



RURAL OUTREACH GRANT TOOLKIT



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION *of*
REALTORS®





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction

2 Getting Started

4 Initiatives and Success Stories

5 Well & Septic Issues

7 Open Space

9 Broadband Access

11 Natural Disaster, Redevelopment & Climate Resilience

13 Rural Real Estate Transaction Issues

15 Rural Advocacy, Planning & Zoning Issues

17 Resources

18 Community Outreach

19 Rural Advocacy, Planning & Zoning Issues

INTRODUCTION TO **RURAL OUTREACH**

Rural living has many appeals: peace and quiet, an abundance of nature, nostalgic pastimes, and access to outdoor recreation – all draw a devoted following to open countryside, small towns, and character-filled downtown areas.

But, in small town America, the challenges are anything but small. Buying, selling, and owning rural property comes with special considerations, and issues that don't exist in more populated settings often require deep expertise to manage effectively. Water rights, onsite well and septic systems, and flood and wildfire mitigation are just some of the realities of rural property ownership that involve complex and consequential understanding. Open space preservation and careful zoning are essential to maintaining the value that makes rural communities so attractive in the first place. Communication within and between these communities can be a challenge, too, adding another layer to any effort; and available funding and other resources can be few and far between.

REALTOR® associations with rural territory are uniquely positioned to lead. Through education, advocacy, and deep local ties, they support members navigating rural-specific issues—and serve as trusted community partners, especially in times of crisis such as natural disasters. REALTOR®-led efforts can improve everything from environmental stewardship to broadband access.

Collaboration is key. Whether an initiative is for members only, for local stakeholders, or for the region at large, it often makes sense for rural communities to band together to extend its reach and capitalize on economies of scale. This can happen in person, bridging distance between country neighbors, or online, to offer greatest access to the most remote or far-flung participants – or both. Show your community and local leaders not only that you care about community concerns, but that you have the capacity to find solutions: when a REALTOR® association reaches out to collaborate with other interest groups or county or municipal departments, its engagement,

RURAL OUTREACH GRANT TOOLKIT

Provides resources, grant information, and examples of state and local REALTOR® associations' success in benefitting their rural communities and regions. Read on to find inspiration for rural outreach opportunities where you are, and guidance to support you through the process.



expertise, and resources will be recognized as real leadership in advancing community well-being.

Put another way, while REALTOR® associations in rural areas may operate with limited resources, sparsely populated regions can benefit significantly from someone stepping up, and that someone has a distinct opportunity to make a significant impact. This kind of civic involvement can lead directly to appointments to local decision-making boards that affect zoning, land use, and other major quality-of-life issues in the countryside.

Improving lives by improving communities is what REALTORS® are all about, and the REALTOR® Party stands behind associations and members looking to get involved. Rural Outreach grants support state and local REALTOR® association initiatives, including trainings, forums, events, studies, and ordinance drafting, on a wide range of rural issues such as broadband, well and septic, open space preservation, environmental standards, and planning and zoning issues. Learn more about deadlines and availability on the grant landing page.



Want to Learn More?

To find out more about National Association of REALTORS® Rural Outreach grant program visit <https://realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/rural-outreach-initiative/rural-outreach-grant>

GETTING STARTED

Leverage grant funding to support your priorities and raise the profile of your association within your community. Consider partnering with like-minded organizations or neighboring REALTOR® associations to achieve your goals. This can help lighten the load, and you will build relationships while building community.

As local real estate and land use experts, your members are well positioned to play a role in conserving your community's natural assets. Raise awareness among members, local officials and the public with the support of a Rural Outreach grant to help your community protect open space, provide places for recreation and enhance quality of life.

The REALTOR® Party's Rural Outreach grants exist to provide extra support to rural communities that may be under-resourced. The NAR staff administering these grants understand that local REALTOR® associations serving rural areas may be a staff of one, wearing many hats. They are ready to walk you through every step of the application process and can help you find resources such as subject experts and teachers for education programs.

Your project or initiative may also qualify for assistance from another of the REALTOR® Party's Community Outreach programs, such as the Land Use Initiative program for analysis of proposed land-use related ordinances, or a Placemaking Grant to help create or enhance an outdoor community gathering place. These other programs have no restrictions or limits on the size or type of the community being served.

Once Rural Outreach grant approval is received and your project progresses, keep an eye on the budget and save all receipts, contracts and invoices for your NAR reimbursement. It may also be helpful to take notes along the way, to refresh your memory when the time comes to write the required grant evaluation.



It is a good idea to contact the grant manager to talk through your proposal before applying, and read the FAQ section.



NAR staff can be reached at:
RuralOutreachGrants@nar.realtor



The application can be found at:
[realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/
rural-outreach-initiative/rural-outreach-grant](https://realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/rural-outreach-initiative/rural-outreach-grant)



Frequently Asked Questions:
[realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/
rural-outreach-initiative/faqs](https://realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/rural-outreach-initiative/faqs)



NAR's Rural Outreach grant is specifically for initiatives that are serving municipalities that are rural in nature with a **POPULATION OF 30,000 PEOPLE OR LESS.**



There are two levels of Rural Outreach grants that support slightly different types of projects:

LEVEL 1

Level 1 Rural Outreach grants support efforts to educate NAR members about rural issues.

Details:

- **Maximum award:** \$3,000.
- Associations may receive one Level 1 grant per calendar year.
- Funds are disbursed using a reimbursement process.
- Grant recipients must complete an evaluation form for the supported activity.

LEVEL 2

Level 2 Rural Outreach grants support initiatives, such as studies, events, and public outreach on rural issues in partnership with public and private stakeholders.

Details:

- **Maximum award:** \$7,500.
- Associations may receive one Level 2 grant per calendar year.
- Funds are disbursed using a reimbursement process.
- Grant recipients must complete an evaluation form for the supported activity.



INITIATIVES & SUCCESS STORIES



ISSUE

WELL & SEPTIC

What would country living be without fresh cool well water and a dependable septic system? NAR members working in rural areas need specialized knowledge about the mechanics of safe water sources and waste disposal, and all the state and local regulations by which they are governed. Part engineering and part legal, this information should be easily available to members through a regularly offered course, or a manual – or both. REALTOR® associations serving rural populations can maximize the reach of these resources by offering them online, or by joining together with neighboring associations. A field trip to see different kinds of septic systems in action boosts the classroom to the next level: being able to lay eyes on what they've learned can give participants a far better understanding of the workings of rural water and waste systems. Rural Outreach grants from the REALTOR® Party are available to support this education in the classroom, online, and in the field.

SUCCESS STORY

Greater Piedmont REALTORS® (VA)

In the four rural Virginia counties served by Greater Piedmont REALTORS®, no two properties are alike, but there's a good chance they have a well and are on a septic system. Understanding the different types of such systems and the regulations governing them is crucial for real estate professionals operating in the area, so the association offers a free annual CE course covering all the bases, complete with breakfast and lunch brought in by affiliate sponsors. Following one recent course, they stepped-up the game by adding an optional field trip to three different septic sites, on a bus funded by a Rural Outreach grant from the REALTOR® Party.

The excursion was a huge hit. Thirty-four participants took part, including several cars that followed the filled-to-capacity bus. After learning about a drip system, a conventional system, and an alternative system in the classroom, members got to see each one in context, which helped drive home the morning's lessons. They also gained practice in identifying potential issues that may arise with septic systems, such as age, maintenance, and compliance with local regulations. Leading the trip was the teacher of the CE course, a local septic management provider with deep expertise and experience, including an advisory role with the Virginia Department of Health. Because of his work in the field, he had access to actual sites in the region; he also understood as well as anyone how important this skill set is to rural agents who are REALTORS®.

“We noted the grant on the flyer promoting the course and let everyone know that the field trip was free, thanks to NAR! It really made a difference in the kind of program we were able to offer our members, and they will be able to better serve their clients, because of it.”

- DEBBIE WERLING, Greater Piedmont REALTORS® CEO



“This field trip, coupled with the class, was such a great idea and really helped me visualize and make sense of what I learned. Having never seen some of these systems before, I now feel comfortable explaining them to my clients and better equipped to handle any septic situations! Amazing!”

-ANONYMOUS EVALUATION



READ THE FULL STORY: <https://realtorparty.realtor/homepage/success-story/gpr-rural0524>





ISSUE

OPEN SPACE

Newcomers to rural areas might be fulfilling long-term dreams of country living but may in fact have little idea about the realities of caring for the natural resources that attracted them. On their own property or on public lands – wherever they enjoy the great outdoors – people need to understand how their activity affects the land, the water, the wildlife habitat, and their neighbors. Even with the very best intentions, issues from invasive species to septic system maintenance to fire and flood mitigation may be the last thing on their minds.

This is where a real estate professional's role extends to that of guide, partner, and advocate for protecting the well-being of the natural environment. With support from a Rural Outreach grant, local associations can join with academic institutions in promoting open space as an important topic for research that can lead to public policy positions. They can feature open space issues at regional training conferences. They can develop and distribute materials covering key matters of environmental stewardship. Whether through broad public-facing initiatives or more focused efforts, an engaged and authoritative stance underscores the NAR members' interest in preserving a region's quality of life.

SUCCESS STORY

Idaho REALTORS®

As ambassadors for the Gem State, Idaho REALTORS® created *Your Idaho: A Stewardship Guidebook*, to welcome new property owners and inform them about safeguarding Idaho's natural resources for future generations. A Rural Outreach grant from the REALTOR® Party helped make it possible.

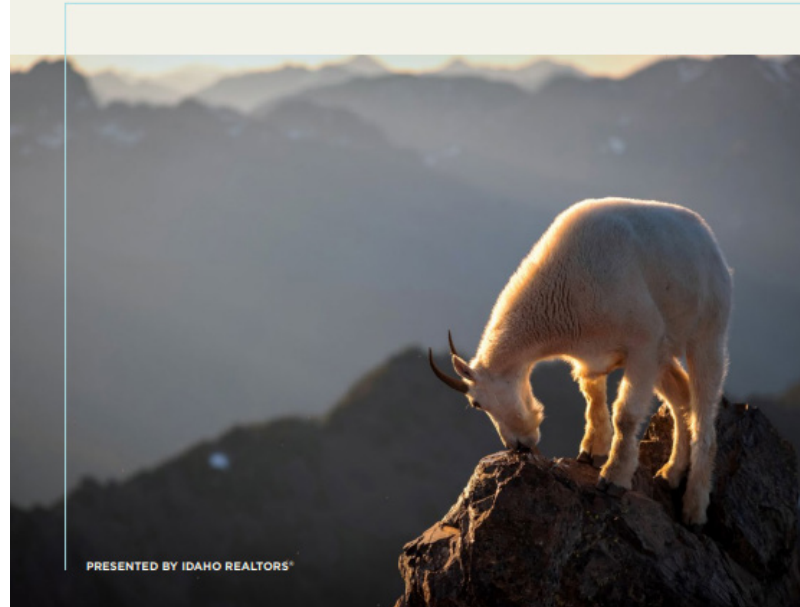
The eye-catching 53-page volume was the vision of Idaho REALTORS® 2023 President and invites residents to understand the privilege and responsibility of both owning land and enjoying the extensive public lands in Idaho. It promotes a high-level awareness of stewardship through broad ideals like clean water, healthy land, and being good neighbors, as well as covering specific rural issues from water rights and usage to invasive species, fire safety, and mitigating light pollution.

To gather the information they wanted to provide, Idaho REALTORS® worked with the University of Idaho Extension Office; state agencies such as the Department of Lands, Parks and Recreation and the Department of Water Resources; and multiple conservation organizations. The writing process involved a select team of member volunteers from around the state, as well as the Idaho REALTORS® CEO and Communications Director. Photographs taken and donated by a member powerfully illustrate Idaho's beauty and natural elements that are worthy of safeguarding.

The grant from the REALTOR® Party supported the book's professional design and an initial print run of 500 copies. Members and local associations are able to have it printed on demand, including a branded back cover. With its soft-touch finish, foil appliqué, and coffee-table format, the guidebook makes an impressive but inexpensive closing gift or leave-behind – the state's lieutenant governor requested copies for his office. For even simpler reference and sharing, a PDF and an online version are available on the [Idaho REALTORS® website and forms platforms](https://realtorparty.realtor/homepage/success-story/ir-rural0124).

YOUR IDAHO

A Stewardship Guidebook



“The distribution of the guidebook reinforces our role as a trusted source on all things real estate in Idaho. It has helped us present a united voice on policy issues, elevate our value to the consumer beyond our role in transactions, and partner in solutions for the state’s continued growth.”

DENISE LUNDY, Idaho REALTORS® 2023 President

Between the collaborative process and the impressive result, the guidebook has had the added benefit of strengthening Idaho REALTORS®' relationship with state and local agencies and elected officials.

READ THE FULL STORY: <https://realtorparty.realtor/homepage/success-story/ir-rural0124>





ISSUE

BROADBAND ACCESS

For residents of rural areas, fast and dependable internet connectivity is a lifeline to information, services, commerce, and more. This is a two-fold concern for real estate professionals who conduct business in rural regions: first, they require high-speed internet service to conduct that business; and secondly, clients have come to expect broadband power when buying a home or commercial property, even in remote settings. The last thing any agent wants is a client disappointed with a critical utility in a new home or business.

The REALTOR® Party's Rural Outreach grant program has helped local and state associations partner with groups that are mapping rural internet capabilities through targeted internet speed tests. By revealing where service upgrades are needed, these surveys are the first step toward broadband infrastructure equity.

SUCCESS STORY

Indiana Association of REALTORS®

It's easy for those living in urban or suburban areas to take the internet for granted. But if you live in a rural district, the advantages of online-accessible information, work, commerce, health care, education, and other resources are not at all a sure thing; because the broadband industry isn't incentivized to lay the miles and miles of fiberoptic cable to serve sparse country-dwelling populations, many remain isolated. To help ensure access throughout the state, the Indiana Association of REALTORS® (IAR) joined a coalition to identify where broadband internet is lacking; it also partnered with an academic at Purdue University to address the importance of broadband as an equalizer in underserved areas. A Rural Outreach grant from the REALTOR® Party supported the cause.

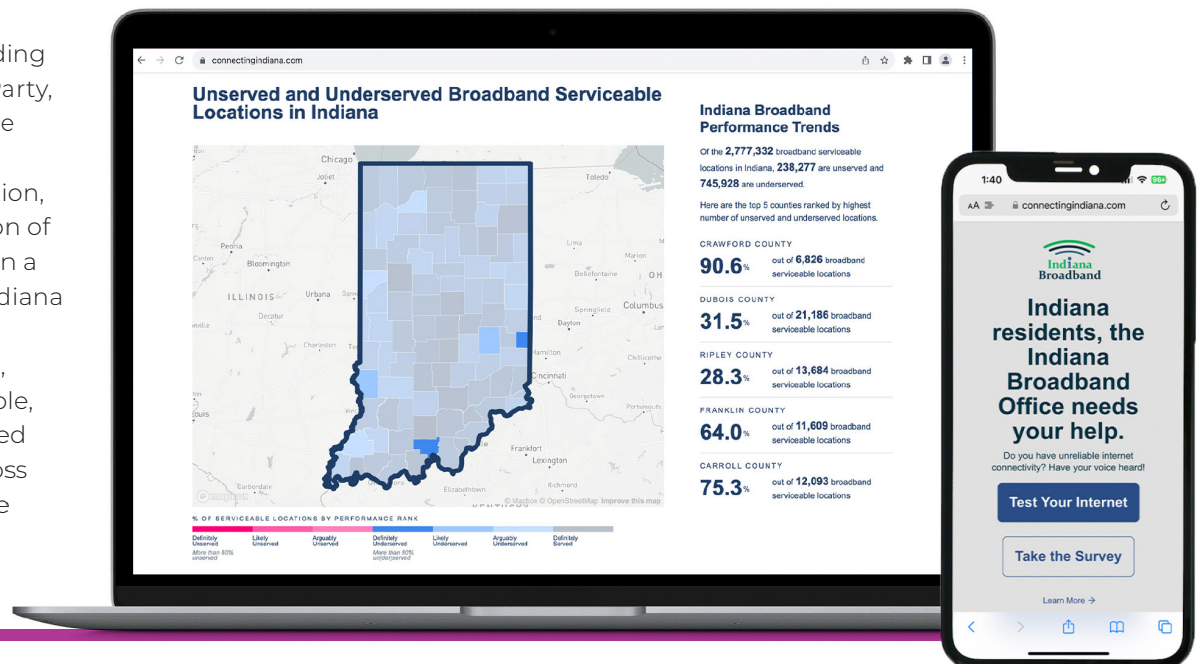
Fortunately, the federal government's 2021 Infrastructure and Jobs Act provided over \$868M for broadband expansion, alone, in the state of Indiana; it was just a matter of finding the weak spots. With funding from the REALTOR® Party, IAR partnered with the Indiana Farm Bureau, Duke Energy Association, the Indiana Association of Counties, and others in a coalition called the Indiana Broadband Strategic Partnership. Together, they promoted a simple, at-home internet speed test in rural areas across the state to determine where connectivity

needed to be strengthened. IAR got the word out through its website and targeted direct mailings. It also granted local associations NAR Core Standards activity credit for promoting the testing, urging them to have members share the test with clients, customers, and the whole community.

In all, 40K Hoosier households took the test, and the survey revealed that 11% of Indiana residents were underserved by high-speed internet. With this clear snapshot of its internet service status, the state is now able to distribute its infrastructure funds to broadband service providers, directing them to the broadband deserts with confidence.

“The availability of these grant funds actually drives us to look for more opportunities to serve our rural consumers. In this case, it enabled us to give them a voice.”

MAGGIE MCSHANE, Indiana Association of REALTORS®
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs





ISSUE

NATURAL DISASTER, REDEVELOPMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

When disaster strikes, assistance that local REALTOR® boards can give to their members and communities takes many forms. It could mean providing material support, critical information, testing equipment, and even shelter. It will likely evolve as recovery progresses and may require pivots in uncertain and rapidly changing circumstances. As boots-on-the-ground professionals, agents who are REALTORS® in rural districts have thorough local knowledge and strong networks that can help connect residents to lifesaving updates and inform emergency responders about households that may be off the beaten path. Some boards have noted that people benefit from coming together to share stories of their disaster experience; these opportunities may happen organically at an aid distribution event.

REALTOR® associations are also well positioned to help communities prepare for disaster. For example, in areas prone to wildfire, they can offer property assessments and promote fire mitigation practices such as brush clearing near structures; they can even offer volunteer mitigation services to those in need. In the immediate aftermath of natural disasters and as communities recover, the REALTOR® Relief Foundation partners with local associations to assist residents with funds to shelter in hotels or meet rent or mortgage payments.

SUCCESS STORY

Land of the Sky Association of REALTORS®

When Hurricane Helene swept through western North Carolina, rural properties were hit especially hard by flooding and landslides. The storm left safe water sources severely compromised, and rendered certain property lines unrecognizable. With help from NAR's Rural Outreach grant program, the Land of the Sky Association of REALTORS® (LOTSAR) was able to provide expert guidance and water test kits to its members.

Holding a lunch forum at its on-site event facility, the association brought in three knowledgeable professionals to share their expertise on post-hurricane water-related real estate issues. An inspector and a plumber addressed E. coli fears, as turbidity levels were then testing higher-than-acceptable by World Health Organization standards; they also

covered concerns about lead-based paint having been dredged up by the storm. The third speaker, an attorney, tackled legal issues stemming from the mudslides and flooding, such as changes to property lines and easements, and material fact disclosures. The grant also supported the purchase of consumer-grade water testing kits that were distributed to attendees and offered to the rest of the membership while supplies lasted; an additional grant from the North Carolina Association of REALTORS® enabled LOTSAR to offer professional testing to the first fifteen or so members who requested it.

Because of the ongoing recovery, LOTSAR will be offering the program again, this time featuring speakers who were unavailable in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane. They may include local elected officials and representatives from Asheville's Department of Water Services and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, as well as a representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a local ecological economist who has developed a CE course on climate change issues in real estate.

"It was such a relief to learn that the Rural Outreach grant program could help us in our efforts to reach members and their networks with information about water safety. I applied right away and we were able to hold a forum on post-hurricane water safety issues within the month. Everyone was really grateful for the water testing kits."

MATT ALLEN, Land of the Sky Association of REALTORS®
Director of Professional Development & Government Affairs



Water Issues Impacting Real Estate



REGISTER

Join us for an informative session to gain essential insights into property recovery after Hurricane Helene.

Panelists:

- Kimi McBurney**, Allied Inspector Services: Discussing water testing, its importance, and available resources.
- Greg Goosmann**, Attorney: Addressing legal issues like property lines, floodplains, and potential insurance claims.
- Don Hilderbrand**, PlumbSmart Plumbing

Don't miss this valuable opportunity to learn from industry experts and gain the knowledge you need to navigate the post-hurricane landscape.

Additional Information:

Free Water Testing: Land of the Sky Association of REALTORS is offering free water testing services for a limited number of attendees (LOTSAR members only) and will be done on a first come, first served basis while funds last. In addition, a number of water testing kits will be available for members and their clients.

Light refreshments will be served, courtesy of Everyday Gourmet.

When: December 11, 2024 @ 4pm - 5:00pm
Where: 21 Restaurant Ct, Asheville, NC 28805

REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/56w4nedj>

Land of the Sky Association of REALTORS®
21 Restaurant Court, Asheville, NC 28805 - Phone: (828) 255-8505



ISSUE

RURAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION

Some aspects of country life are simple. Others, like the convoluted water rights that must be negotiated in a number of western states, are anything but. Water rights, rights-of-way, property easements, and other issues particular to rural regions can complicate a real estate transaction to the point of liability risk to the agent and client, alike. To avoid these pitfalls, awareness and education are key. REALTOR® associations can promote understanding and learning through webinars, classes, and public awareness campaigns.

Building awareness among property owners and buyers also creates a powerful incentive to seek the services of an agent who is a REALTOR® when entering a real estate transaction. Members equipped with expertise in these complex issues will be ready to help clients with confidence and assurance.

SUCCESS STORY

Iron County Board of REALTORS® (Utah)

In the state of Utah, all water – even rainfall on private property – belongs to Utah. Water rights are appropriated by the state and designated as real property, which can be bought and sold separately from the land, and from homes, farms, and commercial entities. The laws governing water rights are highly complex, and the risks of misunderstanding them are extremely high; what's more, they come in to play in nearly every real estate transaction involving property that is not on a municipal water system. Last year, to help REALTORS® throughout Utah access the training they need, the Iron County Board of REALTORS® (ICBOR) secured a Rural Outreach grant from the REALTOR® Party to offer live CE classes online.

The course content was developed and presented by an ICBOR member who is also a paralegal, with a goal of helping agents protect themselves and their clients with a clear command of this specialized knowledge. Her highly readable 64-page manual on the subject includes a six-page Buyer's Due Diligence form to aid investigation of a given water right prior

to a transaction. Because of the legal complexities involved, it is possible for an uninformed agent to help a client close on a Utah home that is denied a water right months later. In another scenario, agents unfamiliar with the details of Utah's Ground Water Management Plans could find themselves helping clients buy a home whose water rights are scheduled for forfeiture in the future. In a state that contains some of the fastest growing areas in the country, the risk and liability can't be overstated.

With the Rural Outreach grant, ICBOR was able to offer "Utah Water Rights - The History, The Law, and What REALTORS® Need to Know" to real estate professionals in the remotest reaches of the state. It covered the costs for broadcasting the class live on ten different dates; in total, 144 attendees received three Core CE credits from the Utah Association of REALTORS®, as well as the manual, free of charge. ICBOR promoted the course to members and affiliates of all of Utah's local REALTOR® boards, and Utah-licensed participants joined from half-a-dozen other western states, as well.

UTAH WATER RIGHTS THE HISTORY, THE LAW, AND WHAT REALTORS® NEED TO KNOW

By: Linda Hahne



"It is so gratifying when people tell me how valuable the course has been. I firmly believe that Utah members can, with the right information and tools, manage these difficult transactions with confidence."

LINDA HAHNE, Utah Water Rights
Educator and ICBOR member



ISSUE

RURAL ADVOCACY, PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES

In regions endowed with an abundance of open space and natural beauty, it's especially important to approach growth and development from a preservation angle. Protecting the qualities that give an area its value means defending against questionable development, and the best defense is a good offense: being out in front advocating for responsible planning and zoning.

Agents who are REALTORS® bring a valuable perspective to the process of reviewing and updating local land use plans and ordinances. With their deep understanding of market trends and the priorities of both current and future property owners, they can serve as key partners in the process. Through their local boards, they also have access to the REALTOR® Party's Land Use Initiative program, which provides expert reviews and analysis of zoning legislation. These advantages also mean that members looking to take the next step are primed to get involved in local government through appointments to planning commissions or zoning boards, whose decisions have an outsized impact on their rural communities.

Note that this grant program is specific to the needs of rural communities; If you are addressing zoning issues for your downtown area or on zoning policy that is also applicable in urban areas, you may qualify for the REALTOR® Party's Smart Growth grant.

SUCCESS STORY

Lebanon County Association of REALTORS®

While Lebanon County, Pennsylvania is primed for growth, its regional leaders understand the need to preserve the abundance of beautiful farmland that gives the county its character. To nurture dialogue between neighboring municipalities about their rural planning processes, the local REALTOR® association convened an in-depth roundtable meeting of municipal managers and its own key REALTOR® leadership. A Rural Outreach grant supported the event – which was so successful, participants requested an annual repeat.

The intent was to focus on policy, as the county manages the effects of past growth and works on community development and resource protection moving forward, so the meeting was kept small: in addition to the city managers, the 25 participants also included the association's Board of Directors,

Legislative Committee, and a few top brokers. Together, they discussed affordable housing; infrastructure planning and development; historic and natural-space preservation; streamlining the development approval process; clearer zoning law and development regulation guidelines; and community engagement, including how members can help gather information from residents and businesses.

The grant covered the event's invitation mailers and breakfast, as well as printed copies of a hyper-specific REALTOR® Property Resource report given to each municipal manager. With NAR members right there in the room able to provide context for the reports, the city officials learned first-hand the value that agents who are REALTORS® can bring to the table, especially as they pursue their shared goals for responsible growth.





RESOURCES

COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESOURCES

The Rural Outreach grant is one of many grants and resources available to state and local REALTOR® associations from the National Association of REALTORS® Community Outreach team. The Community Outreach team is available to support your association in enhancing state and local leadership and collaboration on community development, Fair Housing, and advocacy issues.

Grants

Fair Housing: initiatives that strengthen member commitment to offering equal professional service to all and help NAR members understand fair housing history and why it's relevant today. [Grant Toolkit](#)

Housing Opportunity: initiatives that expand access to housing that is affordable. [Grant Toolkit](#)

Placemaking: projects that create new, outdoor public gathering spaces and destinations on unused or underused sites OR improvements to existing gathering spaces. [Grant Toolkit](#)

Smart Growth: advancing programs, policies, and initiatives aligned with one or more of the 10 Smart Growth Principles. [Grant Toolkit](#)



For additional advocacy resources from the National Association of REALTORS®, search for the REALTOR® Party Resource Guide on the REALTOR® Party website realtorparty.realtor.

Resources & Programs

Community Outreach webinars: a variety of webinars spotlighting grants and resources, including success stories

Community and Transportation Preference

Survey: biennial survey conducted by the National Association of REALTORS® to gain valuable information about consumer's preferences toward transportation, housing, and Smart Growth.

Growth Management Factbook: booklet of factual information and analyses concerning modern growth management on topics such as urban growth boundaries, housing moratoria, adequate public facilities, and more.

Land Use Initiative: free in-depth legislative analysis and talking points on proposed and introduced land use legislation and regulations that impact the transfer of real property.

On Common Ground: magazine published twice a year covering a wide range of Smart Growth issues to encourage dialogue between NAR members, elected officials, and other stakeholders.

State & Local Growth Polling Program: opportunity to conduct polling on growth-related issues in your area.

Transforming Neighborhoods: competitive application-based program in collaboration with Counselors of Real Estate® to provide onsite analysis, strategies, and actionable recommendations to solve a wide range of today's most pressing real estate challenges.



To meet with the Community Outreach team to discuss how your association can best leverage these resources, schedule a [Community Outreach planning session](#).

RURAL RESOURCES

REALTORS® Land Institute: affiliate organization of the National Association of REALTORS® for members specializing in land brokerage including farms, ranches, vineyards, recreational timberland, and more.

Housing Supply Accelerator Playbook: a resource designed to support communities in navigating their housing supply challenges and embracing solutions to create attainable housing options.

Main Street America: organization dedicated to reenergizing and strengthening older and historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts nationwide.

Smart Growth America: organization that empowers communities to advance Smart Growth principles through technical assistance, advocacy, and thought leadership to create livable places, healthy people, and shared prosperity.

AARP's Livable Communities Program: AARP's resources for local communities for local community development and advocacy.

USDA Rural Development programs: explore programs available from the US Department of Agriculture.

Testimonials

“

It is always good to engage with local government staff on issues affecting our area. The events put our association in a positive light and [are] building relationships with government staff. This will be important as the County embarks on their new Master Plan, is contemplating amendments to the subdivision regulations, and wetland protection ordinances and storm water management.”

JENNIFER FOUTCH, Association Executive Officer,
Baldwin REALTORS® (AL)

“

The Northwest Montana Association of REALTORS® is seen as a leader in [the rural zoning] arena and acknowledges the importance of the Rural Outreach grant. Without these funds, this whole venture would not have been possible, and our area could have been taken advantage of with its outdated zoning documents.”

ERICA WIRTALA, Public Affairs Director,
Northwest Montana Association of REALTORS®



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