

# Rural Development Resource Guide

## **Rupri Center for Rural Entrepreneurship** [www.energizingentrepreneurs.org](http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org)

The RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship mission is to help leaders and citizens in rural communities and regions across the U.S. embrace entrepreneurship as a core rural economic development strategy.

## **Heartland Center for Leadership Development** [www.heartlandcenter.info](http://www.heartlandcenter.info)

Heartland Center activities focus on leadership training, citizen participation, community planning, facilitation, evaluation and curriculum development. Programs and publications stress the critical role played by local leadership as communities and organizations build capacity for sustainable development. Each year the Heartland Center works with people from approximately 300 communities, and is recognized internationally as an innovator of creative strategies for community revitalization.

## **ATTRA** [www.attra.org](http://www.attra.org)

ATTRA—Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas—is the national sustainable farming information center operated by the private nonprofit National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). ATTRA provides technical assistance to farmers, Extension agents, market gardeners, agricultural researchers and other ag professionals in all 50 states.

## **Building Better Rural Places** <http://attra.ncat.org>

This guide addresses Federal programs for value-added and diversified agriculture and forestry, sustainable land management, and community development. The guide is a publication of the U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies working together for sustainable rural development in collaboration with The Michael Fields Agricultural Institute. Collaborating agencies include Resource Conservation and Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Cooperative State Research, Education & Extension Service, and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

## **Community and Rural Development Institute** <http://devsoc.cals.cornell.edu>

The Community and Rural Development Institute (CaRDI) responds to current and emerging needs in community and rural development. CaRDI collaborates with Cornell University faculty and staff, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and other local and regional institutions to address needs at the local, state and national levels.

## **National Association for Community Leadership** <http://www.communityleadership.org>

A nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing leadership in communities helping strengthen and transform them.

## **Tourism Education Materials** <https://tourism.ttr.msu.edu/Main/>

This site contains the National Extension Tourism Database, a comprehensive inventory of Extension resource materials related to tourism education. The materials, generally dating from 1985-1998, are from the USDA, Agricultural Experiment Stations and Land Grant universities and include Extension bulletins, research reports, videos, training guides and notebooks, and PowerPoint slide shows.

## **Western Rural Development Center** <http://wrdc.usu.edu/>

The WRDC, located at Utah State University, facilitates collaborative socio-economic research and extension through higher education institutions in the 13 states and four territories of the Western region.

## **American Planning Association** <http://www.planning.org>

National organization with more than 30,000 members, actively working for better planned communities. Includes a list of Planners Book Service publications, links to home pages of APA Chapters and divisions, research on key planning issues and links to other Internet sites devoted to planning issues.

## **Center for Rural Studies (CRS)** <http://crs.uvm.edu/>

A nonprofit, fee-for-service research organization which addresses social, economic, and resource-based problems of rural people and communities

## **Community Toolbox** <http://ctb.lsi.ukans.edu/>

A resource to help citizens in community problem solving to address local concerns. It can be used to develop leadership and organization capacities. It contains concise and practical information on issues such as strategic planning, promoting financial stability and other information needed by collaborative partnerships. The community toolbox can also be helpful in networking.

## **Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development** <http://www.ilgard.ohiou.edu/>

Conducts applied research and provides technical assistance to area communities and the state to enhance development efforts and improve the efficiency of governmental operations.

## **National Association of Counties** <http://www.naco.org>

A full-service organization that provides legislative, research, technical and public affairs assistance to its members. The association acts as a liaison with other levels of government, works to improve public understanding of counties, serves as a national advocate for counties and provides them with resources to help find them innovative methods to meet the challenges they face.

## **National Center for Appropriate Technology** <http://www.ncat.org/>

A nonprofit corporation that works to find solutions that use local resources to address problems that face all Americans, especially society's most disadvantaged citizens. NCAT has helped individuals, communities, government agencies, non-profits and others with appropriate technology and sustainable development issues by providing expertise for a broad range of programs and projects.

## **National Civic League** <http://www.ncl.org/>

Advocates a new civic agenda to create communities that work for everyone and promotes the principles of collaborative problem solving and consensus-based decision making through technical assistance, publishing, research and an awards program.

## **Rural LISC** <http://www.ruralisc.org/>

The Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation's website provides Community Development Corporations and other interested parties with helpful resources and networks for community development.

## **Rural Policy Research Institute** <http://www.rupri.org>

An independent, non-partisan research consortium which provides objective analysis of the impact of public policies on rural people and places.

## **Southern Rural Development Center** <http://ext.msstate.edu/srdc>

Supports research and extension efforts to improve the lives of people in nonmetropolitan areas in the U.S. Located at Mississippi State University, its mission is to serve as a proactive leader and primary facilitator of rural development research, education and policy dialogue that will improve the socioeconomic conditions of the Southern region. The Center also serves as a key player and role model in building collaborative networks that reach across agencies, institutions and communities.

## **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education** <http://www.sare.org/>

SARE is a USDA/CREES competitive grants program with a regional orientation and leadership structure whose goal is to provide both a research and education base for the future economic viability of U.S. Agriculture. SARE is managed from four regional bases: Western, Northeastern, North Central and Southern U.S.

# Small-Business Resource Guide

## **Cherokee Nation**

[www.cherokeesbac.org](http://www.cherokeesbac.org)

The Small Business Assistance Center (SBAC), affiliated with the Commerce Department of the Cherokee Nation, offers a variety of planning, training, and business financing opportunities for a youth, start-up or existing business.

## **Choctaw Nation**

[www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com)

The Choctaw Nation Credit and Loan Department, better known as the Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association's main priority is to make loans to Indians who cannot borrow from other lending institutions.

## **Potawatomi Nation**

<http://www.potawatomi.org/>

Founded in 2003, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation (CPCDC) provides access to capital and business development services to Native Americans in order to expand the capacities of small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. As a non-profit community development financial institution, the CPCDC has lent millions of dollars needed by small businesses to turn their ambitions into reality while helping to stimulate job creation and economic development. The mission of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation is to provide access to capital through loan fund support and business development services to members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and other Native Americans.

## **American Management Association**

[www.amanet.org](http://www.amanet.org)

This nonprofit, membership-based association provides management development and educational services to individuals and businesses through conferences, seminars, books and 3-learning courses. This association also offers many research reports and archived reports. Small-business membership is \$1,800 a year.

## **Association of Small Business Development Centers**

[www.asbdc-us.org](http://www.asbdc-us.org)

The ASBDC assists small businesses in planning, funding and marketing from offices located across the country. The website lists the contact information of each office, and it also includes general small-business news.

## **Business.gov**

[www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov)

Business.gov, the official business link to the U.S. government, relaunched in October 2006 to focus on compliance information, federal forms and government compliance contracts. This saves businesses both time and money in locating information on tax, labor, environmental, immigration and other regulations. Businesses can quickly search Business.gov for compliance information by topic and industry and for federal forms from all major federal agencies regulating or serving businesses. State and municipal compliance information is also being phased into the site. Business.gov is managed by the U.S. Small Business Administration in partnership with 21 federal agencies and is part of the President's Management Agenda.

## **Center for Women's Business Research**

[www.cfwbr.org](http://www.cfwbr.org)

If you're looking for information pertaining to women in business, the Center for Women's Business Research is a sea of data. Statistical information is broken down nationally, by state and even by metropolitan region. It offers a newsletter, business tips and minority women research.

## **Chambers of Commerce**

Here's a list of specialty chambers: National Black chamber of Commerce, [www.nationalbcc.org](http://www.nationalbcc.org); U.S. Hispanic Chamber of commerce, [www.usfcc.com](http://www.usfcc.com); U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, [www.usjaycees.org](http://www.usjaycees.org); and U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce, [www.uspaacc.com](http://www.uspaacc.com).

## **Entrepreneur.com**

[www.entrepreneur.com](http://www.entrepreneur.com)

The number-one small-business website on the internet, Entrepreneur.com is rich with articles on topics ranging from marketing and management to money and technology. A highlight of this site is the Franchise Zone, where visitors can browse hundreds of franchises sorted by category, size or growth.

## **Entrepreneurs' Organization**

[www.eonetwork.org](http://www.eonetwork.org)

This organization is a volunteer group of business professionals who are the owners, founders, co-founders or controlling shareholders of companies with annual sales of \$1 million or more. These professionals aim to support entrepreneurs through networking, education and partnerships.

## **Export.gov**

[www.export.gov](http://www.export.gov)

A portal to all export-related assistance and market information offered by the federal government, Export.gov offers market research, partner and trade leads, trade event listings, shipping documentation and requirements, pricing and more.

## **FedBizOpps**

[www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov)

FedBizOpps allows small business to search government procurement opportunities greater than \$25,000. Vendors can search, monitor and retrieve opportunities solicited by the entire federal contracting community in one location.

## **International Franchise Association**

[www.franchise.org](http://www.franchise.org)

The International Franchise Association (IFA) is a membership-based organization designed to protect, enhance and promote franchising. Membership is divided into three categories: franchisor, franchisee and supplier. Members gain access to research and publications, list in IFA's Franchise Directory, admittance to events and other educational tools.

## **National Veterans Business Development Corporation**

[www.veteranscorp.org](http://www.veteranscorp.org)

The Veterans Corporation is the complete business source for current and prospective veteran business owners. It's also the best source for companies interested in working with veteran-owned businesses.

## **SBA**

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

The SBA website is packed with information for small businesses, including resources, news, a calendar of events, loan and grant program information small-business statistics, a training network that includes free online courses, and a list of free e-mail newsletters.

## **SCORE**

[www.score.org](http://www.score.org)

If you're looking for business planning advice, SCORE has 389 chapters and 800 offices nationwide staffed by experienced volunteer counselors. This website will help you locate the office nearest you and also offers a free e-newsletter.

## **Small Business Advancement National Center**

[www.sbaer.uca.edu](http://www.sbaer.uca.edu)

Hosted by the University of Central Arkansas, this site has a database of small-business resources; a free e-newsletter, including archived issues; financing information and forms; and a terrific list of publications relevant to small businesses

## **USA.gov**

[www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)

This is a gateway to all U.S. government information, making a great stop for those looking for federal laws and regulations, contact information for government officials, data and statistics, and government forms. It also has links to all 50 state government websites.

## **WomenEntrepreneur.com**

[www.womenentrepreneur.com](http://www.womenentrepreneur.com)

This is a new site where women entrepreneurs can come to connect, learn and grow. The site features original articles and blogs covering topics like growth strategies, new media marketing and leadership, and gives women an opportunity to interact with each other through message boards, comments and more.

## **Young & Successful Media Corp.**

[www.youngandsuccessful.com](http://www.youngandsuccessful.com)

Entrepreneurs for the future should look at this media and education company that's reaching out to tomorrow's leaders in the 18-to-34-year-old demographic, offering tools, programs, books, and resources.