



ARIZONA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL A Voice for Rural Arizona

MISSION & PURPOSE

The mission of AZRDC is to give voice to the citizens of rural Arizona and improve their quality of life. AZRDC is Arizona's official, federally-recognized State Rural Development Council in the National Rural Development Partnership. AZRDC uses public-private partnerships to create and implement strategies that improve rural communities across Arizona. AZRDC enhances rather than duplicating available services by providing:

- A member-driven forum that links individuals, businesses, organizations and communities with public and private resources to maximize the potential of rural Arizona.
- A network of public and private sector partners who promote collaboration, innovation, diversity and community-based priorities in their work together
- A neutral forum for issue identification, dialogue and resolution; and decision-making by consensus
- A catalyst for collaboration among communities and organizations to preserve the rich heritage and unique physical, economic and social qualities of rural life in Arizona.
- A leadership organization that identifies opportunities and impediments for rural development and builds dynamic partnerships to act on them

Since inception in 2003, AZRDC's partnership achievements include:

- With SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization provided a full spectrum of housing counseling services for homebuyers.
- With Northern Arizona University reviewed community and economic development studies prepared for Rural Arizona from 2000-2004 to identify opportunities for regional economic development planning.
- With Arizona State University provided workshops for rural entrepreneurs on business basics for start-ups, including marketing, financial, technology and legal concerns.
- With Arizona Government Information Technology Agency, Arizona Department of Commerce and the United States Department of Agriculture conducted telecommunication resource assessments in 4 rural counties and 3 small towns.



NEW INITIATIVES

Community Development Home Town Competitiveness

- Adapted for Arizona a Nebraska model for community and economic development based on small business, youth development, leadership, and community philanthropy.
- Determined that the asset-based approach holds great promise for many of the deteriorating or slow growth communities in rural Arizona.
- Secured a \$30,000 and a \$20,000 grant from the Bank of America Foundation to develop and implement Arizona HomeTown Competitiveness.
- Implemented a pilot in Douglas and energized the communities of Willcox, Patagonia and Duncan. These communities are working on forming their committees and recruiting community members.
- Examining potential for a tribally appropriate AZHTC.
- Producing a Train the Trainers Academy to bring all partners together to learn about AZHTC and to create a directory of program resources for communities.

Public Policy

- Selected as the Advisory Board to the new Arizona Rural Policy Institute pioneered at Northern Arizona University.
- Initiating a Rural Policy Forum to bring rural leadership together around common issues
- One of 24 agencies chosen by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to participate in a new national initiative Rural People, Rural Policy.
- This five-year effort will create multi-state policy networks to improve the quality of life in rural America.
- In collaboration with the Arizona Community Foundation secured a multi-year \$100,000 grant to collaborate with other agencies in Arizona and New Mexico on building an effective Southwest Rural Policy Network.



Board of Directors

The AZRDC Board is comprised of seven partnership groups including federal, state, tribal, and local government; the private and non-profit sectors, and at-large community representatives.

FEDERAL

Ms. Debbie Broermann
Grants Management Director
HUD SW Office of Native American Programs

Mr. Eddie Browning, Chair
State Director
US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

STATE

Mr. Bill Bolin
Rural Development Director
Arizona Department of Commerce

Dr. Sheila Harris
Director
Arizona Department of Housing

LOCAL

Mr. Richard Adams
President, CEO
Bullhead Regional Economic Development Authority

Ms. Jane Bristol
Economic Development Director
City of Prescott

Mr. Sheldon Miller
Executive Director
Graham County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Mike Ortega
City Manager
Douglas, AZ

NON-PROFIT

Ms. Kerry Blume
President,
United Way of Northern Arizona

Ms. Carla Roberts
Vice President of Affiliates
Arizona Community Foundation

PRIVATE

Ms. Tracy Bame
Director, Community Affairs
Phelps Dodge

Mr. Marty Laurel
Vice President for Community Relations
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

Mr. Lee Randall
General Manager
Apache Gold Casino Resort

Mr. Charlie Thompson, Vice Chair
Manager, Rural Community Development
Arizona Public Service

TRIBAL

Mr. Royce M. Jenkins
Director, Office of Community Planning & Economic Development
The Hopi Tribe

Mr. Derrick Watchman
Vice President Native American Banking
JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

AT-LARGE

Mr. Dave Castillo
Senior Deputy Director
Fannie Mae Arizona Business Center

Ms. Cathy Connolly
Retired Community Leader

Ms. Shawn Dralle
Managing Director
RBC Capital Markets

Mr. Wayne Fox, Treasurer
Assistant Dean – College of Business Administration
Northern Arizona University

Mr. Michael Proctor, J.D.
Assistant Dean
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
University of Arizona

COGs: Advisory

Mr. Rich Gaar
Executive Director
South Eastern Arizona Government Organization (SEAGO)

Mr. Richard Kuczek
Director
Western Arizona Economic Development District (WAEDD)

Mr. Craig Ringer
Deputy Director
Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG)

Mr. Ken Sweet
Executive Director
Northern Arizona Council of Governments

Staff

Ms. Pat Schroeder, CED
Executive Director, AZRDC