

Southeast Rural Philanthropy Days Host Community Selection Process and Criteria

Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conferences provide powerful opportunities for nonprofit professionals to meet directly with statewide funders, participate in professional development, and network with other community leaders across the region. RPD is a part of the Rural Action Network (RAN), a statewide program from Community Resource Center (CRC) which builds nonprofit capacity, fosters relationships, and regional collaboration which leads to increased grant dollars awarded to rural communities.

The RPD conference is scheduled to return to Southeast in September 2023. The region includes Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers counties. This unique conference provides a forum for quality professional development opportunities close to home as well as networking with other community leaders in the region and relationship building opportunities with statewide funders. RPD not only creates the space to educate each other on regional needs but also work towards collaboratively addressing community-wide issues in the region.

CRC is seeking proposals from communities interested in hosting this dynamic event. We have seen successful proposals from individual towns, as well as across multiple communities in a county.

Benefits of Hosting:

- ✓ Host community is spotlighted to funders, regional nonprofits, press, and government leaders
- ✓ Excellent opportunity to highlight the needs of the host community
- ✓ Host community typically has larger representation at the RPD event, and opportunity to draw attention to innovations, initiatives, and developments in the community
- ✓ Boosts local economy
- ✓ Presents an opportunity to assert the value of the nonprofit sector in host community
- ✓ Reinforces collaboration between nonprofits and the host community

Requirements of Hosting:

- ✓ Facilities that are ADA accessible and can accommodate 300 people for:
 - Formal and informal reception space (seated dinners)
 - Plenary sessions (all conference registrants + presenters and guests)
 - Break-out groups (5-8 small breakouts + 2-3 large sessions)
- ✓ A range of lodging options that can accommodate 200+ people
- ✓ Community Availability
 - From September 12 - 14, 13 - 15, 19 - 21, or 20 - 22. Final conference dates will be determined in conjunction with program stakeholders and the selected host community
 - Lack of other major events in the community in September 2023 which would impact availability of venues, lodging, or event volunteers
- ✓ Host Community Support
 - Engagement of political and business leadership and a willingness to be involved in the event, e.g. Steering Committee and event participation, financial support
 - Identified nonprofit and philanthropic community support and commitment, including names & organizations
 - Specific fundraising prospects
 - Support CRC with outreach for local event coordinator candidates with the appropriate skill set
 - A willingness of community members to undertake regional outreach to engage nonprofits, funders and government officials
- ✓ Willingness and ability to showcase the region's heritage and diversity. Examples include: cultural diversity, music, arts, entertainment, unique history, agricultural heritage, and key regional initiatives/projects

Regional History:

- ✓ Preference is given to communities who have not previously hosted a Rural Philanthropy Days conference, or have not done so in recent history. Previous host communities include:

2018: Lamar, Prowers County

2010: La Junta, Otero County

2014: Trinidad, Las Animas County

2006: La Junta, Otero County

Application Process:

Intent to Host: Please submit a one-page letter outlining your interest in serving as the RPD host community by **September 30th, 2022** to Natalie Georgalas at georgalas@crcamerica.org. We encourage you to communicate with us before the deadline if you're interested and/or have any questions about the commitment or process. Your letter should include the following:

- ✓ How the community will meet the requirements of hosting RPD, as outlined above.
- ✓ Who in your community is "on board" and committed to hosting RPD? Please also indicate those that will serve as members of the Steering Committee.
 - Which specific individuals in your community have agreed to step into a leadership position if asked in planning this conference? (Traditionally a Steering Committee co-chair is from the host community.)
 - Please list any commitments you have secured from the local government or community leaders to participate.
- ✓ The features of your community that you are excited to showcase while hosting this conference.
- ✓ Which set of proposed conference dates work best for your community? Are there any listed which will not work?

Host Community Interview: Each community that submits an Intent to Host letter will be asked to have a phone interview with Community Resource Center between October 5th - 21st.

Final Selection: The 2023 Southeast Rural Philanthropy Days host community to be selected by October 31st, 2022. All applicants will be alerted in writing of the final community selection.

Community Tour: After the 2023 Southeast Rural Philanthropy Days host community has been selected, the nominating members of the host community are asked to organize a brief community visit with CRC to visit some of the facilities mentioned in the proposal, and address any additional follow up questions.