



2025 Breakout Sessions

Grassroots Mentorship & Apprenticeship

Organized by Chris Harris, Patterson Family Foundation & Sara Powell, Hannah Grimes Center

Every sector could use more young talent. Learn about mentorship and apprenticeship models that get creative with workforce development, essential skill preservation, and regional resilience.

[#Arts&Culture](#)

[#CommunityJournalism](#)

[#Economy](#)

[#Education](#)

[#Entrepreneurship](#)

Sharing Bonanza

Organized by Julianna Dodson, Hannah Grimes Center

There are so many ways we can share. Explore the who, what, and how of models like the commons, shared infrastructure (like shared commercial kitchens and coworking spaces), mutual aid efforts, shared housing, fiscal sponsorship, and more.

[#Economy](#)

[#MainStreet](#)

Staying Together: Creating Strong Ties Through Ritual

Organized by Taneum Fotheringill, Rural Assembly & Ash Hanson, Dept. of Public Transformation

Strong community culture is key to our surviving the future. Learn how to build rituals that create shared experiences, ground us, and pull us out of our daily rhythms to create meaning and improve our work.

[#AllinforHealth](#)

[#Arts&Culture](#)

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Compact Settlements

Organized by Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission

Explore intentional land use practices that strengthen our economy, ecology, and society. We will touch on examples that support strong cultural and social ties and prevent or floods from flowing through communities.

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Disaster Planning & Recovery

Organizer TBD

We all play a role in keeping our communities safe. This session will explore the ways that journalists, public health officials, and more can help prepare and support their rural communities before, during, and after disasters.

#AllinforHealth

#CleanEnergy

#CommunityJournalism

#Land&Community

#MainStreet

Civic Participation

Organized by Emily Lytle, Reynolds Journalism Institute & Jack Rooney, The Keene Sentinel

What does civic health look like in your community? Learn ways to amplify civic engagement in rural communities and measure the impact of your initiatives.

#CommunityJournalism

#Education

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Arts as a Catalyst for Collective Action

Organized by Geoff Kershner, Academy Center for the Arts

"Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it." Learn how the arts be utilized to propel your community forward in turbulent times.

#AllinforHealth

#Arts&Culture

#Economy

Mending the Arc

Organized by Alexis Flanagan & Ed Heisler, Resonance Network

Practice radical imagination and storytelling to connect our past and future with our present. Facilitators will help you envision the rural future you'd like to see and develop action steps to make it a reality.

#Arts&Culture

#Economy

Regenerative Tourism

Organized by McLain Saba, Mutual Travel

Many of us know and love outdoor recreation economies, but it is also important to explore the unintended negative impacts of these economies. We'll look at some communities that seem to be getting it right.

#Economy

#Entrepreneurship

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Rural Literacy

Organized by Amy McCleese Nichols, Berea College

What would it be like if you could visualize how all of the partners in your community work together? We'll explore how literacy and relationship mapping can strengthen collective communication skill-building.

#Education

Trauma Informed Community Care

Organized by Anena Hansen, Monadnock Family Services

What would happen if an entire community was trauma-informed? Could it reduce interpersonal violence rates, substance use, and mental health conditions? Join us to learn more trauma-informed rural communities.

#AllinforHealth

Local Investment Funds for Thriving Rural Communities

Organized by Katia Knight, Hannah Grimes Center

Join us to discuss the hows and whys of setting up local investment funds. Successful models with showcase just how powerful these funds can be for rural economies and communities.

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Measuring Community & Economic Wellbeing

Organized by Nicole Civita, otherWise

An economy should be designed to serve people and planet, not the other way around. Knowing "we manage what we measure," learn what measurement goals we can all be using to ensure we are taking a holistic view of community and economic wellbeing.

#Economy

Open Workshop Time

Organized by Bill Whyte, W.S. Badger Co.

Do you have a specific topic or issue you'd like to raise to a group of rural peers? Join us for this open workshop time!

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