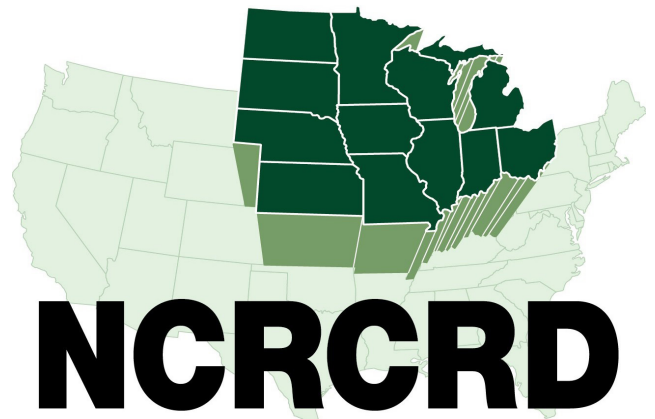


2017 Annual Report



NCRCRD
North Central Regional Center
for Rural Development

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The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) is one of four regional centers in the United States that have worked to improve the quality of life in rural communities for nearly 40 years. With funding from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Land-Grant universities in our 12-state region, the NCRCRD helps Extension professionals, researchers and other partners address issues that affect rural areas across the region. The center provides leadership in rural development by linking research with education and community outreach to facilitate, integrate, link, and coordinate research and action for rural America.

This material is based on work supported by annual base funding through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or other funders.

The NCRCRD prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To report discrimination, contact NCRCRD Director, Michigan State University, 66 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039; or USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; phone (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

Mission of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development: Strengthening the ability of the Land-Grant university system to execute its rural development mission.

Key Partners

The NCRCRD's key partners provide financial and organizational support to our operations. Through the key partner network, the Center can access a wide array of technical expertise and on-the-ground knowledge.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

USDA | United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

AgBioResearch





Message from the Director

Over the past year, the country experienced significant changes in leadership as well as the implementation of policies that will affect rural communities across the nation. One of the goals of the NCRCRD is to provide resources that will help rural communities navigate these changes by overcoming challenges and taking advantage of opportunities. One ongoing challenge has been underfunding of both private and public pensions, which has been partly due to a low interest rates. While low interest rates make ongoing debt expansion more affordable, they have come at the cost of lower returns for savers and pension funds. This year, the 30-year downward trend in interest rates reversed. Time will tell whether the reversal will continue, but there are numerous potential implications including a rising cost of borrowing, growing interest payments on existing debt, but also increasing returns to savers and pension funds. Over the last year, there was another trend reversal: after several years of a “strong” dollar, the value of the dollar relative to the currencies of other countries fell by about 10 percent. This reversal is important for agricultural trade as well as, other sectors of our economy; on average, the costs of our products are now 10 percent lower for those living in other countries. At the same time foreign products are now 10 percent more expensive for U.S. consumers. This year, President Trump imposed new tariffs on solar panels, washing machines, and steel and aluminum, the first such tariff imposed since 2001. Again, such changes have substantial implications for trade and business both here and abroad. Sometimes changes occur at the community or regional level and other times they are national or global in scope. Regardless of the nature of the changing environment, the NCRCRD helps communities to position themselves through prudent local decision-making to address emerging challenges and opportunities. Over the past year, the NCRCRD has partnered in variety of ways with Land-Grant universities across the North Central region as well as with other universities to support rural development. We hope you find the activities outlined in this report to be of interest. We are certainly proud to be a part of this collective effort to improve the quality of life in rural communities.

Sincerely,
Mark Shidmore





Welcoming New Board Member

This year, the NCRCD experienced several changes in the composition of this Board of Directors. Drs. Richard Todd and CY Wang cycled off the Board. We offer our sincere thanks for their valuable contributions and leadership over these past several years.



Richard Todd
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis



CY Wang
South Dakota State University

We also welcome Joe Parcel. Dr. Parcel is Professor and Director of the Division of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Missouri. He is a prolific writer, having more than 200 publications in the area of agricultural and applied economics.



Joe Parcel
University of Missouri



[FY 17-18 Small Grant Awards](#)

Leading Change in a Global World

PI: Holli Arp (University of Minnesota)

Co-PI: Kari O'Neill (South Dakota State University)

Community development staffs from University of Minnesota Extension and South Dakota State University Extension will come together over the period of a year to identify and share resources that will generate high-quality and research-informed programming that supports equality and diversity. Each state will invite and engage at least two partner organizations that represent rural minority communities. Their involvement will inform, support, critique, and co-create elements of the resulting programs.

Rural Mental Health: Understanding Stress and Depression in Farmers and Ranchers

PI: Andrea Bjornestad (South Dakota State University)

Co-PIs: Courtney Cuthbertson & Suzanne Pish (Michigan State University), Karen Funkenbusch (University of Missouri), Charlotte Shoup Olsen (Kansas State University), Leacey Brown (South Dakota State University)

Farming is a stressful career in which finances can be affected by external factors such as government regulations, weather, natural disasters, and market prices. The risk of injury and exposure to chemicals combined with family pressures and long hours can lead to a higher risk of mental health illnesses like depression for farmers and ranchers. The purpose of the proposed project is to develop and distribute a survey to farmers to determine the impact of stress on depression and suicide risk in farmers and ranchers. The results of the study will increase knowledge of mental health risks and behaviors of farmers and ranchers in the North Central region and will help inform future research and program development in the Land-Grant University Cooperative Extension System.

Current Thinking in Rural Economic Growth and Development

PI: Steven C. Deller (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Co-PIs: Rebekka Martin Dudensing (Texas A&M University), Becca B.R. Jablonski (Colorado State University), Mike Woods (Oklahoma State University-Stillwater), David Chicoine, (South Dakota State University)

The Great Recession hit rural America particularly hard and many rural communities have yet to fully recover. The policy options at the federal, state, and local levels are complex and require serious reconsideration. This project aims to bring together a team of rural development scholars to identify and summarize the current state of the rural economy, and provide a range of potential strategies. Rural America continues to lag behind urban America across several key economic metrics.

Starting and Managing Community Supported Enterprises

PI: David Ivan (Michigan State University)

Co-PI: Norman Walzer (Northern Illinois University)

Community Supported Enterprises (CSE) are used increasingly in communities interested in retaining or expanding local businesses. With the increased use of crowdfunding, the CSE approach is an important tool but economic development groups often do not have the insights or expertise to effectively start or sustain a CSE. This project builds on previous research describing and documenting CSEs and will research other CSEs in different scenarios to identify key elements in their success.



Examining HSI and EHSI Potential for Latino Community Development

PI: Rene Rosenbaum (Michigan State University)

Co-PI: Stephen Jeanetta (University of Missouri)

Demographic change has resulted in increasing numbers of Latinos in higher education, with the majority (60 percent) enrolled at Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), where student enrollment is 25 percent or more Hispanic. Federal funding of HSIs the last 20 years has helped enrollments to nearly double. This project examines the North Central Region's 18 HSIs and 25 Emerging Hispanic Service Institutions (EHSIs), where Latinos make up between 12 and 24 percent of enrollment, to map their strengths and explore the possibility of working jointly with land-grant university personnel on Latino community development projects.

Quality, Affordable Child Care as Economic Development in Rural Communities

PI: Bradford Wiles (Kansas State University)

Co-PIs: Holly Hatton-Bowers (University of Nebraska-Lincoln); Erin Tynon (Kansas State University)

This collaborative effort between Kansas State University and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln reflects their commitment to explore the availability of quality, affordable child care as a rural community economic and human development strategy.

Diversifying with Lavender: Resources, Training, Networks for Commercial Lavender Producers

PI: Wynne Wright (Michigan State University)

Co-PIs: Megan Kennelly (Kansas State University); Dennis Hamilton (U.S. Lavender Growers Association); Joy Landis & Erin Lizotte (Michigan State University)

The process of agricultural restructuring in the United States has been strongly influenced both by demographic trends and market liberalization. A host of beginning farmers are searching for new farming practices, while existing farmers are searching for innovative entrepreneurial pathways to increase farm profitability. The primary goal of this project is to facilitate farm diversification and build opportunities for beginning and entrepreneurial farmers by establishing an instructional curriculum in commercial lavender production.

North Central Region Aging Network Toolkit Development

PI: Erin Yelland, Kansas State University

Co-PIs: Suzanne Bartholomae (Iowa State University), James Bates (The Ohio State University), Barbara Beaulieu (Purdue University), Jacquelyn Benson (University of Missouri), Leacey Brown (South Dakota State University), Chelsey Byers Gerstenecker (University of Illinois), Linda Cronk (Michigan State University), Kristin Litzelman (University of Wisconsin), Jane Strommen (North Dakota State University), and Marlene Stum (University of Minnesota)

The Family and Consumer Science program leaders within the North Central Region (NCR) have called on specialists and educators to begin working together to add breadth and consistency to our programming and evaluation efforts. The North Central Region Aging Network (NCRAN) has responded to that call by bringing together a cohort of gerontologists and aging-related Extension professionals who are interested in enhancing and increasing knowledge on various aging-related topics across the NCR. NCRAN's forefront mission is to prepare our Extension systems to adequately address an aging population. As a means to begin building this capacity, we have identified the need for a website and a toolkit of high-quality, aging-related Extension programs to which all 12 states within the region will have access.

Impacts of Small Grants

“The NCRCRD small grant has allowed me to...”

“...create an online professional development course to help Extension colleagues support the growth and development of local food councils. Local food councils can play an important role in improving economic development and public health in a community.”

Kendra Wills, Michigan State University

“... develop an in-depth understanding of the history and current operation of one of Michigan's longest standing and most successful regional tourism collaborations, and develop new professional collaborations with NCRCRD colleagues.”

Sarah Nichols, Michigan State University

“... to find other Extension colleagues across the United States working in the area of workforce development. As this project has unfolded, the workforce development topic has become more prominent in national conversations which makes it extremely important to network with others to brainstorm opportunities and share resources and expertise.”

Kenneth Sherin, South Dakota State University, and Cheryl Burkhart Kriesel, University of Nebraska

“...focus on developing projects that are likely to make concrete improvements to the health of southwestern Wisconsin communities.”

Geoffrey Siemering, University of Wisconsin

“...develop a line of research that will allow me to build a body of work in the area of government finance and public sector economics. As a junior faculty, the grant has played a very important role in demonstrating my ability to carry out funded and collaborative research. I am very appreciative of the funding opportunity from NCRCRD.”

Biswa Das, Iowa State University

“...us to devote time and resources to exploring an area critical to the health and sustainability of rural communities - namely the access to food - to create a basis for our ongoing research. The grant has enabled us to gather and analyze travel survey data, design, and conduct focus groups in Kansas and North Dakota, compile GIS files on grocery outlets and road networks, and review existing definitions of food deserts.”

Hyung Jin Kim and Gregory Newmark, Kansas State University

“...develop a new research collaboration and test the validity of a new measurement approach to better understand rural landowners.”

Eric Toman, The Ohio State State University

Post Doctoral Fellow Joins the NCRCRD



Alison Brennan (Ph.D., Developmental Science, North Dakota State University) joined NCRCRD in November 2017 as a Post-doctoral Fellow.

Prior to joining the Center, Dr. Brennan served as an Extension Parent Educator for North Dakota State University Extension Service / Cass County. In her role as a parent educator, Dr. Brennan was a member of a [Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation \(CAPE\)](#) cohort and completed Mental Health First Aid training coordinated by the Center.

Dr. Brennan's research has included process and effectiveness evaluations (primarily parent training programs), and the examination of contextual factors in rural adolescent health. She will be working on rural community development projects with staff at land-grant institutions in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

In her new position with NCRCRD, she is looking forward to building relationships with people and organizations across the Great Plains, as well as learning about social and economic intersections and interactions among community capitals.



Post-Doc Finds Tenure-Track Position at Colorado State University

For two years, Dr. Annabel Ipsen has been a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. Her primary role has been to conduct research on community development in situations of unequal power relations. This research has taken multiple forms. Dr. Ipsen studied the ways that corporations use their power to shop and shape local regulatory regimes. In addition, she has conducted interviews to understand some of the challenges medical professionals face in treating rural opioid users. Dr. Ipsen is also part of a multidisciplinary team that is developing a project to map and measure community resilience in post-disaster situations. She has presented her research at the annual meetings of the American Association of Geographers, the American Sociological Association, and the Rural Sociological Society, where she was given an Early Career Research award. Her work has resulted in a publication in the high-impact journal, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, several working papers, and grant proposals.

In the fall of 2018, Dr. Ipsen will begin a position as an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at Colorado State University (CSU). At CSU, Annabel will work in the area of international development and globalization. In addition to teaching courses on food systems and environmental governance, she will continue her research on power, community development, and governance. Dr. Ipsen was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to Mexico, where she will study the interplay between transnational firms, social movements, and local communities in the regulatory and legal battle on genetically modified (GM) corn. This research, together with her dissertation will form the basis of a book linking global development, environmental governance, and food systems. Congratulations Dr. Ipsen!

NCRCRD Partners with Purdue University on a Rural Health and Safety Education Grant



Rural Health and Safety Education:
Combating Opioids Webinar Series



The NCRCRD is partnering with Purdue University, Iowa State University, South Dakota State University, and Kansas State University in the newly funded USDA Rural Health and Safety Education (RHSE) \$300k project “A Multi-state Effort of Opioid Abuse Prevention Using the Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14 (SFP10-14.)” The project is implementing the evidence-based SFP10-14 program with the goal of preventing the use of drugs and other substances including opioids. The target areas include rural communities that have been adversely impacted by the opioid epidemic with a 200 percent increase in the rates of overdose deaths attributable to non-medical pain relievers and heroin over the last four years. Rural adolescents are more likely to use prescription opioids non-medically than their urban peers, leading to social and health consequences including dropping out of school, deteriorating relationships, poorer health status, and mental health challenges. As part of this effort, the NCRCRD is hosting a series of webinars on opioid use and misuse. For archived or upcoming webinars: http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/webinars/rural_health_and_safety_education

CAPE Phase II Coming to a Close



The NCRCRD has led the national project Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health (CAPE).

This past year, the project was granted a no-cost extension, which will close out the project in August 2018. The extension was granted in order complete an additional assignment to identify the contact information within each state for offices responsible for compiling to collecting county-level data on set of behavioral health indicators. In 2016, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) recommended the collection of a set of 18 behavioral health indicators at a county level, with the intent of instigating the development of a national behavioral health surveillance system. There are many challenges to implementing a county-level national behavioral health surveillance system. One key challenge to collecting and reporting these data is that in many cases the data are managed by different agencies and bureaus within a state. Unlike infectious diseases, for example, which are in large part the domain of the state epidemiologist, the data collection, management and reporting of these 18 indicators are not necessarily under the same authority, and are often in an agency unassociated with the state health department. The task required the completion of an inventory, either via direct contact, Google searches, etc., to accomplish a census of data collection, authority, and reporting mechanisms in each state, including but not limited to the agency responsible for that work and that agency’s association (or lack of association) with the state public health authority. Graduate student Nicole Lehpamer spent this past summer and fall compiling this information, which was submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA was pleased to receive our detailed report and plans to move forward in reaching out to the states in an effort to collect these behavioral health indicators for every county across the country.

All other required tasks of the CAPE grant have now been completed. What remains is the preparation of several research articles using data collected over the course of the project. Next steps for the NCRCRD in the health arena will be informed by the workshop on the nexus between rural health and economic development, which was hosted by the NCRCRD on April 27, 2017. Details regarding the workshop can be found here: <http://www.healthbench.info/community-behavioral-health-training.html>.

Project Partners:



National Institute of Food and Agriculture



Asian-American and Pacific Islander Limited English Proficiency Resource Center



The Asian-American and Pacific Islander Limited English Proficiency Resource Center (AAPILEPRC) provides translated agricultural resources to organizations, community leaders, farmers, and ranchers. The AAPILEPRC website (<https://www.aapileprc.org/>) provides access to more than 100 translated resources in written and audio format. This past year, the Center has focused its attention on reaching out to organizations and community leaders to share information about the resources and services we provide to limited English proficient communities.

The Center’s coordinator, Pao Xiong, attended three events that focused on the economic and agricultural development of immigrant Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPIs). He attended the Hmong National Development Conference in April 2017 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the 8th Annual National Farm Conference held on August 2017 in Fresno, California, and the 13th Emerging Farmers Conference held in January 2018 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Through these events, Pao was able to connect and share information about the resources available on the AAPILEPRC website with local organizations and farmers. He also received important feedback on ways of improving accessibility of the website to farmers who may have trouble using web-based technologies. Data from the Web-Stat application show the number of new users visiting the website increased substantially in the months following attendance at these events.

In order to better target future outreach efforts Mr. Xiong also identified those states with the largest Hmong populations as shown in the table below.

Overview of Hmong in Agriculture			
State	City	Primary Activity	Total Population*
California	Fresno, Sacramento, Merced, Stockton, Chico, Visalia, Eureka, Modesto, Madera	Fruits, Vegetables, Cattle, Medical Marijuana	90,000
Minnesota	Minneapolis, St. Paul, Marshall, Winona, Rochester	Vegetables	66,000
Wisconsin	Milwaukee, Wausau, Madison, Sheboygan, Green Bay, Appleton, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Oshkosh, Manitowoc	Vegetables, Dairy	49,000
North Carolina	Hickory, Charlotte, Newton, Greensboro	Vegetables	10,000
Michigan	Detroit, Lansing	Vegetables (Garden)	6,000
Colorado	Denver, Aurora, Greenly, Boulder	Medical Marijuana	3,800
Alaska	Anchorage	-	3,500
Georgia	Atlanta	-	3,500
Oklahoma	Tulsa	Vegetables, Poultry	3,300
Oregon	Portland	-	2,900
Washington	Seattle, Tacoma	Flower Fields	2,400
Arkansas	Fayetteville	Poultry	2,100
Missouri	Kansas City	Poultry	1,300
Florida	Tampa, Clearwater	Fruits	1,200
Alabama	Montgomery	Poultry	122

*Data taken from 2010 U.S. Census

These efforts have served to increase access to AAPILEPRC resources over the past year, and we anticipate a continued success in this regard in the coming year.

NC1100 ‘Innovations in Agriculture’

The NC1100 “Innovations in Agriculture” project continues to play a role in fostering innovation adoption and creation across the North Central region. One objective of the project is to connect university-developed technology, rural, and agricultural firms, and research and development funding such as from the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. In May 2017, a pilot introduced through Innovations in Agriculture and Rural Development series connected University of Wisconsin aquaculture researchers to the Blue Ridge fish hatchery in North Carolina, and this new collaboration is pursuing a Phase I SBIR award with coaching from NCRCRD affiliate Dr. John Mann. Building on these efforts, NC1100 members John Mann, C.Y. Wang, Scott Loveridge, Martin Kinney, and Mike Ladisch are preparing a Research Coordination Network NSF proposal that will connect groups of researchers and industry on new collaborations focused on innovation and rural development. The idea of the proposed Research Coordination Network is to incorporate the faculty-firm/industry collaborations and researchers, industry leaders, and government entities interested in these collaborations into a broader network.

The NC1100 team is continuing its work on the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive grant awarded in 2016. One aspect of the project involves members partnering with the USDA’s Economic Research Service to do additional analysis of a 10,000-firm national survey of innovation practices. Preliminary analysis of the survey led to a new effort to evaluate the impact of the USDA SBIR program as well as other agency-managed programs (e.g., National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, and National Institute of Health). While this activity is still work in progress, results of this evaluation are the first known attempt to compare the influence of different agency-managed SBIR programs on rural and urban firm innovation. This effort is complemented by Dr. Mann’s other USDA SBIR program activities related to: **1) the national-level Extension effort to encourage and increase the quality and quantity of *USDA SBIR applications—especially among women and minority owned firms*; 2) *phase I and II USDA SBIR panel reviewer*; and 3) *firm/faculty SBIR coach*. EDIT?**

Over the past year, NC1100 project developed six research papers which were presented at the annual meetings of: (1) the Midwest Economics Association; (2) Mid-Continent Regional Science Association; (3) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and (4) the North American Regional Science Association. One paper has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy.

Small Business Innovation Research Grant



The regional rural development centers (WRDC, SRDC, NERCRD, and NCRCRD) are coordinating a national outreach and technical training program to increase awareness of the National Institute of Agriculture’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Specifically, this project targets eight underserved states (Alabama, Georgia, Ohio, Illinois, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Utah, and West Virginia). Each of the regional rural development centers are assisting the project leader (WRDC) with identifying qualified Extension specialists/agents/educators within its region to serve as a trainer of eligible small business owners; and a liaison with their state’s Extension network to inform them of the availability of SBIR funds and training resources. These Extension professionals are engaged in the following activities:

1) Completing the SBIR Dawn-breaker training, 2) assessing the training’s compatibility for use by Cooperative Extension, 3) if needed, recommend changes to make it more compatible for use by an Extension audience, and 4) provide this training to eligible small business owners in their respective states. Dr. John Mann is serving as the point person for the North Central region.

This SBIR partnership builds upon the initial SBIR outreach and technical training strategies developed by the RRDCs in 2016. Further, this collaborative partnership follows a successful model involving partnership between the regional rural development centers, USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Through the program for USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, the rural development centers coordinated 137 state trainings held in all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, reaching over 3,000 participants. A key goal was to reach minority and female business owners, which are underserved by the program. A review of participant data showed that 32.5 percent of project participants were minorities, which is considerably higher than expected based on the national average, both for the general population and for business owners. Additionally, the project attracted a total female population of 66.4 percent, 15.6 percent above national average. <http://wrdc.usu.edu/sbir>

Tribal College Research Matching Project Underway

Small- and medium-sized Land-Grant institutions, which include many 1994 and 1890 institutions, are often at a disadvantage relative to larger Land-Grant universities in terms of networking resources and/or the opportunity to specialize in emerging research. Such obstacles act as deterrents for faculty from these institutions interested in participating in and/or leading research projects. At the same time, these same faculty can provide invaluable experience and expertise on important and emerging research topics. This year, NCRCD affiliate Dr. John Mann and John Phillips of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium are facilitating new collaborations between researchers at 1994 and 1862 Land-Grant institutions. The primary goal is to improve communication and expand existing networks in ways that cut across geographies and university size/types to increase opportunities for these faculty and improve the quality of research produced by the academy. The project is establishing a peer network of faculty researchers from a diverse group of Land-Grant universities, including 1994, 1890, and 1862, and engage via information and communication technologies these groups of researchers, encouraging and facilitating future research collaborations. The Michigan State University Internal Review Board gave the team the green light on its research methodology and review questions, and is expected to begin initial interviews with potential participants in early 2108. The idea is to incorporate in-depth interviews and the “fast-pitch” platform piloted last year, to identify and encourage new collaborative opportunities for researchers. Mann and Phillips anticipate that at least one of the project participants will join the NSF Research Coordination Network proposal team as described in the NC1100 “Innovations in Agriculture” Project.

The Geographic and Socioeconomic Aspects of Poverty: An Examination of the NC Region

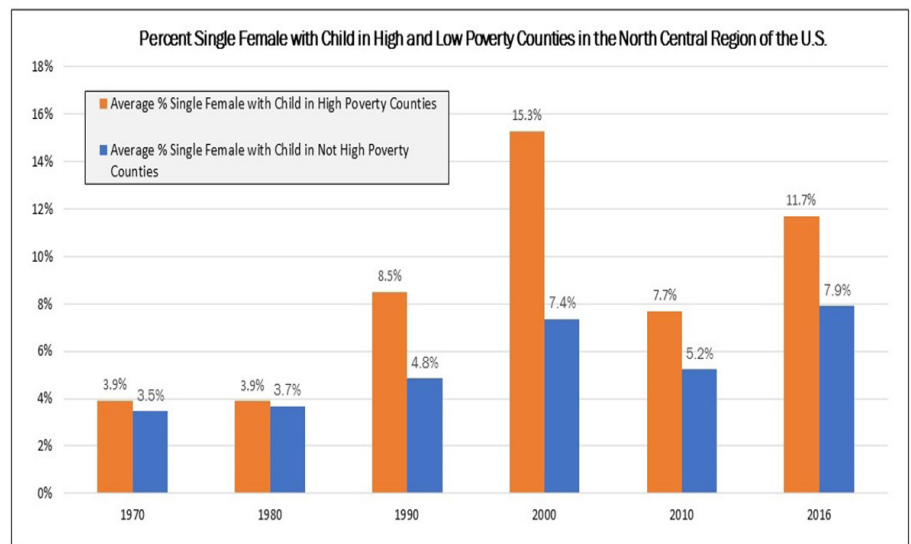
The Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD) is pursuing an in-depth analysis of the nature of poverty in the North Central region, focusing on individual and family characteristics, as well as the spatial attributes of poverty in the region. The study builds on harmonized county and census tracts data developed by PCRD as a result of a collaborative project between Purdue University and Economic Research Service (ERS)/USDA.

One of the most valuable features of the database is that it covers the period from 1970 to 2010. Moreover, the database is harmonized based on the 2010 geographies. While spatial harmonization tends to have minimal effect on county-level data, data at the tract level are impacted significantly given that tract geographies change every decadal census. This process is vital to PCRD’s efforts to identify persistent poverty counties and the tract level in the NCRCD Region.

The study adopts ERS criteria for persistent poverty as 20 percent or higher in the three consecutive decades. Similarly, a high poverty geography has 20 percent or higher poverty in any given period. To date, the PCRD analysis reveals that few counties in the NCRCD region are persistently poor, varying from 47 counties during the 1970 to 1990, 28 counties during 1980 to 2000, and 29 counties during 1990 to 2010 period. The majority of persistently poor counties are located in South Dakota and Missouri.

In contrast to counties, tracts have a good amount of variation, and persistently poor tracts have increased over the years in the North Central region. During the 1970 to 1990 period, 532 tracts were persistently poor, increasing to 1,441 persistently poor tracts during 1980 to 2000, and expanding to 1,977 tracts during the 1990 to 2010 period. Tracts are located in all the 12 states including urban and rural areas. PCRD is currently processing the 2016 data from ACS in order for persistently poor counties and tracts to be derived for the 2000 to 2016 period.

Another aspect of the study the PCRD has completed is a review of the poverty literature, with place-based poverty serving as a primary area of interest. The paper explores the approaches and methodologies used to study poverty, including how poverty is defined and disciplinary differences in studying poverty. Next, it discusses the effect of space on poverty, addressing the geographic levels at which poverty is studied, and delineates the role of migration, race, and segregation on poverty rates. The document concludes by offering salient points from the literature and how it can inform future poverty research and policy options.



Webinars

The NCRCRD periodically sponsors or facilitates webinars to help connect rural development researchers and Extension professionals with each other and with stakeholder groups. For webinar archives or upcoming webinars go to: <http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/webinars>

Family Business Contributions to Sustainable and Entrepreneurial Rural Communities Over Time - Linda Niehm (Iowa State University) and Glenn Muske and Margaret Fitzgerald (North Dakota State University)

Reducing Rural Cancer Disparities Together - Kadi Row, Mary Ann Schilling, Cody Fredrick and Kathy Staats (University of Wisconsin)

Deaths of Despair in Pennsylvania and Beyond: A Demographer's Take on Drug, Alcohol and Suicide Mortality in Small City and Rural America - Shannon Monnat (Pennsylvania State University)

Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Inequality - Tom Lyons (Michigan State University)

Urban First - John Mann, Jason Parker and Scott Loveridge (Michigan State University)

Creating Resilient Small City Downtowns - Bill Ryan and Chuck Law (University of Wisconsin) and Zachary Kennedy (University of Illinois)

Community Impacts of Energy Development: New Voices in Energy Impacts Research - Dylan Bugden (Cornell University), Bec Coplvin (University of Queensland), Emily Grubert (Stanford University) and Shawn Olson-Hazboun (Utah State University)

Placemaking Michigan: Placemaking as an Economic Development Tool - Kurt Schindler and Mark Wycoff (Michigan State University)

Community Supported Enterprises: Lessons Learned & Opportunities to Preserve or Enhance Social Capital - Norman Walzer (Northern Illinois University)

Stakeholder Centered Community Marketing, Center for Community & Economic Development - Kristen Runge (University of Wisconsin)

Building Organisational Resilience in the Face of Systemic Insecurity in a Complex and Interconnected World - John Vargo (Resilient Organisations, Ltd. New Zealand)

Hard Cider in the NC Region: Industry Survey Findings and Opportunities for Rural Development - Michelle Miller and Matt Raboin (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Cosajaba Oil: A Promoter of Growth and Stress-Tolerance for Aquaculture Species - Jake Olson and Terry Barry (University of Wisconsin)

Publications:

Bloem, J., and Loveridge, S. 2017. "The Secondary Migration of Refugees Resettled in the U.S." *Forced Migration Review*. January. Also published in Arabic <http://www.fmreview.org/ar/bloem-loveridge.html>; French <http://www.fmreview.org/fr/bloem-loveridge.html>; and Spanish <http://www.fmreview.org/es/reasantamiento/bloem-loveridge.html>.

Clark, J., Smith, M.B., Raja, S., Loveridge, S., Freedgood, J., and Hodgson, K. 2017. "Cooperative Extension and Food System Change – Goals, Strategies, and Resources." *Journal of Agriculture and Human Values*. 34(2): 301-316.

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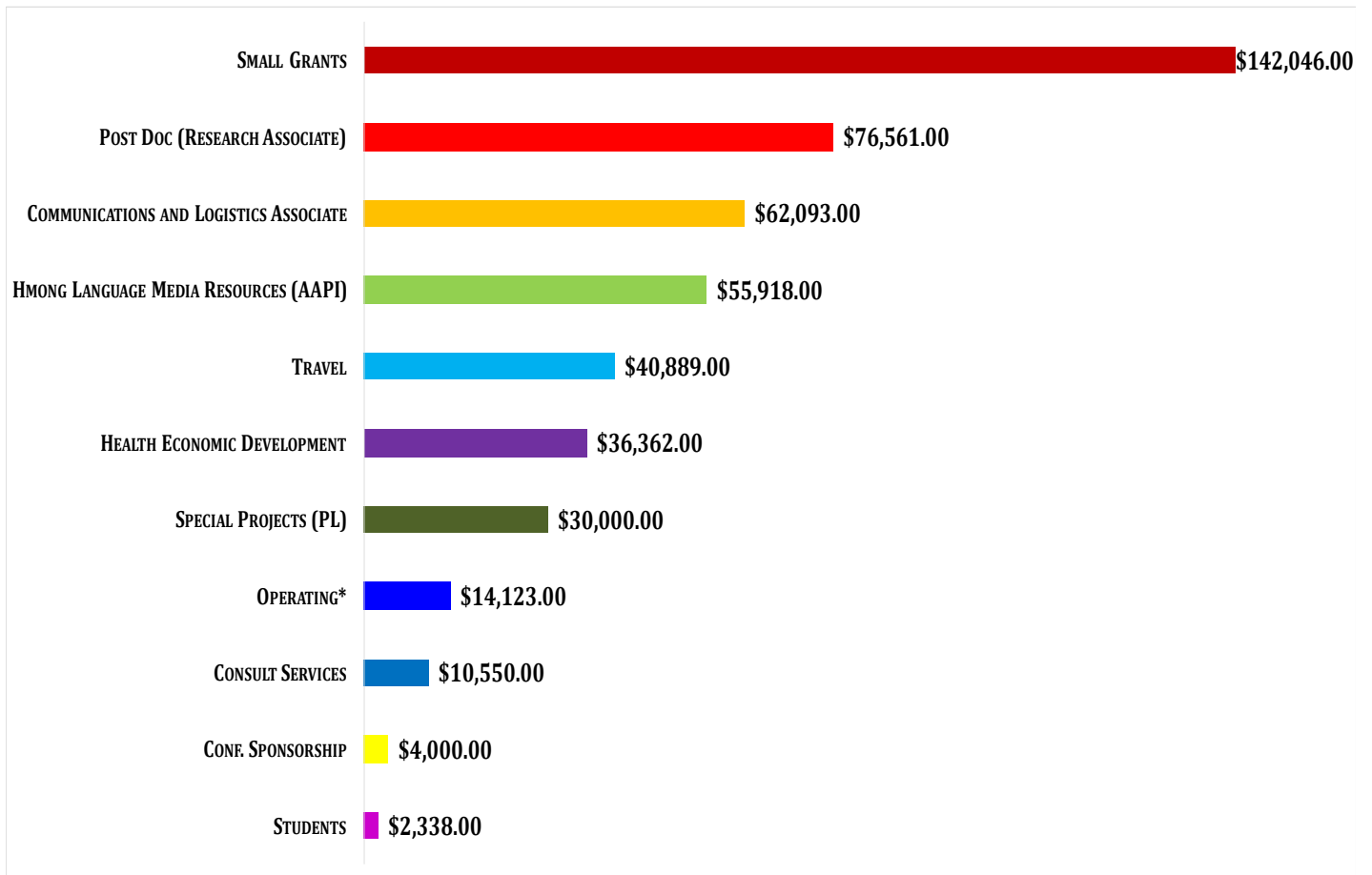
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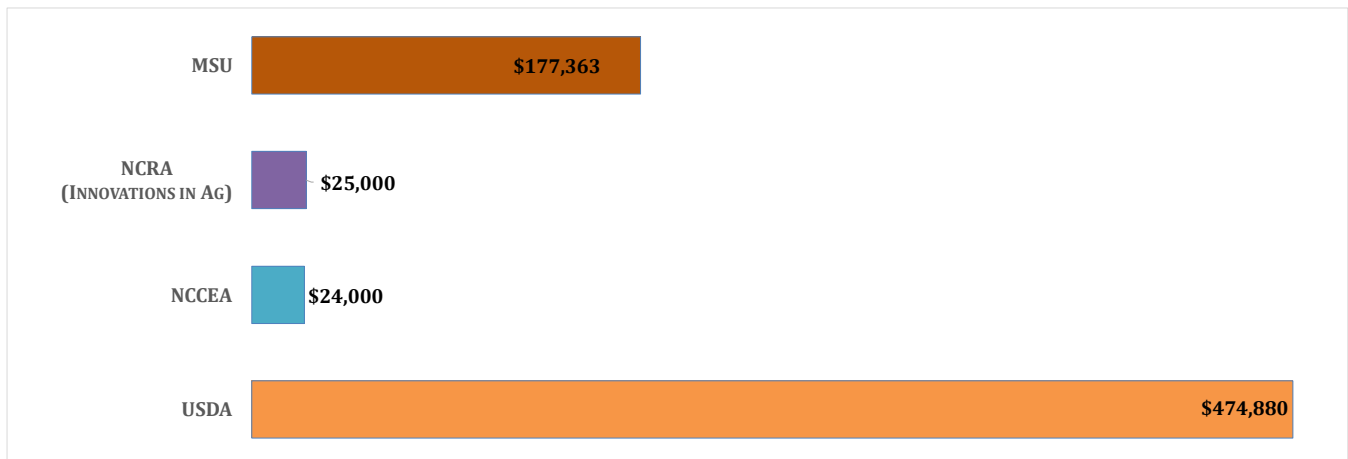
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2017 NCRCRD Funding

Core Budget Allocations

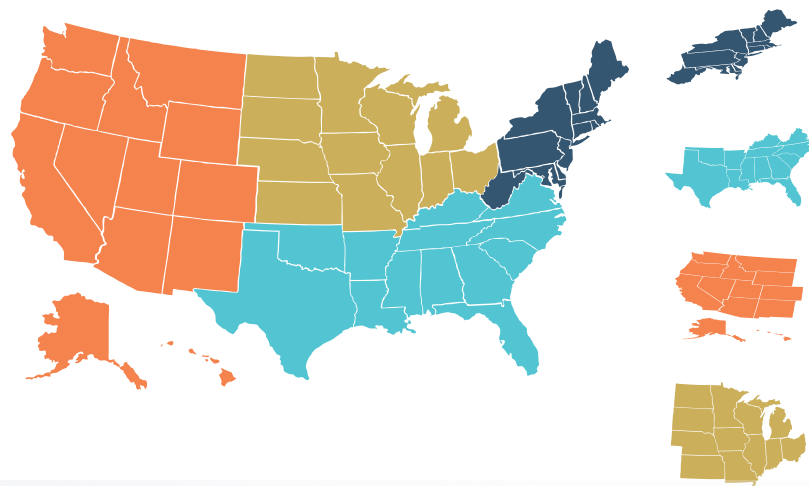


Core Budget



* Data Sharing Dev, Telecomm, Publications, Materials and Supplies, IT support

The NCRCRD is one of four USDA-funded Regional Rural Development Centers. The Centers work within their respective regions and collectively on national projects.



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North Central Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

Original 1862 Land-Grant Institutions

Iowa State University
North Dakota State University
South Dakota State University
University of Missouri

Kansas State University
The Ohio State University
University of Illinois
University of Nebraska

Michigan State University
Purdue University
University of Minnesota
University of Wisconsin

1890 Historically Black Institutions

Lincoln University
Central State University

1994 Native American Tribally Controlled Institutions

Bay Mills Community College, Brimley, MI
Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, ND
College of Menominee Nation, Keshena, WI
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Cloquet, MN
Fort Berthold Community College, New Town, ND
Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, Baraga, MI
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, Hayward, WI
Leech Lake Tribal College, Cass Lake, MN
Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago, NE
Nebraska Indian Community College, Macy, NE
Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, SD
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Sinte Gleska University, Mission, SD
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, Agency Village, SD
Si Tanka/Huron University, Eagle Butte
Sitting Bull College, Fort Yates, ND
Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, ND
United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, ND
White Earth Tribal and Community College, Mahanomen, MN

Hispanic-Serving Institutions

The center is eager to serve federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) wishing to pursue rural-development activities. The HSI status depends on an enrollment threshold of 25 percent or more Hispanic students, so qualifying institutions may vary from year to year.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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