



*In the Community
to Serve®*

Rural Seminar and Strategy Session on Federal Economic Development Policy *Where does Rural Montana fit in the Urban-centric World of Washington DC?*

SUMMARY OF THE SEMINAR

Over 40 people met in Billings on October 26th, to learn of emerging trends that could change funding opportunities for rural Montana. If you couldn't join us, please take the time to review the presentations and be brought up to date on this important topic.



Middle photo L to R: Kathie Bailey, Jeff McDowell and Al Jones.



An Overview of Federal Policy Dynamics, Definitions and Funding for Rural States and Places

[Download the presentation](#) by Chuck Fluharty, President, Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)

Presenter: Chuck Fluharty, RUPRI

Federal Policy Directions in Economic Development and Sustainable Communities

[Download the presentation](#) by Matt Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)



Presenter: Matt Chase, NADO

Strategy Session: Mobilize Rural States and Places for the Future

Following the presentations, a discussion was held on possible next steps for Montana and other rural states. Below is a snapshot of some of the comments.

- Share among the delegation and be proactive if there is an application process that contains a rural disadvantage.
- Share: "This is what works" and YouTube the stories.

- Participate in the cluster/target analysis that will begin across the state in a few months.
- Have a coordinated message prepared and share it with our congressional delegation.
- Do a better job of sharing even around the state what works and what we are working on.
- See ourselves less as competitors and more as partners.
- We are all intermediaries. We don't need to respond with new ideas but utilize what is already working.
- There is a "perfect" urban model, but not a rural model.
- Write three clarifying sentences that will help us do what we are doing now with a little more capital.
- Rethink current EPA framework for rural innovation.
- Define a level and size so that there are justifications for funding for a small community. i.e., five new jobs in a town of 500 is a huge impact.

Thanks to Montana-Dakota Utilities for sponsoring our luncheon.