



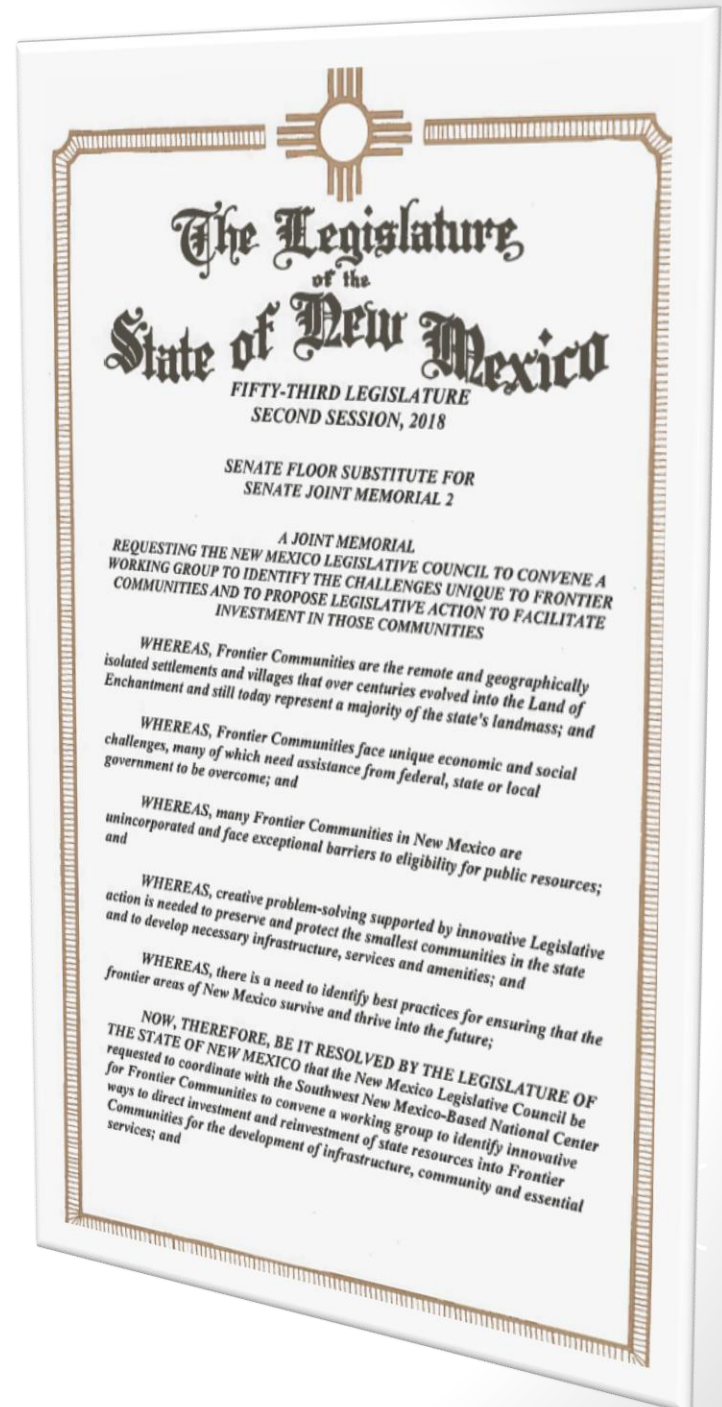
SJM2 – Frontier Challenges Workgroup

August 14, 2018



Purpose of SJM2

Identify the challenges unique to New Mexico's frontier communities and to propose legislative action to facilitate investment in those communities.



Why SJM2?

New Mexico

Three rural definitions based on Census Urban Areas

Rural locations are those outside Census Urban Areas with a population...

...greater than or equal to 2,500

Outside Census Urban Areas \geq 2,500

...greater than or equal to 10,000

Outside Census Urban Areas \geq 2,500

Census Urban Areas: 2,500 - 9,999

...greater than or equal to 50,000

Outside Census Urban Areas \geq 2,500

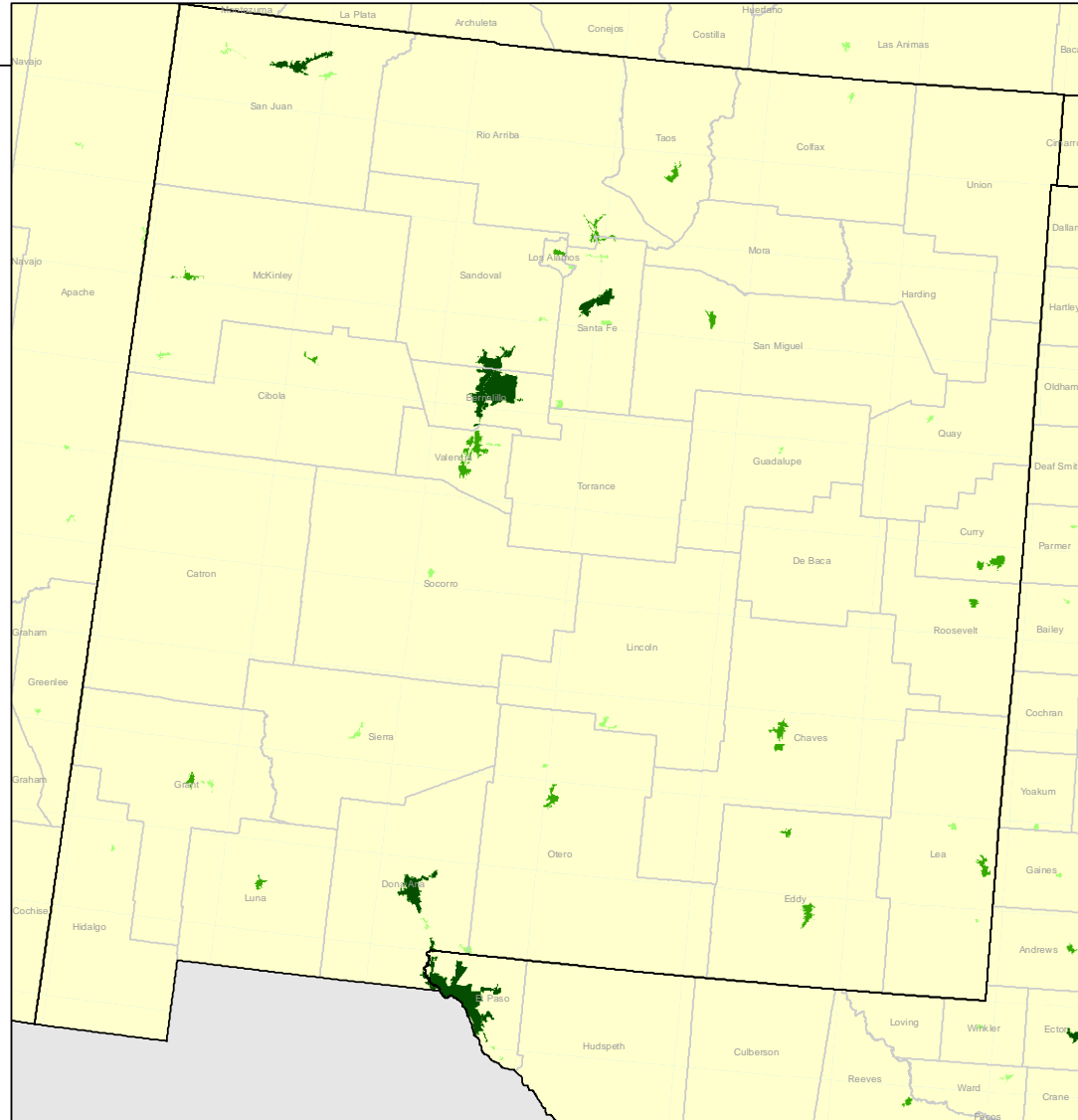
Census Urban Areas: 2,500 - 9,999

Census Urban Areas: 10,000 - 49,999

Urban locations under all three definitions:

Census Urban Areas: \geq 50,000

For more information on definitions, see documentation



Rural/Frontier Challenges:

- Systematically underserved in allocation of public resources (e.g. jobs, health care, first responders, childcare, healthy food, adequate housing, broadband, transportation).
- Left out of local decision-making processes
- Areas of concentrated poverty
- Historically, home to people of color

Rural/Frontier Challenges:

- Home to key economic sectors (agriculture, mining, tourism)
- The lack of recognition and data present huge barriers
- Challenging to capture political attention
- More vulnerable to changes in funding and resources
 - Greater reliance on state and federal funds
 - Federal cuts on the horizon
 - Potential decrease in NGO/Nonprofit donations



Solution

- Assess and Identify major concerns of our smallest communities
- Review existing financing and laws to assure that they facilitate equitable investment in frontier communities statewide
- Identify innovative ways to direct investment and reinvestment of state and federal resources into frontier communities

Partners

- New Mexico Association of Counties
- New Mexico Association of Regional Councils
- New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils
- Colonias, Tribal Governments and Inter-tribal Organizations
- New Mexico Municipal League
- State Agencies
- The Legislature
- Governor's Office
- Private Foundations
- Community Organizations
- Members of the Public





A Land of Enchantment for All New Mexicans

Frontier VIDA - Village Investment and Development Act

Vision 2020

No Community Left Behind

Geographic Democracy Means Moving **All of New Mexico** Forward

- Create and support a micro-planning process to establish community/village investment priorities.
- Invest in small projects.
- Leave no communities behind.
- Commit to statewide long-term investment, base funding.
- Implement Model Programs such as Community That Cares (CTC) for all ages.

CTC - Social Development Strategy

- **Opportunities:** Create safe spaces for active participation and meaningful interaction with others.
- **Skills:** Teach the skills that people of all ages need to succeed
- **Recognition:** Provide consistent, specific praise for effort, improvement, and achievement.
- **Bonding:** Promote positive bonding — a sense of attachment, emotional connection and commitment to people and groups. Bonding can occur with a family member, teacher, coach, employer or neighbor.
- **Clear Standards for Behavior:** Young people become motivated to live according to the healthy standards of the person or group to whom they are bonded.

Does funding yo-yo hurt our children?

Our community?

- There have been many great programs in my community over the years.
 - SPOT Office – Project GROW – Honoring Our Elders – CETA – JTPA
 - School Garden – Artists in the Schools – etc, etc.
- Funders both public and private too often move on to other projects. Even cost effective and successful programs go away when funding ends and the next “demonstration” project is a funding priority.
- What impacts do these leave on a community?
- Does this contribute to internalized oppression?
 - Thoughts that we aren’t worthy of good things.
 - Giving up.
 - Not getting involved because the program won’t last anyway.

LEADER+

The EU Rural Policy Program

+ acquisition of skills aiming at the preparation of rural communities to conceive and implement local rural development strategies.

+ implementation of integrated territorial rural development strategies, of a pilot nature, which are prepared by local action groups (LAGs).

NOTE: Less-Favoured Areas (LFA' s) receive special consideration and extra funding.

Asset Based Development in Finland

- Small projects with projected employment of five or fewer are encouraged and financed.
Examples are varied and projects reflect local investment in local needs, values and opportunities.
- Project examples range from home nursing for the elderly to local road maintenance - and other functions contributing to increased quality of life for people in very small communities.



1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

2 (1) Economic development:

3 The purpose of the economic development program is to assist communities in preparing for their role in
4 the new economy, focusing on high-quality job creation and improved infrastructure so New Mexicans can
5 increase their wealth and improve their quality of life.

6 Appropriations:

7 (a) Personal services and		
8 employee benefits	1,619.9	1,619.9
9 (b) Contractual services	2,245.6	2,245.6
10 (c) Other	4,563.4	4,563.4

11 The general fund appropriation to the economic development program of the economic development department
12 in the contractual services category includes one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the New Mexico
13 economic development corporation and one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) for business

Strike-through **of this amount at least one third shall be expended in nonurban areas of the state** ↘

16 department in the other category includes four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the development training
17 fund, ~~of this amount at least one-third shall be expended for training in nonurban areas of the state,~~

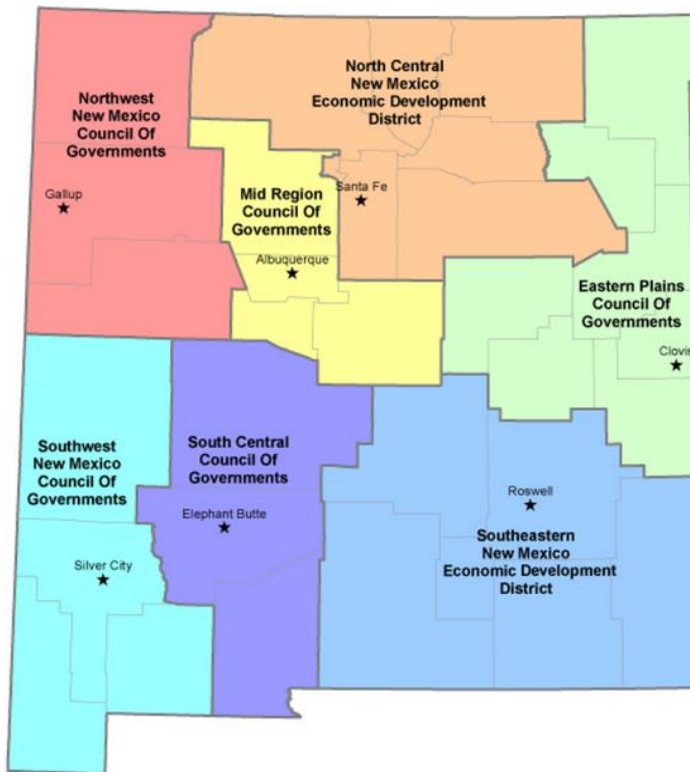
Strike-through **in frontier counties** ↘

18 technology research collaborative, one hundred fifty
19 thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the international trade office and two hundred thousand dollars
20 (\$200,000) for mainstreet grants ~~in frontier counties.~~





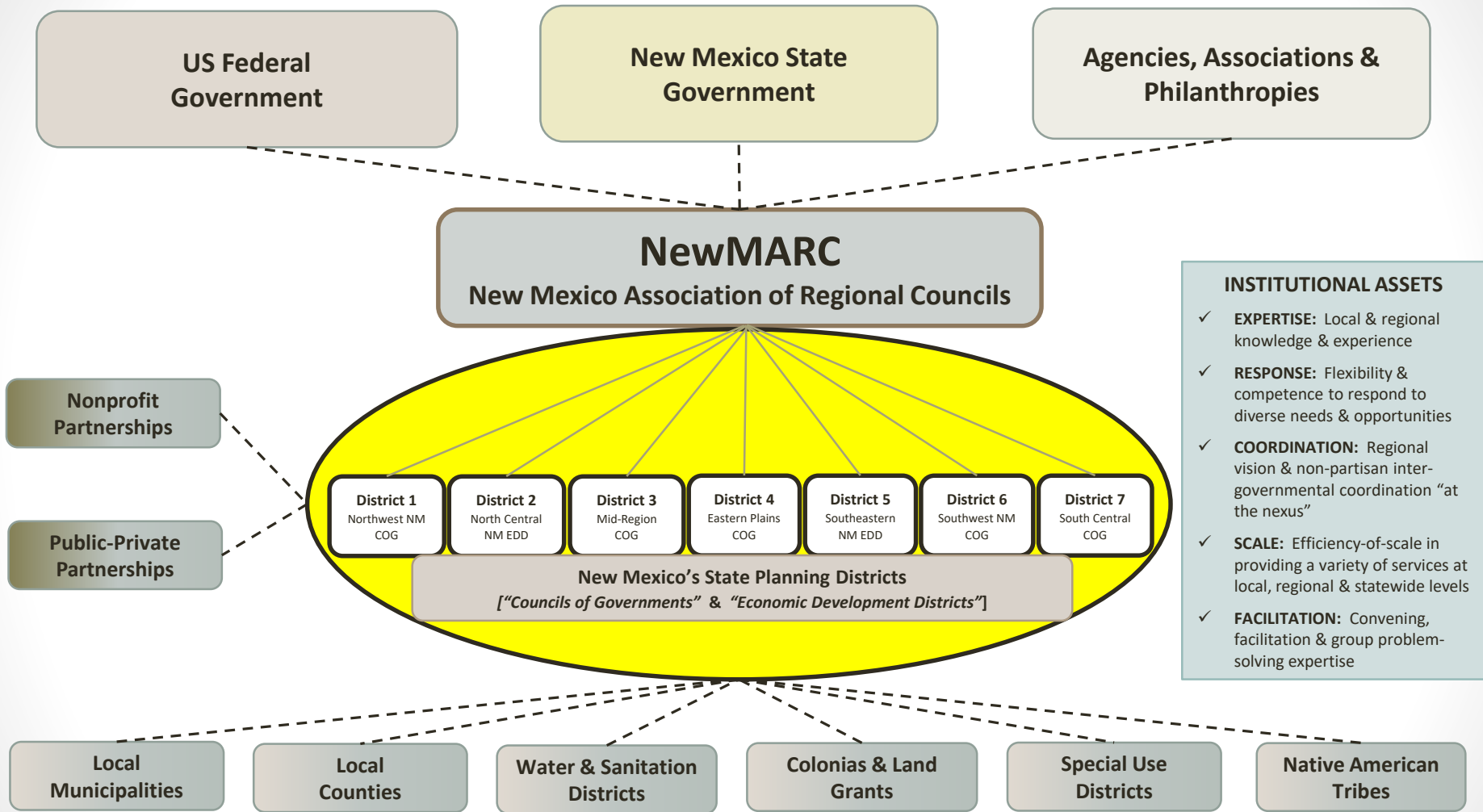
New Mexico Association of Regional Councils



New Mexico's COGs

*[Councils of Governments, Regional Planning Councils,
Economic Development Districts]*

*Promoting & supporting the prosperity
of New Mexico's communities
through regional & local
planning & collaboration,
accessing & coordinating
Federal & State programs & resources,
and locally-tailored
planning & technical assistance services*



NewMARC

New Mexico Association of Regional Councils

- District 1**
Northwest NM
COG
- District 2**
North Central
NM EDD
- District 3**
Mid-Region
COG
- District 4**
Eastern Plains
COG
- District 5**
Southeastern
NM EDD
- District 6**
Southwest NM
COG
- District 7**
South Central
COG

New Mexico's State Planning Districts
["Councils of Governments" & "Economic Development Districts"]

- INSTITUTIONAL ASSETS**
- ✓ **EXPERTISE:** Local & regional knowledge & experience
 - ✓ **RESPONSE:** Flexibility & competence to respond to diverse needs & opportunities
 - ✓ **COORDINATION:** Regional vision & non-partisan inter-governmental coordination "at the nexus"
 - ✓ **SCALE:** Efficiency-of-scale in providing a variety of services at local, regional & statewide levels
 - ✓ **FACILITATION:** Convening, facilitation & group problem-solving expertise

- Local Municipalities
- Local Counties
- Water & Sanitation Districts
- Colonias & Land Grants
- Special Use Districts
- Native American Tribes

NewMARC

New Mexico Association of Regional Councils

FUNDING STREAMS FOR REGIONAL PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Memberships**: From local governments
- **State Grant-in-Aid**: Annual legislative grants via Local Government Division (down 50% from 10 years ago)
- **Transportation Planning**: Annual co-op agreements with NM Department of Transportation for managing RTPOs (rural/small-town) and, in some cases, MPOs (metro)
- **Economic Development**: 3-year grants from US Economic Development Administration for managing regional “Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy”
- **Other**: Variety of grants/contracts from Federal, State & Philanthropic agencies, depending on regional needs & opportunities

Shortfalls: Due to their unique status as non-partisan, regional associations of governments at the “nexus” between Federal, State and Local interests, the COGs are often called upon to assist State & Federal agencies in delivering additional technical assistance – often not funded to cover increased manpower for these services.

NewMARC

New Mexico Association of Regional Councils

SUMMARY OF OVERFLOW DEMANDS & OPPORTUNITIES

FOR REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICTS

Broad State Constituency

Many departments benefit from COG district services (e.g., State Fire Marshall, DFA, NMED, DOT, Aging, etc.); dedicated funding can leverage more services.

Alternative Fiscal Agency

Fiscal agency contracts with local governments under EO 2013-006. One-time/non-recurring fees help cover costs, but don't support new FTEs

T.A. to Non-Members

Technical assistance to "non-member" communities is often provided, but at some point it detracts from core services to members and to grants & contracts

Project Monitoring

Onsite project monitoring - on behalf of State & Federal agencies

Liaison Work

Liaison communications between different agencies & levels of government; Field work on behalf of State & Federal agencies

Hub/Nexus Role

COGs are well-positioned at the NEXUS of Federal-State-Local ... but FTEs are needed to optimize that role.

Governmental T.A.

T.A. on local government functions, e.g., procurement, budgeting, HR, project management, strategic planning. Local needs outweigh resources.

Job Creation

Develop and oversee regional "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies" (CEDS). Served as regional liaisons for the Jobs Council.

Project Tracking

Collaborative real-time project tracking (the Panoramic "Ristra" web-based system) -- R&D complete, now need sustained funding

Unmet Housing Needs

Huge unmet housing needs in the State. The planning districts could help - but need FTEs for planning, development and project management

Tribal & Colonias Support

Extensive needs for services in tribal and colonia communities ... but boots-on-the-ground FTEs are needed to meet the need

Leveraging

State investments and local memberships in the COG districts help to leverage Federal dollars into the regions

Developmental T.A.

Need for more technical assistance for "projecteering" support, i.e., at the front-end (developmental) and back-end (management & sustainability) of projects ... but it takes FTEs

Project Implementation

Plans get done (economic development, comp plans, transportation, ICIP, etc.) ... but huge need for t.a. and coordination of implementation

Turnover Coverage & T.A.

Lots of turnover in local communities, so the need for training, tcoaching, grant support, and t.a. are continuous - the demand exceeds regional staffing capacity

FRONTIER COMMUNITIES & THE COGs

The State's COGs (regional planning councils/economic development districts) can add value to the Frontier Communities effort:

- **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT** – Assist with public outreach – face-to-face meetings, public workshops, surveys, etc.
- **DATA** – Provide demographic data support, including Census assistance in identifying census-designated places (CDPs)
- **LIAISON** – Serve as liaisons between outside agencies and frontier communities
- **PLAN INTEGRATION** – Integrate local initiatives with area master plans in community development, economic development, infrastructure, transportation, water, etc.
- **ISSUE FOCUS** – Convene rural focus groups around common issues to seek solutions
- **PROJECTEERING** – Assist in translating needs & ideas into investable projects through sound planning
- **FUNDING STRATEGIES** – Assist in identifying, strategizing around and accessing funding sources
- **T.A & SUPPORT** – Assist local communities to build local knowledge and capacity for self-directed change & sustainability

With additional “boots-on-the-ground” FTEs, the COG districts can expand, extend & deepen their services to frontier communities.

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