



The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Established by the Rural Development Act of 1972, the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers work in partnership with the LGU system to address crucial needs in our nation's rural communities. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) at Penn State serves the 12-state region from Maine to West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

How we work:

Leading Impactful Research

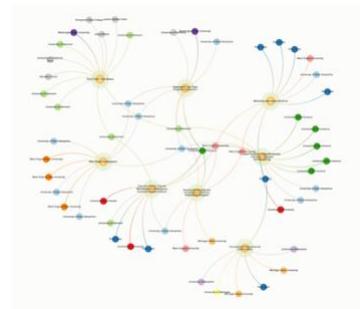
NERCRD's recent research has been used at the highest levels of the federal government; has been cited in groundbreaking studies on the economic mobility of Americans; and, has appeared in highly ranked general science or interdisciplinary journals. The Chairman of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisors described the Center's research as "critical to the completion of the 2019 *Economic Report of the President*. Through our robust research portfolio, we contribute to the science-base so that researchers and practitioners can better understand and address rural America's economic development problems. [Learn more about NERCRD's research achievements.](#)

Leveraging a Strong Connection to Federal Resources

The Rural Development Centers have a strong connection to federal resources, enabling us to network with other federal and private funding agencies and stakeholder organizations, and to connect them with the land-grant system. For example, in a single meeting in support of a national broadband initiative led by the Southern Center, we met with staff from 10 agencies and organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control, Department of Commerce, and Rural Development. Over the last decade, the NERCRD leveraged three dollars in additional extramural funding for each dollar of core funds received from NIFA. [See examples of our regional and national projects.](#)

Fostering Connections and Collaborations Across the Land-Grant System

NERCRD serves as a regional hub for our LGU partners, linking research and Extension faculty across state lines. By facilitating collaborative networks and partnerships, we enhance the capacity of the LGU system, so that its people can work more effectively to foster regional prosperity and rural development. For example, through our [small-grants program](#), we have created a strong knowledge-sharing network in the region, pictured at right. For an up-close, interactive look at this network, visit: <http://bit.ly/3oW2Aap>



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