



Key Integrated Research & Extension Activities of the SRDC

Bo Beaulieu, Director
ASRED/SAAESD Joint Spring Meeting
April 2011

Topics to be Covered



- The 2010 SRDC Annual Report
- The RIDGE Center for Targeted Studies
- Turning the Tide on Poverty
- Broadband Adoption
- The Stronger Economies Together (SET)

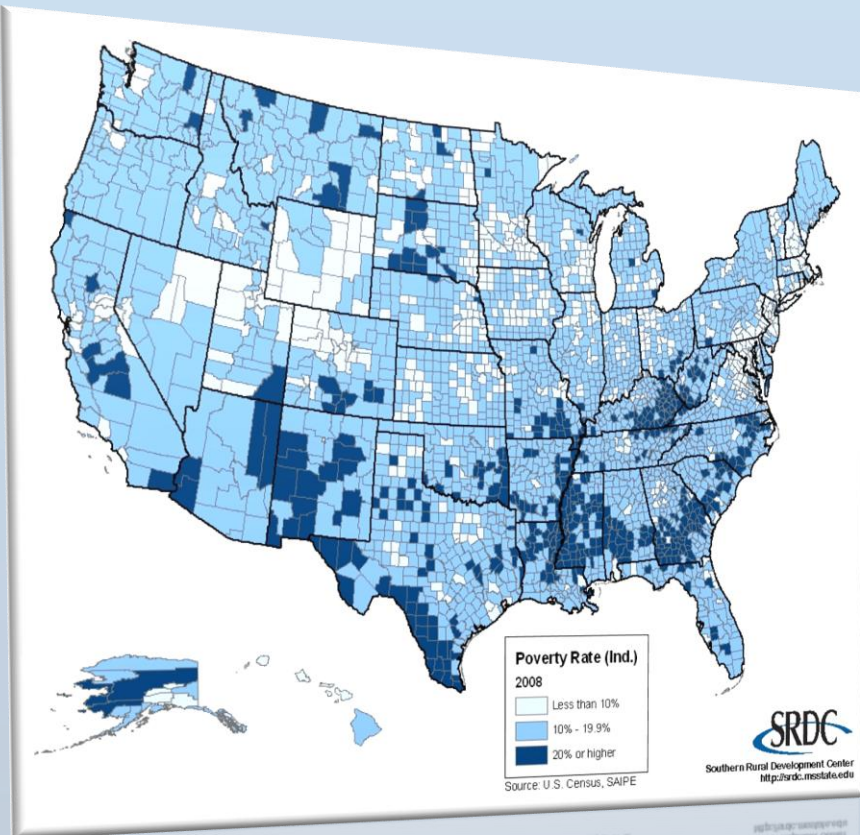


SRDC Annual Report Released



- Hard copy of report released in March
- Highlights the variety of activities undertaken
- Special attention given to new initiatives and new partners
- Record level of extramural funding secured in 2010

The RIDGE Center for Targeted Studies @ the SRDC



Explores the food and nutrition challenges of people and/or their communities in Rural America, including. . .

- Native Americans
- Immigrants
- Other racial/ethnic minorities
- Single parents
- Youth
- The persistently poor
- And others



The RIDGE Center for Targeted Studies @ the SRDC

Advancing Social Sciences-Based Research on
Food Assistance and Nutrition Challenges in Rural America

2011 Request for Proposals

Deadline Date: Postmarked by April 29, 2011

Background Information:

The purpose of the RIDGE (Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics) Center for Targeted Studies @ the SRDC is to invest in innovative social sciences-based research that explores the food and nutrition assistance challenges of residents (or their communities) in rural America, including key populations such as Native Americans, immigrants, other racial/ethnic minorities, single parents, youth, the persistently poor, and others. This document is intended to provide important guidelines regarding the grant submission process.

Maximum Grant Award Amount:

The maximum amount allowed for a RIDGE grant proposal is \$35,000. Applicants will be allowed to include a 10% indirect cost rate in their budget request. However, the total amount of the budget cannot exceed the \$35,000 level.

Take Part in One of Our Upcoming RIDGE Webinars

We encourage you to participate in one of the upcoming webinars being hosted by the RIDGE Center in March. The webinars will showcase this year's competitive grant program and respond to questions that potential applicants might have about the RIDGE program. The live webinars are scheduled on the following dates:

March 15th - 12 Noon CDT
March 23rd - 12 Noon CDT

Persons wishing to participate in the RIDGE webinar are encouraged to access the following website approximately 20-30 minutes prior to the start of the webinar to ensure that they are able to



The 2011 Regular RIDGE Center Competitive Grants Program

Six Priority Areas in 2011



- Child Nutrition Programs
- Food Security
- Household Economic Instability and Food Assistance Participation
- Food Choices: Socio-Economic Determinants and Consequences
- Food/Nutrition Assistance Program Use
- Place-Based Factors Affecting Food Access or Choices





2011

The RIDGE Center
for Targeted Studies @ the SRDC



Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Program

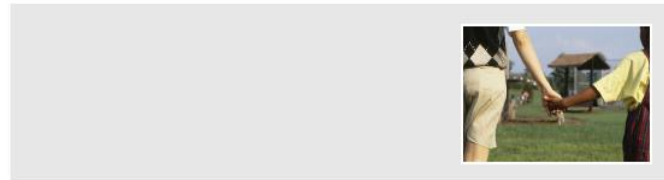
The Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Program

New RIDGE Program for 2011



- A new initiative launched as part of the 2011 RIDGE competitive grants program
- PhD students from accredited higher education institutions in the U.S. are eligible to apply (currently at the ABD stage)
- Research must be conducted in the U.S. – anywhere in the nation.
- At the end, grantees are required to submit a product that can be of value to practitioners and policy people

Turning the Tide on Poverty



Turning the Tide on Poverty: Creating Vibrant Communities Together



SRDC

Second edition

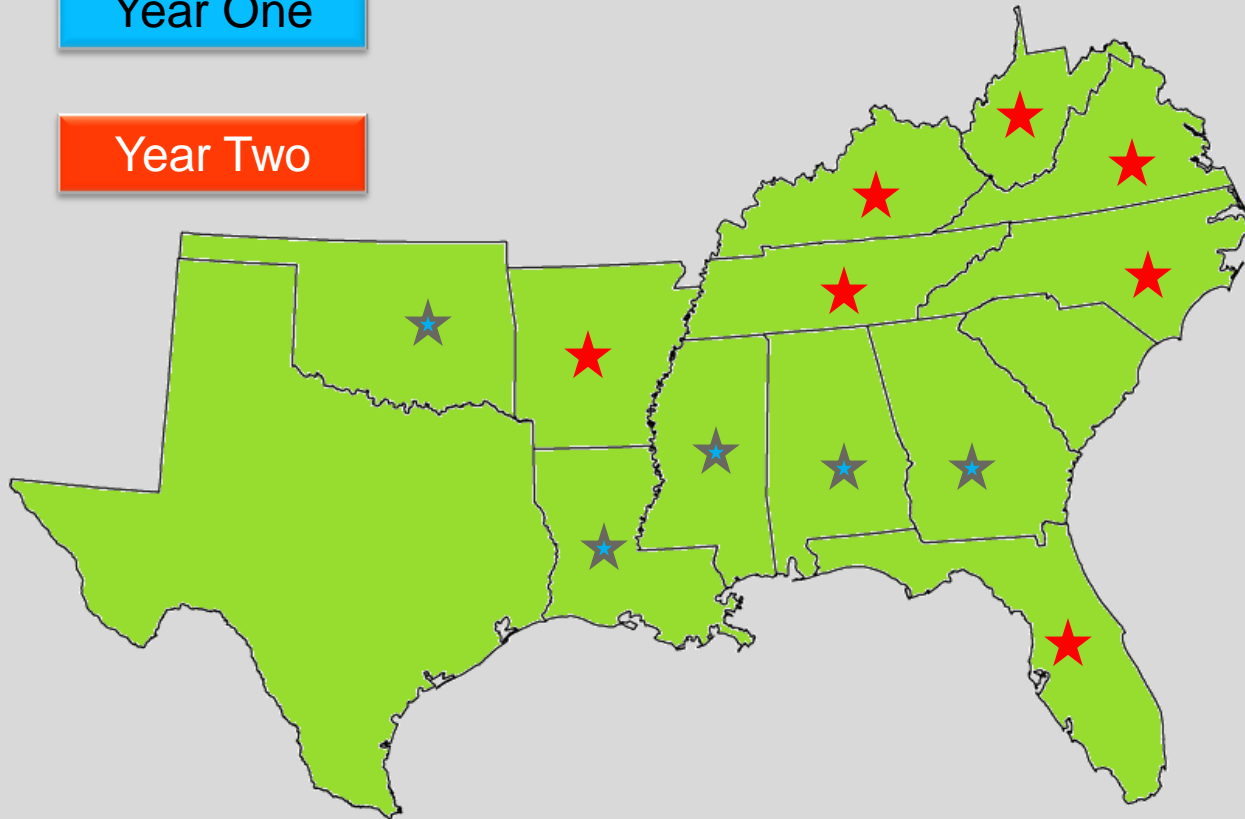
- Successful Phase I project launched in 2009-10
- Expansion of projects to new states in 2010-11
- **Extension:** Support from Farm Foundation and Everyday Democracy
- **Research:** Support from the Kettering Foundation

Tide State Teams



Year One

Year Two



Sample of Local Action Team Activities



| Location | Action Teams |
|--------------------|--|
| Tensas Parish (LA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity Fair• Farmer's Market/ Music Festival |
| Neshoba Co. (MS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Money Mentors Program• Community Resource Guide |
| Dallas Co. (AL) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Circles on Youth Violence• Community Beautification & Pride |
| Okfuskee Co. (OK) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Garden• Community Homecoming |



Research: a Key Part of the Tide Project



Local Citizens:

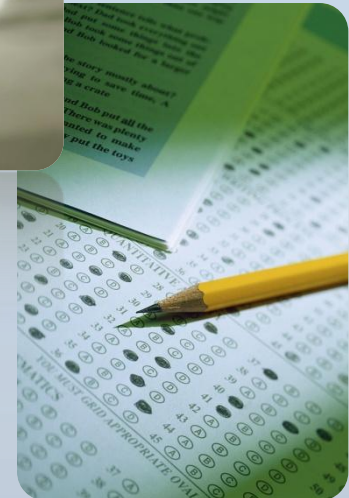
- Pre/Post Survey

Local Community:

- Key Informant Interviews
- Focus Groups

Extension System:

- Focus Group Sessions
(Extension Administrators & Program Leaders)
- Survey of Extension Educators
(Extension Agents on-the-ground)



Broadband Adoption

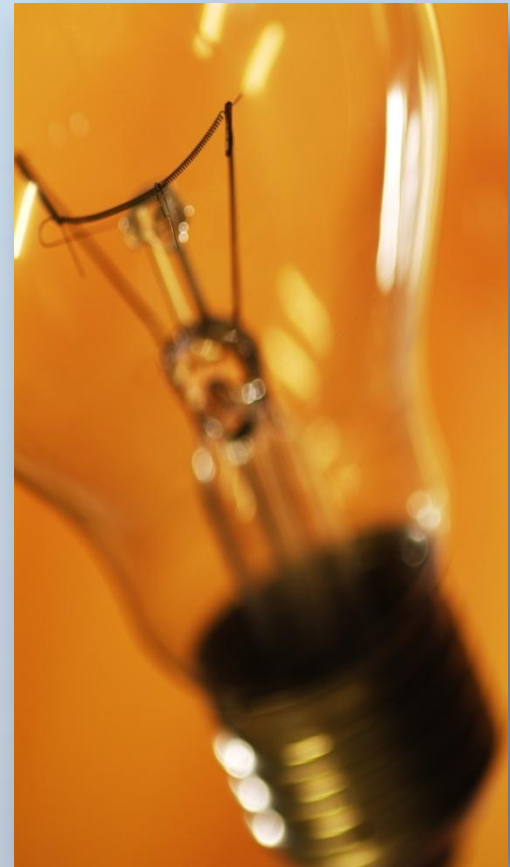


- Increased engagement of Extension in Broadband Adoption activities as part of the BTOP
- SRDC is working to create strong working ties among these and other states
- We've spearheaded the submission of an *AFRI* "seed funding" proposal in March 2011
- Team involved in proposal: 2 RRDCs, 5 LGUs, and ERS researchers. Team will expand if funded.
- Purpose: Develop and implement a common research plan for data collection across multiple states; share broadband/e-commerce educational resources with Extension teams

Stronger Economies Together



- SET is an exciting initiative launched in 2009 by USDA RD in partnership with the RRDCs and their LGU partners
- Its purpose is to strengthen the capacity of communities/counties in rural America to work together in developing and implementing (on a multi-county regional basis), an economic development blueprint that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of their region.

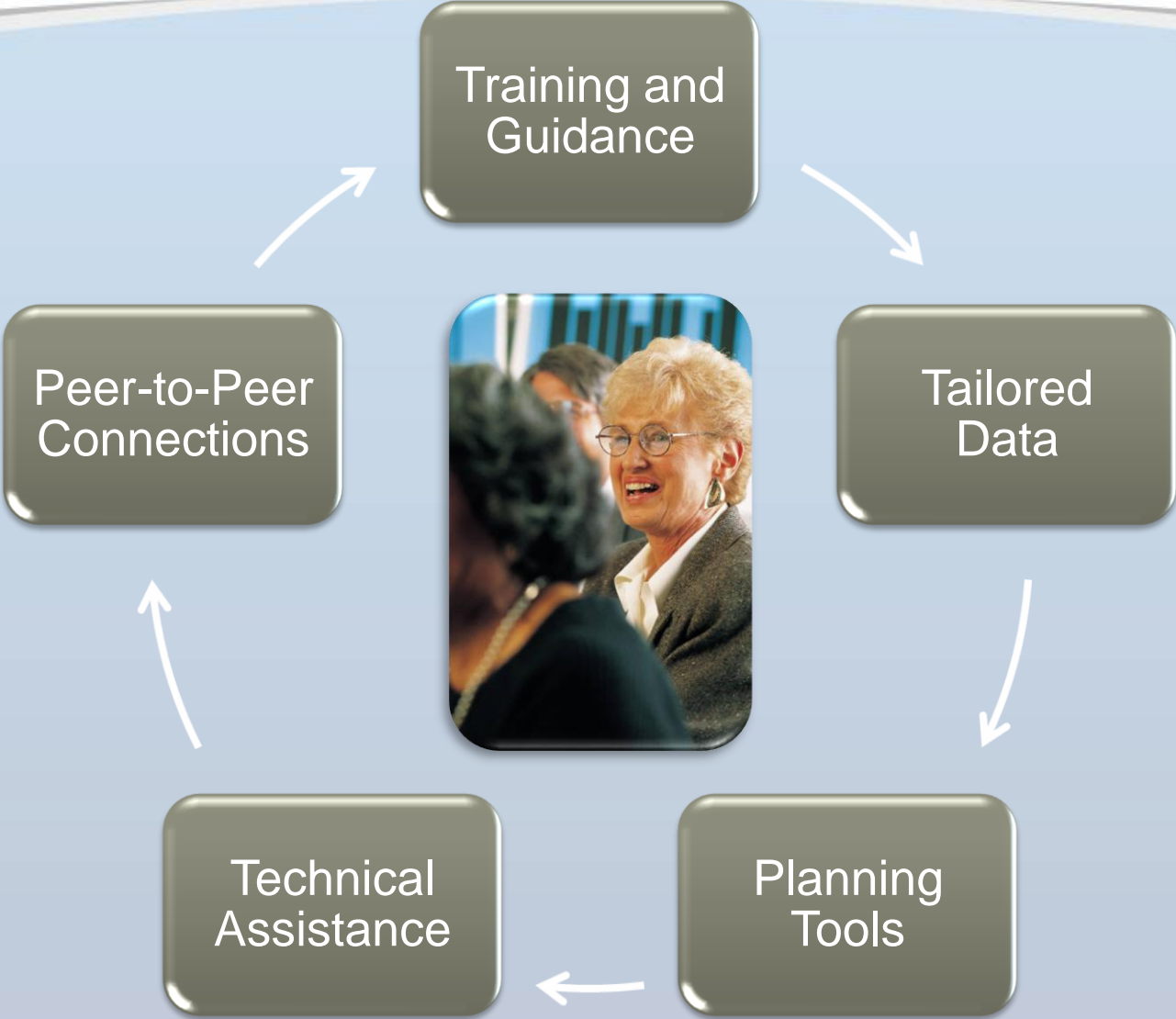


Why We Launched SET



- Increasing concern about the economic health of many rural areas in the U.S.
- USDA Secretary Vilsack's commented:
“I have reached the conclusion that we must overhaul our approach to economic development in Rural America. The framework of the new effort recognizes that the rural economy of tomorrow will be a regional economy. No one community will prosper in isolation.”

What SET Provides to Regional Teams



The Nine SET Training Modules



The Basics

Snapshot of SET

Regional Development 101

Gearing Up

Building a Strong Team

Your Vision and Goals

Examining Resources

Assets and Barriers

Current Demographic Features

Economic Foundation & Opportunities

Moving Into Action

Planning for Success

Measuring for Success

Phase I and II SET States



Phase I States

Phase II States

SET: A Genuine Partnership



- **Phase I:** \$350,000 investment by USDA RD
- **Phase II:** Additional \$1.7M investment by RD
- RRDCs and Extension have developed materials and taken the lead in the delivering of SET training to regional teams
- Strong evaluation research plan being carried out
- **What's ahead?**
 - Expansion of SET. All said, 65 regions/30 states will have been part of SET
 - Revision of SET materials taking place in May/June
 - New modules to be added (4-6 in all) this Summer

Thank You



SRDC