



NW Rural
Investment Strategy



Catalyzing Collective Change

IACC – October 22, 2024



Across rural areas in Washington and Oregon, we hear the same concerns.

**Water/
Wastewater**

Housing

**Emergency
Community
Centers**

**Food
Systems**

Broadband

Child Care

Common issues in communities with similar, but also unique, circumstances

**They also
share
some
common
barriers.**

- **Lack of Human Capacity**
- **Lack of Financial Capacity**
- **Language and Cultural Barriers**

The Issue

- **We need to increase access and opportunities for rural communities**

Our Approach

- Core group
- Technical assistance and capacity building
- Access to capital
- Underserved rural communities
- No wrong door

Community Collaboration Levels



Level 1: Comprehensive

Level 2: Specialized



Level 3: Individual

A coordinated approach involving communities, governments, nonprofits, and private entities

Core

Affiliated

Regional

Stakeholders

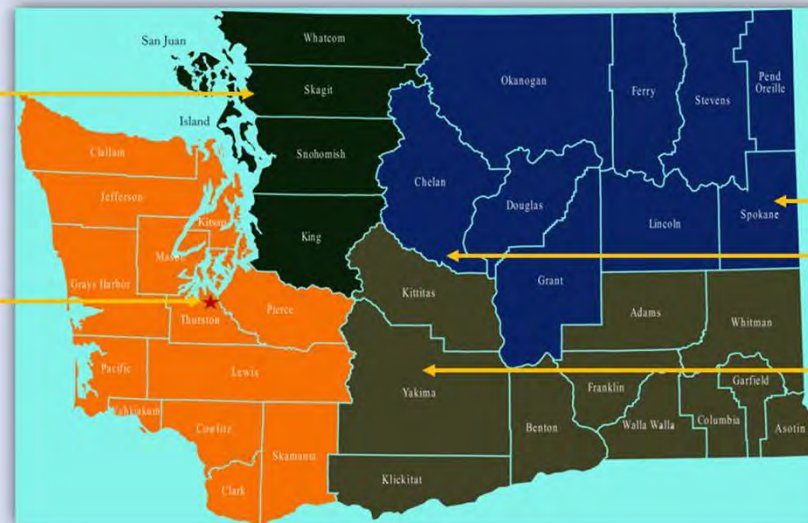
WA USDA
Rural
Development
has five
regional
offices

Rural Development Offices in Washington State

West Side

*Mount Vernon
Area Office*

*Olympia State &
Area Offices*



East Side

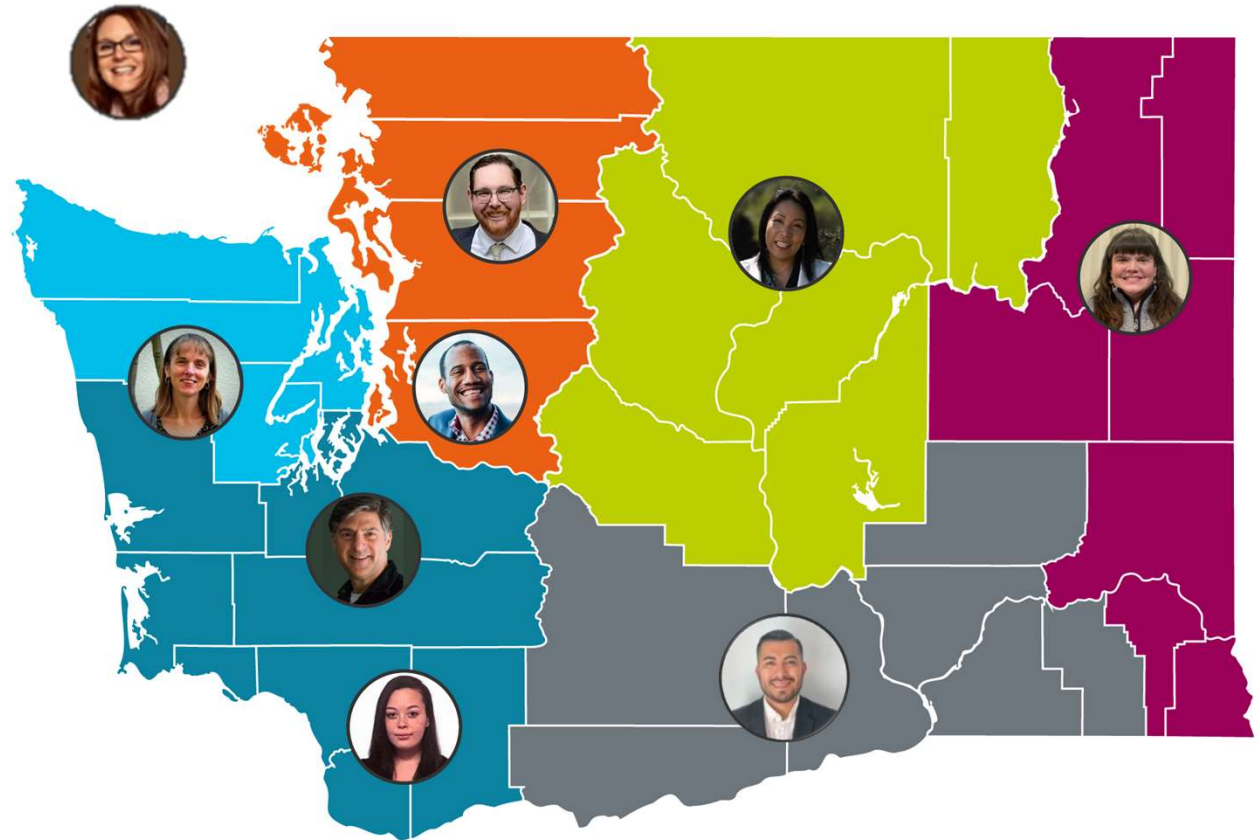
Spokane Office

*Wenatchee Area
Office*

Yakima Area Office

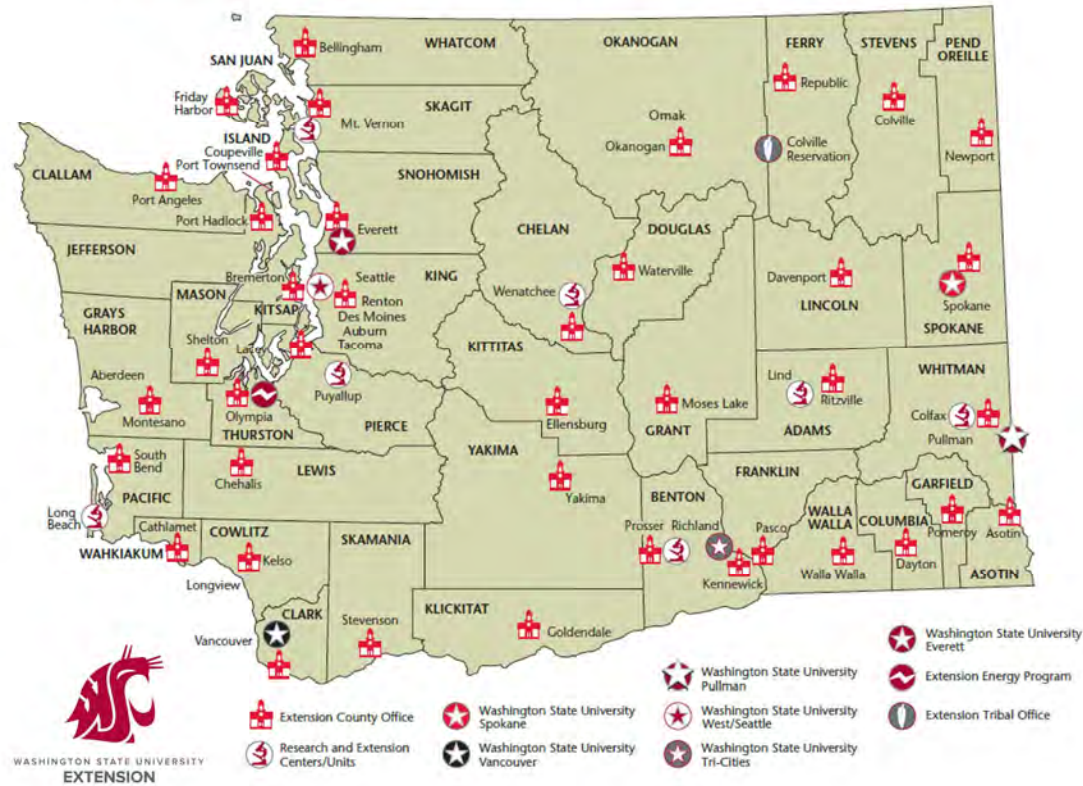
We help
connect
communities
to Commerce
and navigate
resources

Commerce Regional Community Engagement Unit



WSU Extension is a natural partner given its long-established Extension offices in every county, focus on rural development, and association with the state's land-grant university.

Washington State University



PRWA is currently focused on eastern Washington as it has the greatest concentration of small rural communities. Through NWRIS, it will be expanding services statewide by early 2026.



OUR PROGRESS



**NWRIS and WA
core partners**



**Initial
funding**



**Networking
events**



**Proposed structure
and staff
management**



CIC portal

How philanthropy can help

- Operational funding to **expand statewide**
- Establishment of a **Working Capital** Recoverable Grant Fund
- Establishment of a **Matching Capital** Fund

Be a
rebel,
take the
survey!

Please 😊



“This is interesting, 70% of the respondents to our survey said they don't respond to surveys.”

Department of Commerce

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Visit us www.Commerce.wa.gov

Unit webpage: www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/community-engagement/

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Questions?

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