



Rural Partners Network

Advancing equitable rural prosperity through local job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement.

Julie Lassa, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Wisconsin
Adams County Board of Supervisors, March 21, 2023

Rural Partners Network: Building Stronger Futures Together



- A White House initiative launched by the Biden-Harris Administration in April 2022
- Led jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and The White House [Domestic Policy Council](#) (DPC)
- Transform the way federal agencies partner with rural areas to create economic opportunity

Rural Partners Network



Purpose:

Advance equitable rural prosperity through local job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement.

Rural Partners Network Strategies

✓ **Place-Based Support for Identified Communities**

- 3-4 staff per state, focused on all of government perspective
- Navigation, application and capacity building support
- Learning and feedback to federal partners

✓ **Broad Federal Agency Rural Commitment**

- Inter and intra-agency coordination on rural development
- Dedicated staff and better engagement with rural communities
- Rural focused website (rural.gov) for all federal resources and opportunities

Rural Partners Network: Interagency Partners

The White House



U.S. Department of Agriculture



Department of the Treasury



Department of Energy



Department of Education



Department of Veteran Affairs



Department of Interior



Department of Commerce



Department of Health and Human Services



Environmental Protection Agency



Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



Small Business Administration



Department of Housing and Urban Development



Department of Labor



Department of Transportation



Appalachian Regional Commission



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau



Social Security Administration



Southeast Crescent Regional Commission



Delta Regional Authority



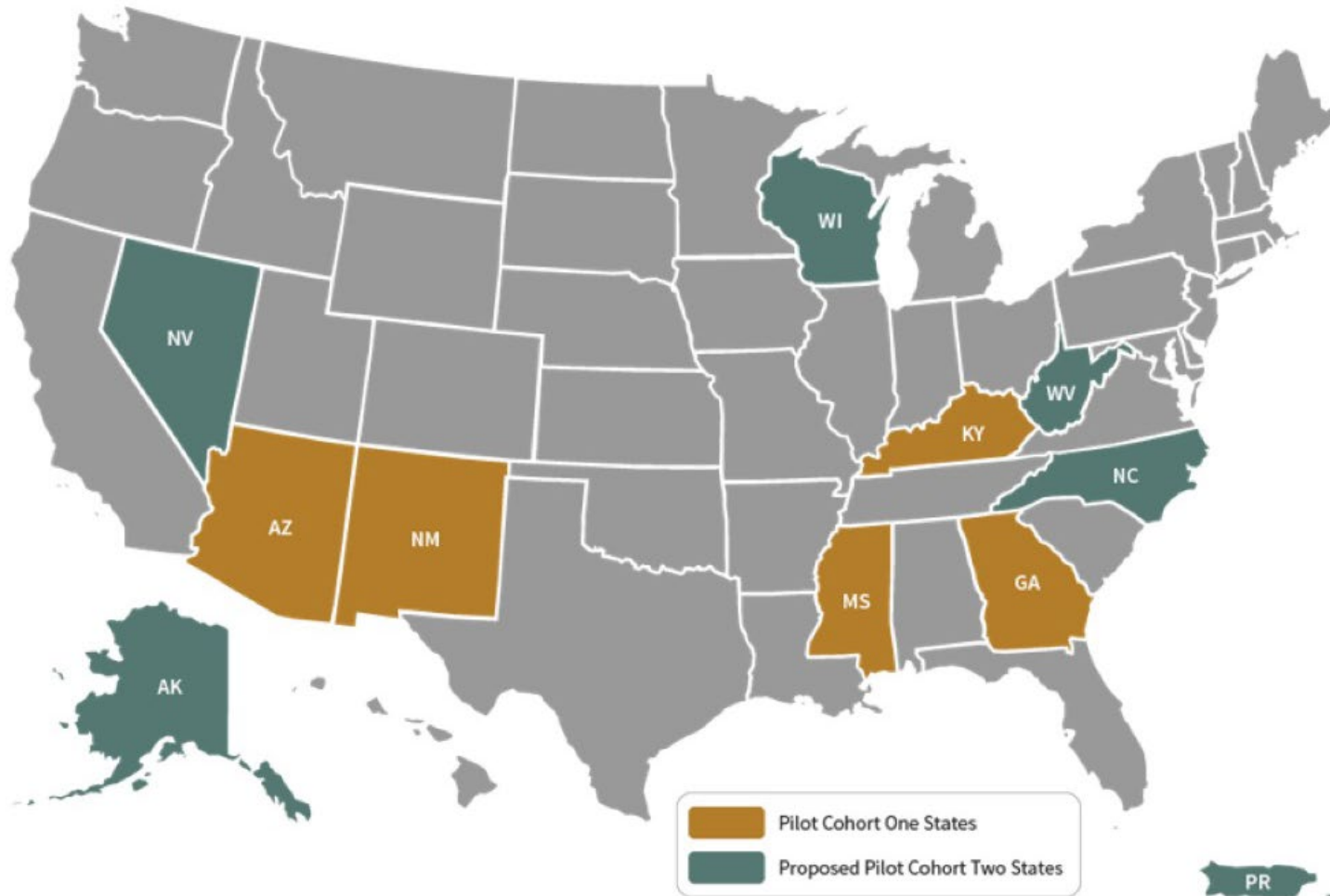
Denali Commission



Northern Border Regional Commission



Rural Partners Network



Cohort One States:
Georgia, Kentucky
New Mexico,
Mississippi and Three
Tribes in Arizona

**Cohort Two States
and Territory:**
Alaska, Nevada,
North Carolina,
Puerto Rico,
Wisconsin, and West
Virginia.

Expansion of Rural Partners Network to Wisconsin



USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and Ambassador Rice at Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE)



USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and Ambassador Rice at Crescent Meats in Cadott



Rural Partners Network (RPN) Wisconsin Community Networks

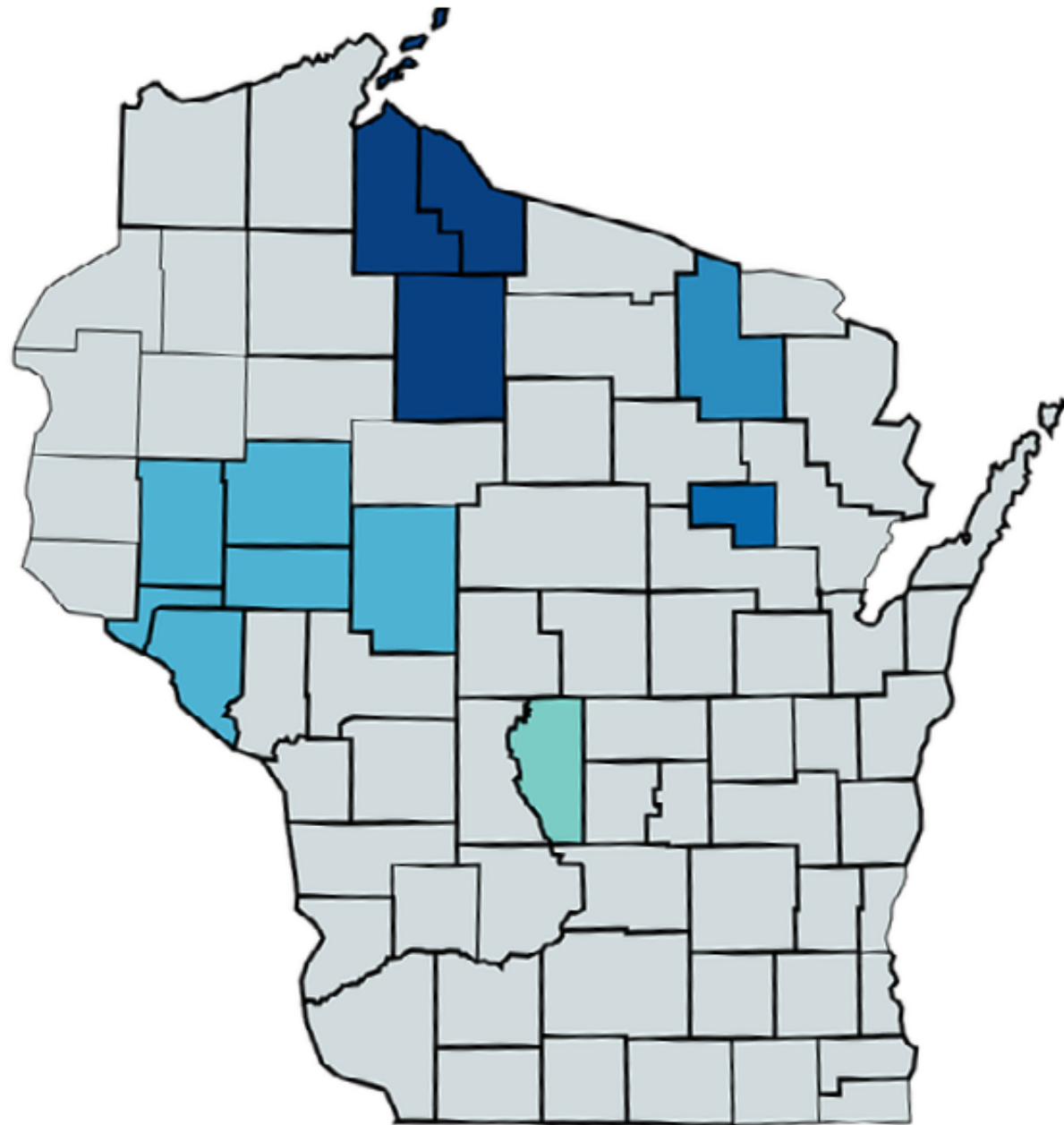
Adams County Visionary Community Network

Forest County Community Network

Greater Menominee Community Network
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and
Menominee County

Northern Wisconsin Community Network
Ashland, Iron and Price counties

Northwestern Wisconsin Community
Network Eau Claire, Dunn, Clark,
Buffalo, Pepin, and Chippewa counties



Community Liaisons and National and Regional Technical Assistance Providers

**Advocate for rural
community needs;
addressing barriers and
equitable access**

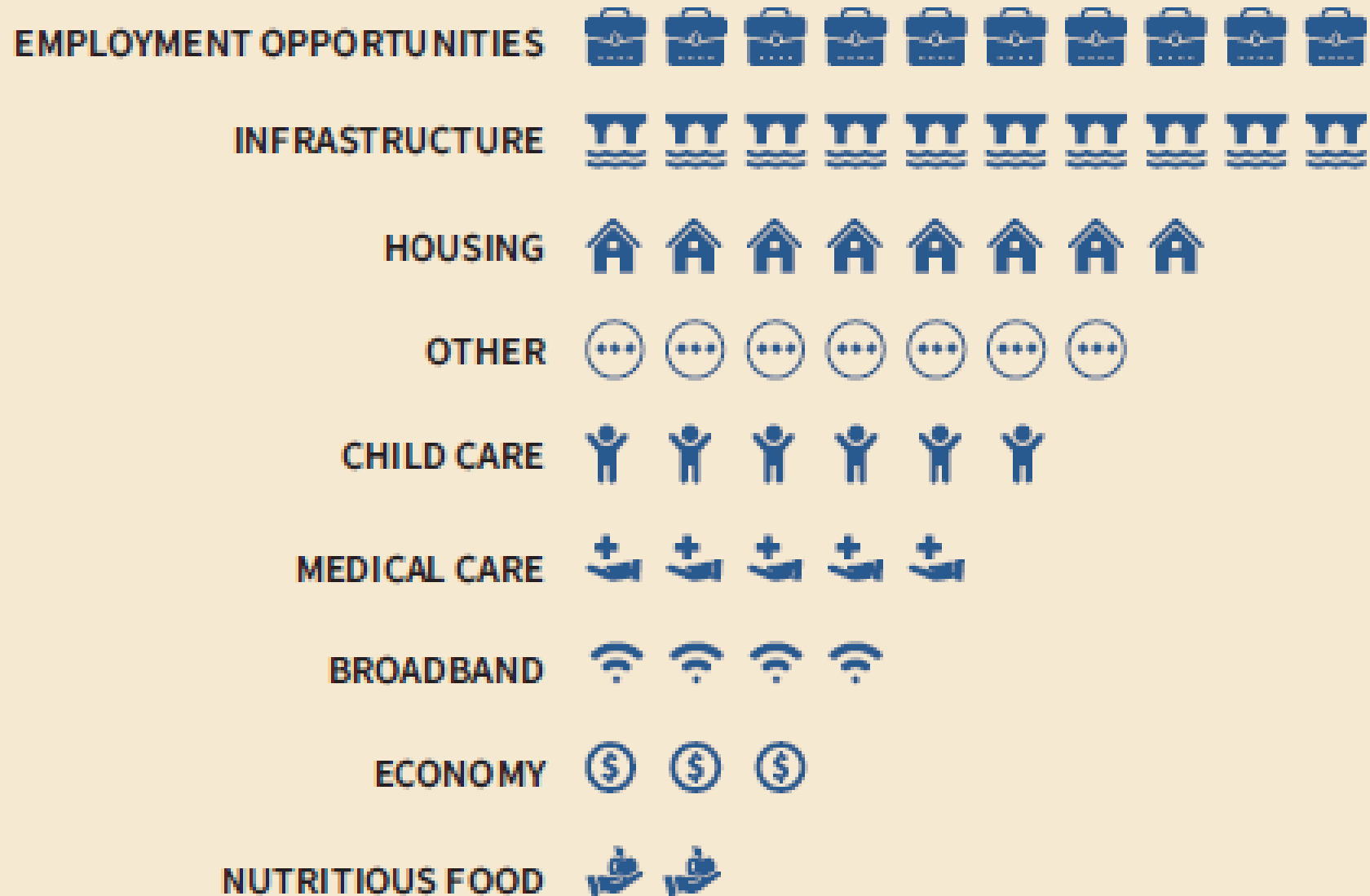


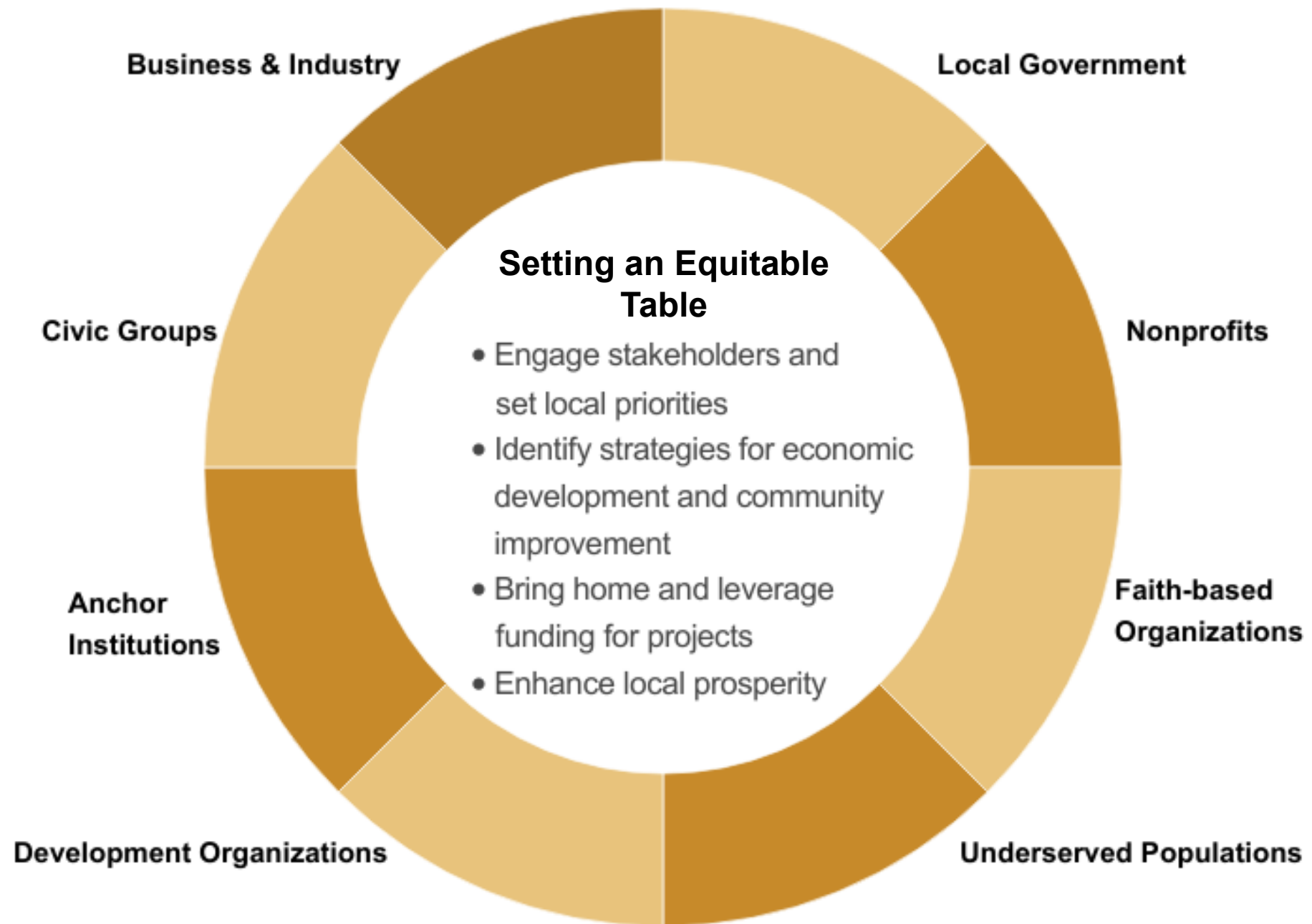
**Matchmaker between
community needs and
agency resources and
staff**

**Convene Partners:
Federal, Tribal, state, and
local governments, non-
profits, and other private
stakeholders**

**Provide technical
assistance and
capacity building
support**

TOP TRENDING AREAS OF INTEREST ACROSS ALL COMMUNITIES





Thank you

- Questions?
- Email: RuralPartnersNetwork@USDA.gov
- Website: Rural.gov
 - *Subscribe to receive the latest RPN updates on the website.*
- Twitter: @ruralgov
- Newsletter: [Rural Connections](#)



USDA Rural Development in Wisconsin:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/wi>

Sign up for GovDelivery:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/subscriber/new?qsp=USDARD_1

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