HUD Sustainable Communities Capacity Building: 
Rural Areas, Small Towns, and Tribes

The NADO Research Foundation crafts research, information, and training programs that promote regional strategies to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life across America’s local communities, with an emphasis on rural and small metropolitan America.

Primary activities:

- Web-based trainings
- Workshops
- Case studies, model documents, and reports
- Peer-to-peer mentoring and resource sharing
- Performance measurement and metrics management

Scheduled events for 2012:

- Webinar: Rural Coalition Building: Lessons Learned from the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grantees. Thursday, February 23, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST. To register: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/758996458

- Three two-day, small group workshops on specific topics:
  1. Rural Institute. Topics covered will include rural coalition building, grant management, messaging and public relations, rural equitable development, resource management and other related topics.
     - Dates: April 26-27
     - Location: Burlington, Vermont
  2. Tribes and Sustainable Development Workshop. Designed to address the unique needs and opportunities of tribes undertaking sustainable development initiatives. Water infrastructure planning as it relates to tribes will also be addressed. To be followed up with a web-based training later in the summer.
     - Dates: June 21-22
     - Location: Denver or Albuquerque
  3. Working with Local Elected Officials in Rural Settings. Focused on the role of local elected officials in the planning and implementation of sustainable development initiatives in rural and small town settings. Training sessions will address message development and tools, and integrating local, federal, and state resources into plan implementation. Grantees will be encouraged to bring local officials to this event. To be followed up with a web-based training later in the fall.
     - Dates: September 13-14
     - Location: Chicago

Team: NADO Research Foundation www.NADO.org (Lead) 
   National Association of Counties www.NACo.org 
   International City/County Management Association www.ICMA.org 
   Rural Policy Research Institute www.RUPRI.org

Contact: Kathy Nothstine, knothstine@nado.org, 202.624.5256

Capacity building support to rural and tribal grantees is also being provided by a team led by Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP).

As the MHP team includes Housing Assistance Council and the network of Rural Community Assistance Corporations, and has offices located in many states, their primary role is to provide direct one-on-one assistance.

The MHP team can provide support in technical subject areas (e.g., affordable housing) or in more general areas such as community organizing. There is limited availability for this type of assistance so contact your GTR to discuss whether you would qualify.

Contact: Chip Halbach, chalbach@mhponline.org, 651.925.5547