

# Rural IMPACT

## Building Capacity for a Better Tomorrow

### Capacity Building Defined

Through support from federal agencies and private foundations, 10 Rural IMPACT demonstration sites are receiving intensive technical assistance to build their capacity to provide low-income parents and children the opportunity to succeed together. Technical assistance includes training, consultation with experts and facilitated peer-to-peer dialogue.

These sites are working to improve processes to be more efficient and family focused; identify local, state and federal resources to enhance a communities' approach to service delivery; provide training on trauma-informed practices; and offer integrated services to parents and children (two-generation approach) to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

**"The Rural IMPACT project will do a better job of educating people about the breadth of services, so that they can then mix and match and put together a formula that is specific to the family and specific to the community."**

– TOM VILSACK,  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture



## Capacity Building in Action

Capacity building is making a difference in how the Rural IMPACT sites deliver services and support families in their communities.

- ✓ It's about the capacity for us to serve our families as an agency. Making sure that our case managers are directing the families in the same way and that we're not unintentionally working against each other. We recently signed a data sharing agreement with the Department of Social Services so that we can view each other's client tracking systems to learn about what services and resources they're receiving from each of the agencies.  
– Allegany County, Maryland
- ✓ We were able to go and meet the other Rural IMPACT demonstration sites. We all talked about problems and struggles. We were able to hear what the sites did to get over hurdles and bring the ideas back to Arkansas. Some of the sites struggle with the same issues we do.  
– Mississippi County, Arkansas
- ✓ Technical assistance helped us to sharpen our messaging and tell our story.  
– Garrett County, Maryland
- ✓ We've tripled our list of partners. Everyone has been excited and interested in being involved in the process, supporting families and our community.  
– Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties, Oklahoma

**"We're going to learn how important that technical assistance and capacity building is. And that's going to help to inform how best to appropriate, to authorize and to direct resources in the future."**

– TOM VILSACK, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Value of Partnerships

Rural IMPACT is connecting organizations that offer housing, education, nutrition, human services and employment supports to coordinate services for parents and children. This two-generation approach is supported by a variety of private foundations and federal agencies that are collaborating to build capacity and leverage community strengths. Rural IMPACT is helping break the cycle of poverty by restructuring services to meet the needs of both parents and children.

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**Learn more and hear from Rural IMPACT sites  
and families, visit [www.bit.ly/rural-impact](http://www.bit.ly/rural-impact).**