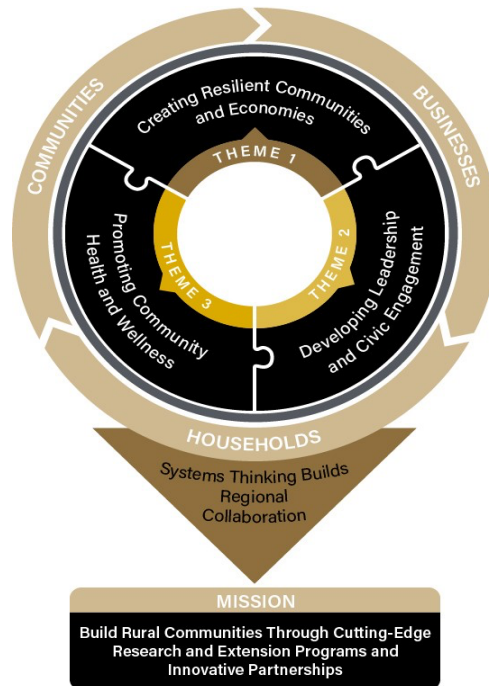


Thematic Working Groups

It is the NCRCRD's mission to build rural communities through cutting-edge research and Extension programs and innovative partnerships. To achieve this mission, we seek to engage research and Extension at all of the land-grant institutions across the North Central Region.



Funding will be provided for multistate working groups focused on the NCRCRD's three rural development thematic areas of creating resilient communities and economies, developing leadership and civic engagement, and promoting community health and wellness that integrates research and Extension. Multistate working groups may focus on one theme and one system. However, work across themes and systems is highly encouraged. The Center will provide administrative support and may include Center staff as part of the working groups as appropriate.

The Center will provide up to \$50,000 over three years. Funding can be used for team development and meetings, preliminary data collection, or other activities that facilitate multi-state regional and sustainable collaboration that lead to relevant regional outputs. These projects will result in scholarly work such as research publications, Extension curricula, and proposals for external funding.

Working groups must be representative of the NCR:

1. A minimum of six North Central states must be represented
2. Include faculty and/or staff from Land Grant Colleges or Universities
3. The team must have an adequate balance between research and outreach

Working group proposals should:

1. Detail how rural inequities (e.g., social, poverty risk, income, education, health) will be addressed
2. Describe how diversity and inclusion will be addressed within the team and in terms of impact on stakeholders
3. Describe how the working group will interact with the Center
4. Describe expected outputs and impacts
5. Describe leveraging plan to attract additional resources
6. Provide details for at least one working group webinar focused on Center themes (one per year based on working group duration)

Proposal sections:

1. Project summary (250 words max)
2. Project narrative (5 pages max, 1.5 spacing)
3. Budget with budget justification
4. Timetable of milestones and outputs
5. Team member roles
6. Biographic sketches of team members

Proposals accepted on a rolling basis. Now accepting proposals for September 2025 start date.

Please contact Dr. Maria Marshall to discuss your proposal before applying.

Maria I. Marshall, Ph.D.

Professor, Jim and Lois Ackerman Endowed Chair in Agricultural Economics

Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (ncrcrd.org)

Director, Purdue Institute for Family Business [PIFB]

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