

Center for Rural Strategies, Inc.

Total Award: \$50,000 over 1 year

(Whitesburg, KY)

Cultural Development of a Rural Communications Infrastructure

To support the development of a plan to design and implement a rural communications infrastructure that will frame an inclusive debate about the future of rural America. The Center for Rural Strategies is committed to building an organization that reflects the diverse composition of rural America and American society. The Center will bring together a range of participants to explore how advocates for community change might establish a communications system to facilitate information exchange, collaboration and outreach to broad, mainstream audiences. Inasmuch as cultural strategies are integral to the design and implementation of the proposed communications system, the Center will consult with a diverse range of artists and cultural leaders to assist them in bridging the gaps among rural constituencies and between rural and inner-city communities. The Center will engage in a process that includes; bringing together a range of practitioners from diverse communities, mapping the current flow of civic information in rural America, creating an inventory of currently produced content on rural topics, examining models for aggregating content across diverse networks and audiences, and creating a strategic plan for building and sustaining the communications system.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$20,000 Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 3*

\$30,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice Program: *Objectives I & II*