



Stronger Economies Together (SET) in Colorado

Stronger Economies Together (SET) represents an exciting initiative launched in 2009 by USDA Rural Development in collaboration with the nation's Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) and their land-grant university partners. The purpose of SET is to strengthen the capacity of communities/ counties in rural America to work together in developing and implementing an economic development blueprint that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of their region.

Here are some of the important elements of the *Stronger Economies Together* program:

Phase I pilot efforts are in place in 23 multi-county regions located in nine states: Arkansas, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

SET is expanding to 11 new states in 2011 as part of Phase II – Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Washington.

State Partner Teams are bringing the talents and resources of key state and federal agencies, the Western Rural Development Center, land-grant university Extension programs, and other organizations together to provide training and technical assistance to each of the regional teams.

Thirty-five (35) hours of SET training will be delivered to each region, a process that is guiding the development of practical and viable regional economic development strategies. Much of this training involves actual hands-on work by the regional plan by team members.

Economic analyses will be tailored to help capture the region's current or emerging clusters and comparative economic advantages.

Technical assistance is provided to the regions over a period of several months upon completion of the SET training.

Experiences and insights will be shared among the regions and the State Partner Teams.

For additional information in Colorado please contact:

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