagement funds, but struggles to identify nonprofits to fully utilize program development funding so far.

Barbour County – Barbour County continues to struggle with board engagement, with their director undertaking the majority of the action items for funding use. Because of conflicts with the director's schedule and workload, little has happened in this community.

We are in talks with Tucker Community Foundation to provide guidance and assistance to Barbour to get them on track spending grant funding to support their goals. Tucker is helping to identify the nonprofits in the community as well.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tasha Anderson, PhD
RCDI Program Coordinator