

# Economic Vitality Summits

Led by Rural Development Initiatives



## Program Summary

RDI develops leaders, strengthens organizations and activates collaborative networks to enhance economic vitality in rural communities.

Rural community leaders have shown they are interested in making good things happen especially in difficult economic times. Economic Vitality Summits (EV Summits) focus on empowering Oregon's rural communities, convening participants around economic development topics of interest, and moving participants toward action to create thriving towns.

These EV Summits generate exciting strategies designed to create dialogue around what is happening locally and provide methods for boosting regional economic vitality. The goal is to increase the vitality of a region by sharing resources, bringing community stakeholders together, and generating new ideas to invigorate rural communities.

Summit topics are selected by each community based upon input from a planning team comprised of local leaders and economic development professionals. Rural Development Initiatives' staff and The Ford Family Foundation work with the planning team to bring the event to fruition.

## Recent Summit Topic Examples

**Buying Local and the Multiplier Effect:** Supporting local business expands our economic future. Buying local products at locally-owned businesses keeps money circulating closer to where you spend it and keeps the needed businesses and services thriving.

**Capitalizing on Tourism:** Interested in developing a thriving tourism economy? Promote existing assets, attract visitors to spend money locally, and connect different facets of your community to provide a better visitor experience.

**Downtown Development:** Reevaluate your region's approach to main street revitalization, learn how to create a sustainable downtown, learn about the Main Street Approach, and bring life back into the heart of your community.

**The Basics to Building Economic Prosperity:** Bring your community together to discuss the current state of the region, review economic vitality opportunities, and evaluate the community's best potential industries to develop for long-term success.

## Contact Us!

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## Fast Facts

- Eleven EV Summits have been delivered since 2010.
- EV Summit Communities: Klamath Falls, Pendleton, Coos Bay, Silverton, Siskiyou County, Western Treasure Valley, La Pine, Klamath Basin, Northeast Oregon, North Santiam, and Sisters Country.
- Would you like to help bring an EV Summit to your community? Please contact us or visit our website for an Interest Form at: [rdiinc.org/economic\\_vitality\\_summits](http://rdiinc.org/economic_vitality_summits)



*Economic Vitality Summits are delivered in partnership with The Ford Family Foundation.*