

# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

“Transforming Rural Economies:  
*Asset-based Models for Rebuilding Rural America  
and Achieving Economic Equity*”

---

James A. Richardson, Jr.

*Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – Little Rock Branch*

*August 6, 2008*



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## *Our Vision*

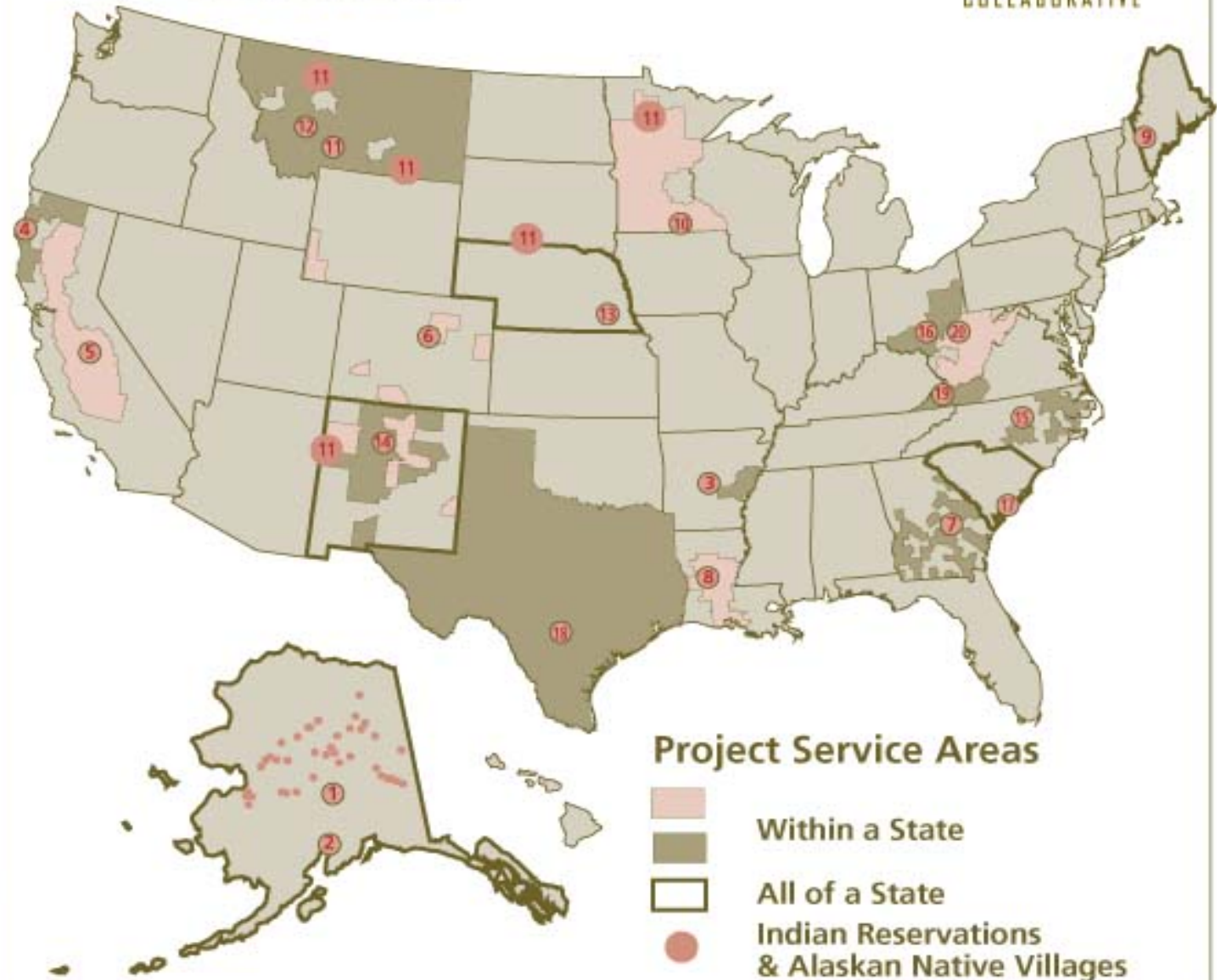
NRFC envisions a transformation of rural regions facing persistent poverty from communities in which historic barriers of race and class reinforce and deepen historic disinvestment and disenfranchisement to more vibrant and inclusive communities in which all who live and work therein can aspire to

- ❖ receive fair wages and benefits for their labor,
- ❖ provide basic necessities and a quality of living for their families and
- ❖ enjoy full rights and privileges of a civil society in which all can lead.



NATIONAL  
**RURAL FUNDERS**  
COLLABORATIVE

# Geography of Concern



## Alaska

- 1 Tanana Chiefs Conference
- 2 Village Based Health Provider Training

## Arkansas

- 3 Delta Education and Tax Fairness

## California

- 4 Alliance for Working Community Forests

- 5 Central Valley Partnership for Citizenship

## Colorado

- 6 Community Alliance for Interdependent Agriculture

## Georgia

- 7 Fund for Rural Georgia

## Louisiana

- 8 Building Rural Communities

## Maine

- 9 W. Maine Sustainable Development

## Minnesota

- 10 Rural Minnesota Early Childhood

## Montana

- 11 Four Times Foundation
- 12 Montana Home Ownership Network

## Nebraska

- 13 Building Philanthropic Support for Rural Entrepreneurship

## New Mexico

- 14 Rural Livelihoods Collaboration

## North Carolina

- 15 Resourceful Communities Program

## Ohio

- 16 Appalachian Ohio Regional Investment Coalition

## South Carolina

- 17 South Carolina CED Public Policy Collaborative

## Texas - New Mexico

- 18 Texas/New Mexico Rural Access to Credit

## Virginia

- 19 Appalachian Sustainable Development/Com. Foundation of New River Valley

## West Virginia

- 20 West Virginia Multi-Collaboration



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## *Theory of Change*

Rural Poverty persists due to decades/generations of:

- ❖ *Environmental and economic disinvestment*
- ❖ *Cultural and social Isolation*
- ❖ *Barriers of race and class*



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## *Theory of Change*

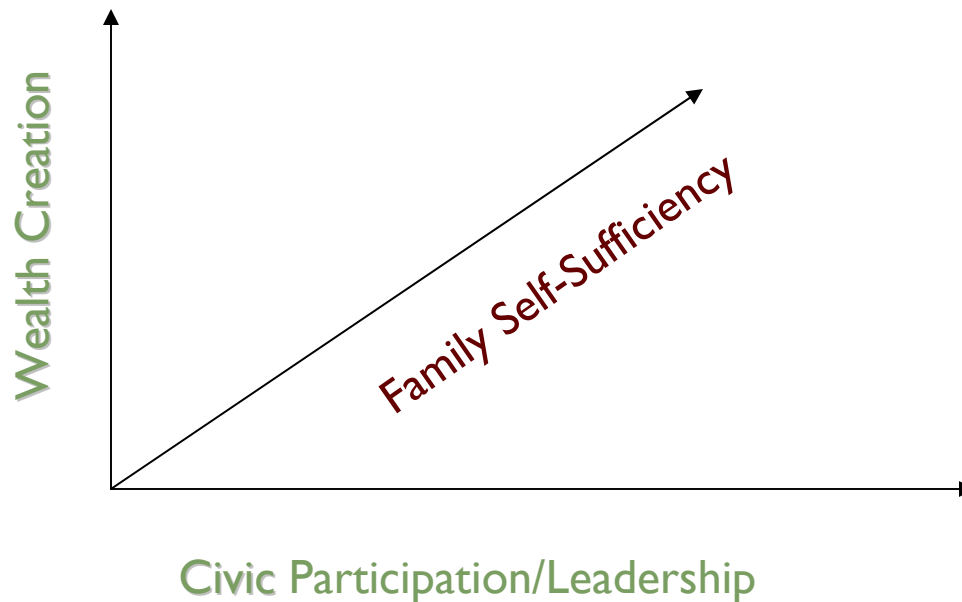
Reversing Persistent Poverty, i.e., Rural Transformation, requires three interrelated outcome strategies for lasting, measurable change:

- ❖ *Build Community Wealth*
- ❖ *Increase Civic Participation/ Inclusive Leadership*
- ❖ *Achieve Greater Family Self-sufficiency*

# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

**Wealth Creation + Civic Participation =  
Family Self-Sufficiency**





# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

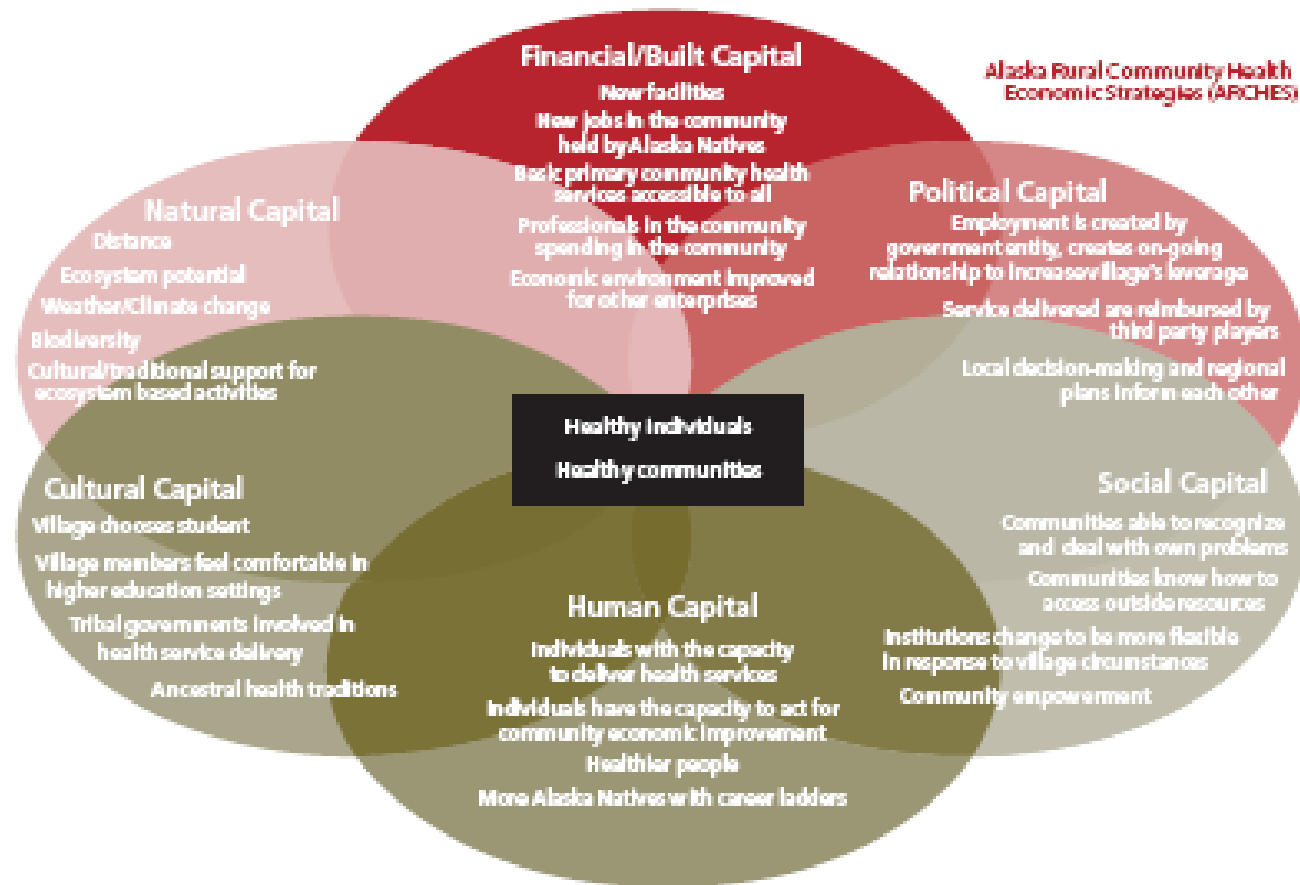
## Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

### Village Based Health Providers

- ***Creating Wealth:*** Medicaid Funded Career Ladder to Increase Economic Opportunity
- ***Leadership Transformation:*** Identification/Training of Village-Based Health Workers
- ***Family Self-Sufficiency:*** Greater, More Affordable Access to Healthcare & Community Well-being

# Alaska Rural Community Health Economic Strategies

*Improving Health, Building Wealth, Increasing Leadership*







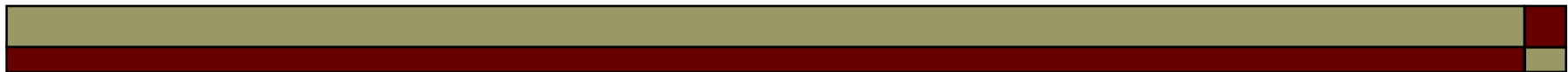
# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## South Carolina Association of Community Development Corps

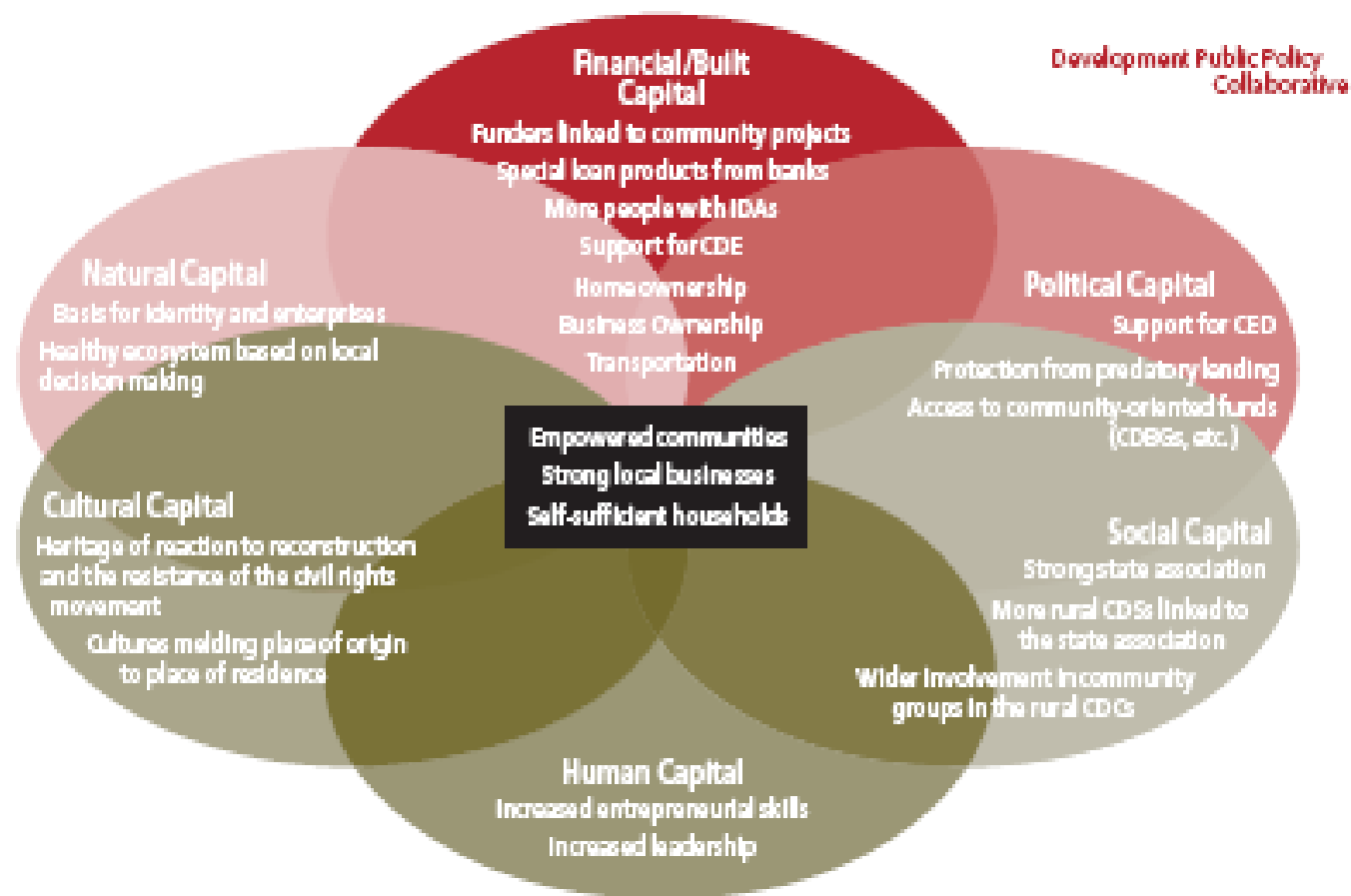
### Community Development

- ***Creating Wealth:*** Small Business Development/Affordable Housing through Nurture/Expansion of Community Development Corporations
- ***Civic Participation/Leadership:*** Grassroots Policy Advocacy & Leadership Development
- ***Family Self-Sufficiency:*** Increased NP sector jobs & Community-based services



# South Carolina Association of CDCs

## *Creating Wealth through Asset-Development*



MSSoffi



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

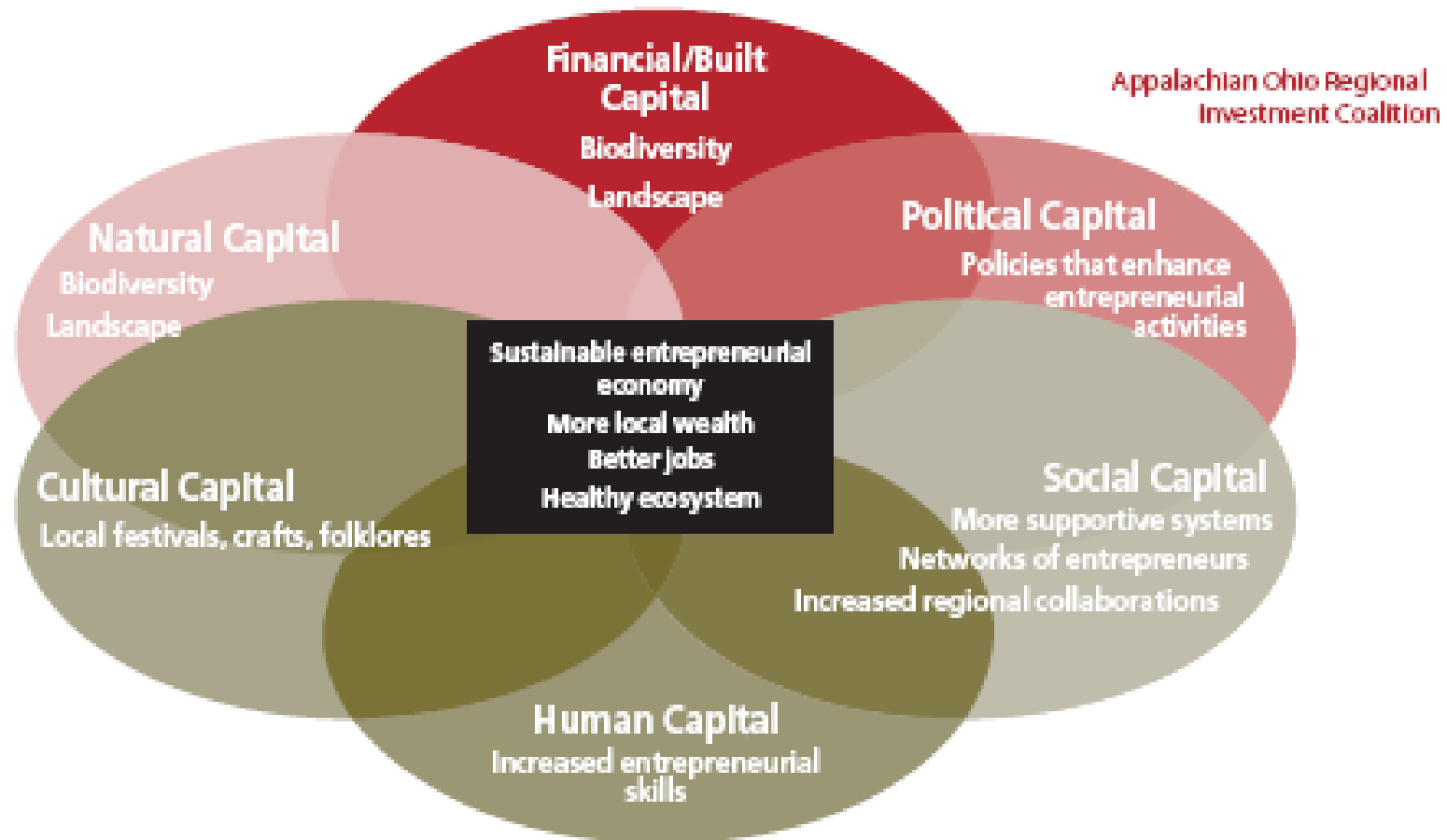
## Appalachian Ohio Regional Investment Coalition

### Cultural Heritage Tourism/Entrepreneurship

- ***Creating Wealth:*** Development/Networking of Community Assets —
  - Birding Trails, Heritage Festivals, Crafts
  
- ***Civic Participation/Leadership:*** Identification/Facilitation of Emerging Entrepreneurs
  
- ***Family Self-Sufficiency:*** Increased Employment/Stronger Local Economies
  - Livable Wage Jobs, Stronger Support Networks & Services

# Appalachian Ohio Regional Investment Coalition

## *Increasing Wealth through Entrepreneurship*





# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## Rural Livelihoods New Mexico Collaborative

### Revitalization of Culturally-based Livelihoods

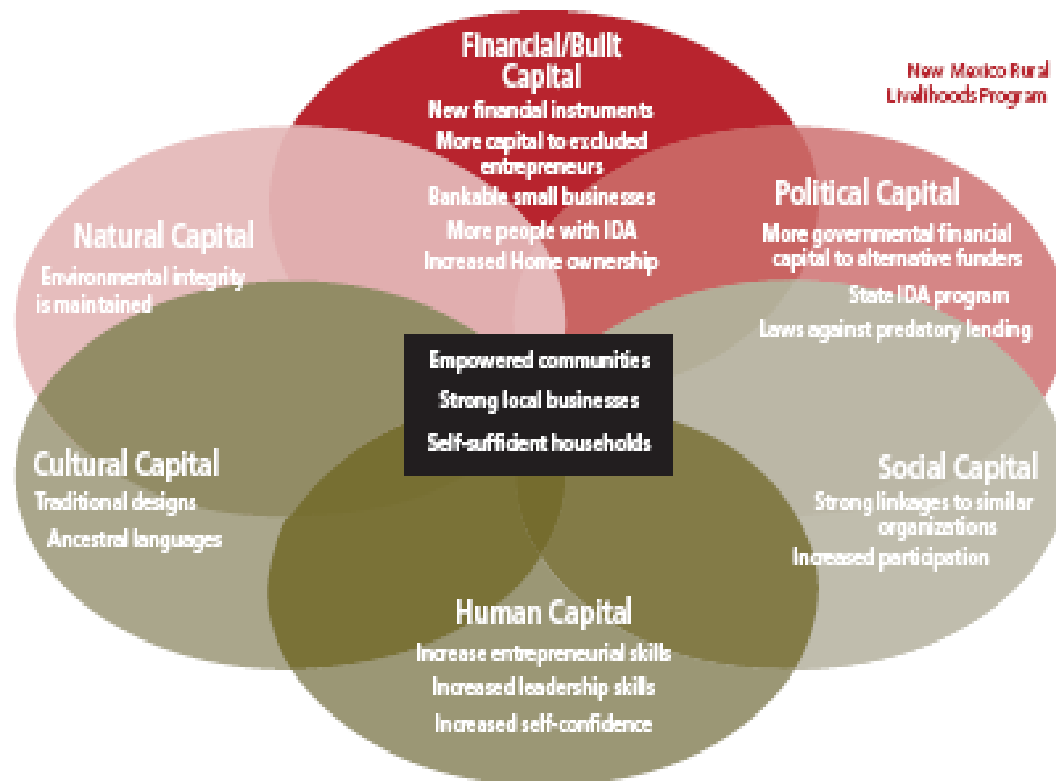
- ***Creating Wealth:*** Culturally Based Opportunities for Low-wealth Families
- ***Civic Participation/Leadership:*** Skills Competence Leads to Greater Civic Participation
- ***Family Self-Sufficiency:*** Revitalized Local Economies through Entrepreneurship

# New Mexico Rural Livelihoods

## Collaborative

### Cultivating Cultural Assets

---





# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## *How to Achieve Greater Impact and Leverage*

- ❖ Increase family and community self-sufficiency through creating greater opportunity through “alternative rural economies.”
- ❖ Achieve equity in transforming rural communities through “narrowing the gap” in disparities of race, class, and power.
- ❖ Build community investment and self-determination through supporting community-controlled philanthropic models.
- ❖ Effect long-term, lasting change through grassroots advocacy and community-based policy networks.



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

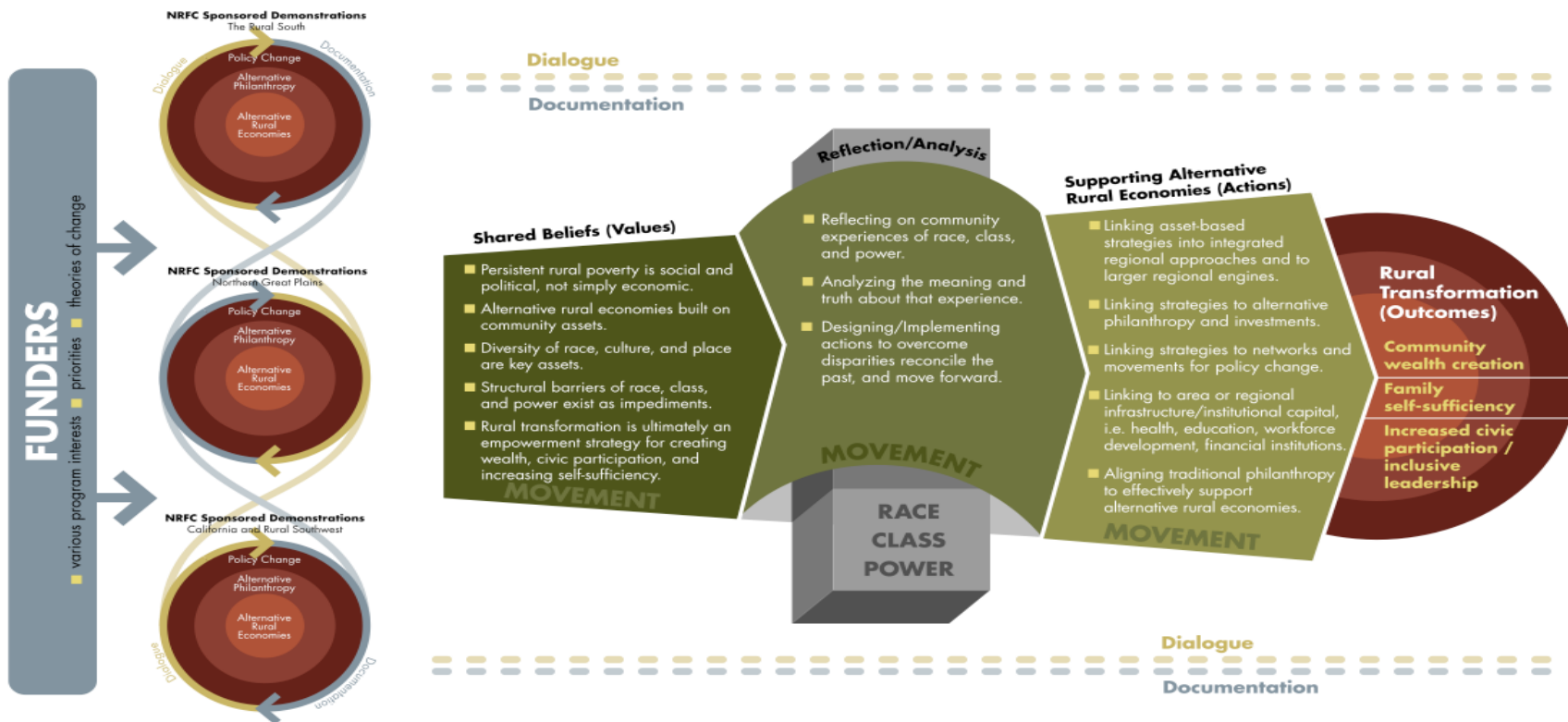
---

## Revised Mission Statement

NRFC seeks to build a movement of support and advocacy for alternative rural economies based on community assets of culture, land and human capital and grounded in relationships and values of equity and justice.



# Building a Movement for Rural Transformation





# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## *New Focus*

- NRFC will focus its work where concentrations of poverty and color overlap:
  - Mid South/Delta African American - Farmers/Fishers
  - Northern Great Plains Native American Tribes - Land/Culture
  - California Latino/Indigenous — Farmworkers/  
Entrepreneurs



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## Mid South

### **market umbrella.org/ Mississippi Association of Coops**

Public market (farmers market) based strategy to develop “Market Shares” variation of giving circles to support stability and innovation of small producers in the market, paired with a focus on strengthening and developing place and number of small, minority farmers (primarily African American) in regional markets.



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## Northern Plains

### **Indian Land Tenure Foundation/Native American CDC**

Strategy for working with landed Indian tribes in Montana and N. Dakota to translate cultural understanding of tribal sovereignty to “economic sovereignty” as approach for building on land and cultural assets of Native American community to devise sustainable strategies for rural transformation and new vision of regional competitive advantage.



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## California/West

### **Salinas & Pajaro Valley Collaborative/ Rai\$ing Change**

A multi-faceted regional approach to restructure the local Ag-based economy through creating asset-building, entrepreneurial small-business and small-farm opportunities for Latino farmworkers in the Salinas and Pajaro Valleys in northern Monterey County and through increasing opportunities for civic participation and business development among non-Spanish speaking indigenous (i.e., Oaxacan) residents in southern Monterey County.



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## Strengthening Practice through Performance

- ✓ Build Collaborative Capital for Working Together
- ✓ Fund “Strategic Opportunities” for Regional Change
- ✓ Define Outcome Targets/ Milestones for Success
- ✓ Document Best Practices & Peer Learning



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## Expanding Philanthropy & Investment

- ✓ Find Alternative Models for Regional Philanthropy & Investment
- ✓ Foster Engaged Funder-Practitioner Partnerships
- ✓ Form Public - Private Partnerships for Greater Leverage
- ✓ Convene National & Regional Funders to Work Together



# National **RURAL FUNDERS** Collaborative

---

## Advancing Policy at the Grassroots & in the Treetops

- ✓ Build Local & Regional Capacity for Policy Framing
- ✓ Foster Regional Networks for Greater Influence
- ✓ Connect Public Agencies to Regional Initiatives
- ✓ Build National Agenda for Regional Responsiveness