I. General Research/Policy Advocacy on Rural Issues

**Rural Families Data Center**  [http://www.prb.org/rfdcenter/]
The Rural Families Data Center is a source of data on families and communities in rural America, designed to serve community leaders, policymakers, educators, journalists, grant makers, and the general public. Our goal is to raise awareness of trends in the well-being of families in rural areas and to contribute to informed discussion of policy at the national, state, and local levels.

The Economic Research Service is a primary source of economic information and research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With 450 employees, ERS conducts a research program to inform public and private decision making on economic and policy issues involving food, farming, natural resources, and rural development.

The Rural Information Center provides services for rural communities, local officials, organizations, businesses and rural citizens working to maintain the vitality of America’s rural areas.

**Carsey Institute - Center for Rural families and Communities**  [http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/Investingrural.html]
The Carsey Institute studies trends affecting rural areas and small towns, as well as immigration and small cities. The Carsey Institute provides information and analysis on these issues in the United States.

**Rural Policy Research Institute**  [http://www.rupri.org/default.asp]
The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) conducts policy-relevant research and facilitates public dialogue to assist policymakers in understanding the rural impacts of public policies and programs. Many policies which are not explicitly "rural policies" nevertheless have substantial implications for rural areas, and RUPRI is dedicated to understanding and articulating these implications.

**Stand Up for Rural America**  [www.ruralamerica.org]
Stand Up for Rural America began in 1998. It is a national coalition initiative dedicated to helping rural community developers gain the attention, resources and policy support their work deserves.

**Council of State Community Development Agencies**  [http://www.coscda.org/]
COSCDA is the premier national association advocating and enhancing the leadership role of states in community development through innovative policy development and implementation, customer-driven technical assistance, education, and collaborative efforts.
National Council of State Housing Agencies  http://www.ncsha.org/
The nation’s state Housing Finance Agencies (HFAs) created the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) as a nonprofit organization more than 30 years ago to coordinate and leverage their federal advocacy efforts for affordable housing. NCSHA represents its members in Washington before Congress, the Administration, and several federal agencies concerned with housing, including HUD and the Treasury, and with other advocates for affordable housing.

Congressional Rural Caucus  http://www.house.gov/johnpeterson/ruralcaucus/about.htm
The Congressional Rural Caucus (CRC) is a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress committed to strengthening and revitalizing rural communities across America. The mission of the CRC is: to promote policies that will foster sustained economic growth in rural communities; ensure access to quality, affordable health care in rural areas; improve education and workforce training opportunities in rural America; promote responsible use of public lands and natural resources; and modernize the rural telecommunications infrastructure.

National Center for Frontier Communities  http://www.frontierus.org/index.htm
The National Center for Frontier Communities is the only national organization dedicated to the smallest and most geographically isolated communities in the United States - the Frontier. The Center conducts research, provides education, and offers leadership on issues of importance to frontier communities.

National Rural Network  www.nationalruralnetwork.org
The mission of National Rural Network (NRN) is to create awareness and understanding of those public policies which enhance the viability of Rural America.

Center for Rural Affairs  http://www.cfra.org/
The Center for Rural Affairs, a private nonprofit, is working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities.

Rural Sociological Society  http://www.ruralsociology.org/
The Rural Sociological Society is a professional social science association that promotes the generation, application and dissemination of sociological knowledge. The Society seeks to enhance the quality of rural life, communities and the environment.

II. Rural Housing

Housing Assistance Council  http://www.ruralhome.org/
A nonprofit corporation headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has been helping local organizations build affordable homes in rural America since 1971. HAC emphasizes local solutions, empowerment of the poor, reduced dependence, and self-help strategies. HAC assists in the development of both single- and multi-family homes and promotes homeownership for working low-income rural families through a self-help, "sweat equity" construction method. The Housing Assistance Council offers services to public, nonprofit, and private organizations throughout the rural United States. HAC also maintains a special focus on high-need groups and regions: Indian country, the Mississippi Delta, farmworkers, the Southwest border colonias, and Appalachia.

National Rural Housing Coalition  http://www.nrhcweb.org/housing/index.html
National Rural Housing Coalition works to focus policy makers on the needs of rural areas by direct advocacy and by coordinating a network of rural housing advocates around the nation.
NRHC sponsors regular conferences at which specific policies and legislative proposals are developed.

**HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development**  

The Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) Program provides for capacity building at the State and local level for rural housing and economic development and to support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas. Funds made available under this program are awarded competitively on an annual basis through a selection process conducted by HUD.

**USDA Rural Development Rural Housing Service**  

Housing and Community Facilities Programs helps rural communities and individuals by providing loans and grants for housing and community facilities. Rural Housing Service provides funding for single family homes, apartments for low-income persons or the elderly, housing for farm laborers, childcare centers, fire and police stations, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, schools, and much more.

**Council for Affordable and Rural Housing**  

The Council for Affordable and Rural Housing (CARH) is a non-profit trade organization. For over 20 years, CARH has served as the nation's leading advocate for participants in the affordable rural housing profession.

**Fannie Mae Community Business Centers**  

Fannie Mae's mission is to expand access to homeownership and affordable rental housing, particularly for underserved communities. Through the Community Business Centers, Fannie Mae achieves its mission by partnering with lenders, private sector firms, not-for-profit organizations, and local, state and federal government officials to help solve local housing problems, expand homeownership opportunities for the underserved, and increase the supply of affordable rental and for sale housing.

### III. Rural Health and Human Services

**Rural Health Resource Center**  

The Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC) provides technical assistance for the Rural Hospital Medicare Flexibility (Flex) Program in the form of information, tools and resources. This website contains multiple resources regarding the rural health topic areas.

**Rural Assistance Center**  

A product of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Rural Initiative, the Rural Assistance Center (RAC) was established in December 2002 as a rural health and human services "information portal." RAC helps rural communities and other rural stakeholders access the full range of available programs, funding, and research that can enable them to provide quality health and human services to rural residents.

**American Psychological Association RuralPsych - Resource Center for Rural Behavioral Health**  

The objective of the APA Rural Health Initiative is to ensure that the behavioral healthcare needs of rural and frontier Americans are met. Through the establishment of the Committee on Rural Health (CRH), the APA has committed resources to addressing the behavioral healthcare needs of individuals residing in rural and frontier areas.
Journal of Rural Community Psychology [http://www.marshall.edu/jrcp/](http://www.marshall.edu/jrcp/)
JRCP is a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal published in electronic form by Marshall University, in Huntington, West Virginia. This journal is devoted to the dissemination of information related to the sociological, psychological and mental health issues in rural and small community settings. This journal is presently available without charge and no subscription is required.

In order to promote research, education, and service designed to improve the status of behavioral health care to rural Americans and to increase access and utilization of these services, the Center for Mental Health Services has established the National Rural Behavioral Health Center at the University of Florida. The NRBHC houses a team of behavioral health scientists, educators, scholars, and practitioners dedicated to improving the health care status of rural Americans. The Center focuses on three components of rural behavioral health: Rural Disaster and Trauma, Violence Prevention, and Health Service Delivery.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) State and Local Offices [http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?section=your_local_NAMI](http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?section=your_local_NAMI)
The NAMI organization operates at the local, state and national levels. Each level of the organization provides support, education, information and referral and advocacy. Local affiliates and state organizations identify and work on issues most important to their community and state.

The NRHA is a national nonprofit membership organization with more than 10,000 members that provides leadership on rural health issues. The association's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, research and leadership.

The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) promotes better health care service in rural America. This is accomplished through informing and advising the Department of Health and Human Services on matters affecting rural hospitals, and health care, coordinating activities within the department that relate to rural health care, and maintaining a national information clearinghouse.

National Association for Rural Mental Health [www.nramh.org](http://www.nramh.org)
The National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) was founded in 1977 in order to develop and enhance rural mental health and substance abuse services and to support mental health providers in rural areas. NARMH has added the goal of "Developing and proactively supporting initiatives that will strengthen the voices of rural consumers and their families" and is comprised of approximately 500 organizations and individuals from across the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii) and a few foreign countries.

ORMHR directs, plans, coordinates, and supports research activities and information dissemination on conditions unique to those living in rural areas, including research on the delivery of mental health services in such areas; and coordinates related Departmental research activities and related activities of public and nonprofit entities.

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy’s National Rural Health Research Centers
North Carolina Rural Health Research Program  
http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/rural_program/

South Carolina Rural Health Research Center  
http://rhr.sph.sc.edu/index.php

Maine Rural health Research Center  
http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/ihp/ruralhealth/

Upper Midwest Rural Health Research Center  
http://www.hsr.umn.edu/rhrc/

WWAMI Rural Health Research Center  
http://depts.washington.edu/uwrhrc/index.html

WICHE Rural Mental Health Research Center  
http://wiche.edu/mentalhealth/ResearchCenter/ResearchCenter.asp

**Frontier Mental Health Services Resource Network**  
http://www.wiche.edu/MentalHealth/Frontier/index.htm

The basic mission of the Frontier Mental Health Services Resource Network is the collection, analysis, and synthesis of knowledge regarding needs for and delivery of mental health services in "frontier" rural U.S. counties (nonmetropolitan counties with population densities of less than seven persons per square mile). It also offers technical assistance to rural agencies and advocates on mental health/substance abuse topics as they impact upon or exist within such isolated rural areas.

**National Resource and Education Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness**  
http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/

The National Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness is the only national center specifically focused on the effective organization and delivery of services for people who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses. The Resource Center's activities enable the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) to facilitate service systems change through field-based knowledge development, synthesis, exchange, and adoption of effective practices. Resource Center staff provide a vital link between emerging knowledge and everyday practice.

**IV. Rural Transportation**

**Federal Transit Administration National Rural Transit Assistance Program**  
http://www.nationalrtap.org/

National RTAP exemplifies the federal-state-local partnership that is integral to its success. Through it, training and technical assistance products and services are developed nationally, for distribution and replication by the states to local transit agencies. A National Transit Resource Center is supported, which offers access to information and expertise.

**Community Transportation Association**  
http://www.ctaa.org/

The CCTA monitors and reports on federal action related to community transportation, provides opportunities for professional development and compiles valuable research in numerous areas of community transportation. They also provide technical assistance with planning community transportation projects in rural areas, lending for transportation projects and links to other potential funding sources for these projects.

**US Dept of Transportation Rural and Small Community Transportation Planning**  
http://www.planning.dot.gov/rural.asp

This website provides information, including case studies, of innovative transportation planning in rural areas. You will also find training, education and technical resources for transportation planning.

**USDA Rural Development**  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov

Welcome to USDA Rural Development. Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America. Rural Development achieves its mission by helping rural individuals, communities and businesses obtain the financial and technical assistance needed to address their diverse and unique needs.
V. Rural Workforce Development

U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration grants
http://www.doleta.gov/grants/
The Employment & Training Administration (ETA) provides hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and contracts each year. This website will help you understand what grants and contracts are available, and how to apply.

USDA Rural Development http://www.rurdev.usda.gov
Welcome to USDA Rural Development. Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America. Rural Development achieves its mission by helping rural individuals, communities and businesses obtain the financial and technical assistance needed to address their diverse and unique needs.

RTC Rural - Rural Economic Development and Employment
http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/RuEcD/RuEcD.htm
RTC Rural projects explore rural economic development and rural employment issues to improve the employment prospects and economic status of people with disabilities living in rural communities.

VI. Special Populations in Rural Areas

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) responsibility is the administration and management of 55.7 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. There are 561 federal recognized tribal governments in the United States. Developing forestlands, leasing assets on these lands, directing agricultural programs, protecting water and land rights, developing and maintaining infrastructure and economic development are all part of the agency's responsibility. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs provides education services to approximately 48,000 Indian students.

USDA Rural Development American Indian and Alaska Native Program Information
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/aian/
In each state that serves federally or state recognized tribes, Rural Development has designated an AI/AN Coordinator to assist tribal customers in understanding and accessing Rural Development’s many programs and resources.

Appalachian Regional Commission http://www.arc.gov/index.jsp
The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

Farmworker Justice Fund http://www.fwjustice.org/
Farmworker Justice was founded in 1981 to serve migrant farmworkers from the nation's capital, using litigation, advocacy and education.

National Council of La Raza http://www.nclr.org/
The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. To achieve its mission, NCLR conducts applied research, policy analysis, and advocacy, providing a Latino perspective in five key areas - assets/investments, civil rights/immigration, education, employment and economic status, and health. In addition, it provides capacity-building assistance to its Affiliates who work at the state and local level to advance opportunities for individuals and families.
HUD Border Colonias Info
This page contains information about resources set aside in CDBG funding for programs in border states to improve conditions for people living in colonias.

VII. Other Rural Funding, Training, and Technical Assistance

National Rural Funders Collaborative http://www.nrfc.org/
The National Rural Funders Collaborative is a philanthropic initiative designed to leverage $100 million over ten years to support rural communities and families facing persistent poverty.

Forum of Regional Associations of Grant makers http://www.givingforum.org/about/membersroster.html
The Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers is a learning community and network composed of and supporting geographically focused associations of grantmakers. The Forum helps leverage our collective knowledge and resources to serve the public good and enhance, expand, and explain philanthropy in our regions.

Council of State Community Development Agencies http://www.coscda.org/
COSCDA is the premier national association advocating and enhancing the leadership role of states in community development through innovative policy development and implementation, customer-driven technical assistance, education, and collaborative efforts.

Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation http://www.ruralisc.org/
The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), a national community-building organization, provides grants, loans and equity investments to community development corporations (CDCs) for neighborhood redevelopment. In 1995, LISC launched Rural LISC to expand its reach beyond urban areas to include rural communities.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation http://www.rcac.org/
Rural Community Assistance Corporation is dedicated to assisting rural communities achieve their goals and visions by providing training, technical assistance and access to resources.

Foundation Center Cooperating Collections http://foundationcenter.org/collections
A key initiative of the Foundation Center is to reach under-resourced and underserved populations throughout the United States, who are in need of useful information and training to become successful grantseekers. One of the ways we intend to accomplish this goal is by designating new Cooperating Collection libraries in regions that have the ability to serve the nonprofit communities most in need of Foundation Center resources.

Rural Community Assistance Partnership http://www.rcap.org/
RCAP operates as a national service delivery network of six regional partners and a national office in Washington, D.C. Every year, more than 200 RCAP specialists provide technical assistance, training, and financial resources to more than 2,000 small rural communities in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America. Rural Development achieves its mission by helping rural individuals, communities and businesses obtain the financial and technical assistance needed to address their diverse and unique needs. Rural Development works to make sure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy.

USDA Rural Information Center Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas database
http://grande.nal.usda.gov/ric/funding.php