



DIRECTORY OF RURAL ORGANIZATIONS



THE DEMOCRATIC
strategist
Political Strategy for a Permanent Democratic Majority

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Over the past few years, **there has been growing interest in understanding rural America and using that understanding to build a politics that better serves rural people and the nation as a whole.** Driven in part by the intensely “red-blue” geographical sorting that has taken place across much of the country, more and more people are seeking to make a productive difference: as progressives working to find common ground on issues, Democrats seeking to overcome de facto one-party rule in the countryside, or local people fighting to rebuild rural economies and communities hollowed out by destructive trade policies, corporate consolidation and long-term disinvestment.

This Resource Directory offers a point of entry for people hoping to better understand rural America and to get involved with groups working to change things for the better. A joint project of the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative (RUBI) and The Democratic Strategist (TDS), the Directory includes more than 120 organizations which are either rural-based, rural-focused or significantly include rural concerns among their priorities. Some of these organizations are regional or multistate, while others are national in scope, though we only include a small sampling of such groups. A handful work within a single state or are focused in a particular rural area.

The groups listed in the directory are organized into nine categories, each describing the type of work on which they are primarily focused (Note that several work in multiple categories, but are listed only once). *The nine categories are:*

1. Progressive rural electoral organizing
2. Multi-issue rural community organizing
3. Rural voter protection and registration
4. Rural candidate support and campaign resources
5. Rural economic development
6. Rural policy advocacy
7. Rural news and media
8. Depolarization
9. Identity-based rural organizing

While we undertook considerable research to identify the groups listed in this Directory, we understand that **the list is certainly not exhaustive.** For that reason, RUBI and TDS hope to update the Directory periodically. Related to the above, we decided to focus primarily on groups doing electoral, political, communications and organizing work, rather than those focused on rural economic or community development, as the latter includes literally hundreds of local and regional organizations who were simply too numerous for us to include given our limited time and resources for this project. There is, in fact, an extraordinary array of groups across the country doing effective, often transformative rural development work. It is with regrets that we cannot include them here, beyond the handful of national rural development groups we mention.

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS DIRECTORY

- 100 Rural Women
- Appalachian Voices
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- Barn Raiser
- Black Rural Network
- Braver Angels
- Campaign for Southern Equality
- Carolina Federation
- Center for Common Ground
- Center for Rural Affairs
- Center for Rural Strategies
- Central Valley Partnership
- Citizen Action of Wisconsin
- Colorado People's Action
- Colorado Rural Voters
- Communities for a New California
- Daily Yonder
- Dakota Rural Action
- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)
- Dirt Road Organizing
- Dolores Huerta Foundation
- Down Home North Carolina
- Faith in the Valley
- Family Farm Defenders
- Farm Aid
- Farmworker Justice
- For West Virginia's Future
- Forward Montana
- Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)
- Groundwork Project
- Grow Wisconsin (GROWW)
- High Country News
- Hometown Action Alabama
- Hoosier Action
- Housing Assistance Council (HAC)
- Hub for Progress
- Indian Country Today
- Indivisible Rural Caucus
- Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
- Jubilee Justice
- Just Transition Fund
- Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
- Kentucky Rural Urban Exchange (Kentucky RUX)
- Land Stewardship Project
- Living United for Change Arizona (LUCHA)
- Maine People's Alliance
- Michigan People's Campaign
- Missouri Jobs with Justice
- Missouri Organizing and Voter Engagement Collaborative (MOVE)
- Missouri Rural Crisis Center
- Montana League of Rural Voters
- My Rural America
- National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC)
- National Farmers Union
- National Rural Health Association (NRHA)
- New Georgia Project
- New Hampshire Listens
- New Pennsylvania Project
- New Rural Project
- No Dem Left Behind PAC
- North Carolina Rural Center
- North Dakota Native Vote
- North Dakota Rural Voters
- One Country Project

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS (CONTINUED)

- Oregon Rural Action
- Our Wisconsin Revolution
- Out in the Open
- Outrun Coalition
- Pennsylvania Stands Up
- Pennsylvania United
- People's Action
- Poor People's Campaign
- Prairie Roots Kansas
- Progress Michigan
- Progressive Maryland
- Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)
- Public News Service (PNS)
- Reclaim Idaho
- Reimagine Appalachia
- RepGA
- Rights and Democracy New Hampshire
- Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI)
- Rural Arizona Action
- Rural Arizona Engagement (RAZE)
- Rural Democracy Initiative (RDI)
- Rural Engagement Project
- Rural Ground Game
- Rural Organizing Project
- Rural Power Labs
- Rural Press Clips
- Rural Turnout
- Rural Urban Bridge Initiative (RUBI)
- Rural Utah Project
- Rural Voices USA
- Rural Voter Institute
- RuralOrganizing.org
- Rust Belt Rising
- Sally's List
- South Dakota Rural Voters
- Southern Crossroads Organizing Project for Empowerment (SCOPE)
- Southern Echo
- Southern Maine's Worker Center (SMWC)
- Southern Rural Black Women Initiative for Economic and Social Justice (SRBWI)
- Southerners on New Grounds (SONG)
- Southwest Organizing Project Action
- State Rural Development Councils
- Take Action Minnesota
- The 134 PAC
- The Grange
- The Stay Project
- United Action for Idaho
- United Farmworkers of America (UFW)
- United Rural Democrats
- United Today Stronger Tomorrow (UTST)
- Virginia Organizing
- We the People
- Welcome PAC
- West Virginia Can't Wait
- West Virginia Citizen Action Group
- Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)
- White Earth Land Recovery Project
- Working America, AFL-CIO

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag. It features a dark blue field with white stars on the right side, and a white field with light blue stars on the left side. A horizontal blue band runs across the middle of the page, containing the title text. The number '01' is positioned at the top center, overlaid on a white star.

01

PROGRESSIVE RURAL ELECTORAL ORGANIZING

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Carolina Federation carolinafederation.org Carolina Federation brings together local people across race, class and the rural-urban divide to build political and local and statewide electoral power through integration of cultural work with community and electoral organizing. <u>State(s) active in:</u> North Carolina								
	X	X	X			X		
Colorado Rural Voters coruralvoters.org Colorado Rural Voters (CORV) is a non-partisan political organization. It strives to invigorate our democracy by engaging people on the Western Slope in the election process. CORV works to elect accessible officials who are representative of and accountable to the diverse values, aspirations, and economic needs of their constituents. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Colorado								
			X			X		
Dakota Rural Action dakotarural.org Dakota Rural Action organizes, builds leadership and develops alliances to protect and advocate for resilient environmental and agricultural systems, as well as policy that strengthens communities and cultures throughout the state. <u>State(s) active in:</u> South Dakota								
	X					X		
Forward Montana forwardmontana.org Forward Montana builds political power with and for young Montanans by creating a culture of civic engagement through issue advocacy, voter registration, guidance and education. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Montana								
	X		X		X	X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Hub for Progress thehub4progress.org Hub for Progress is an Indivisible chapter that brings together a broad array of regional progressive groups in Pennsylvania to help them collaborate, coordinate, and communicate. HP's weekly "Broadsheet" informs about upcoming events, quick calls to action, local journalism, resources and more as a ready resource for the busy activist. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Pennsylvania								
	X		X					
Indivisible Rural Caucus secure.everyaction.com/3Y0Wl0ht6E-27KbBGtEE_w2 Indivisible Rural Caucus provides a virtual meeting space for rural Indivisible leaders to share ideas, questions, and best practices for activism and engagement, with monthly calls to build out progressive organizing in rural communities. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X	X	X	X	X			X	
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth kftc.org Kentuckians For The Commonwealth works to organize statewide advocacy and nonviolent direct action to rebalance power and build a more just society. Issues range from taxation to voting rights, while actions include postcards, emails, phone calls and lobbying. Adjunct group Kentucky Coalition provides research, education, leadership and communications training for Kentuckians For The Commonwealth. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Kentucky								
X	X		X			X		X
Living United for Change Arizona (LUCHA) luchaaz.org LUCHA fights for social, racial and economic transformation, with deep canvassing and GOTV actions to reclaim shared community power and turn out multi-racial, working-class votes for progressive candidates in Arizona. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Arizona								
	X		X		X	X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Missouri Organizing and Voter Engagement Collaborative (MOVE) movemo.org MOVE works behind the scenes to support existing grassroots movement organizations in developing and executing strategic integrated voter engagement plans. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Missouri								
			X			X		
Missouri Jobs with Justice mojwj.org Missouri Jobs with Justice, a People's Action affiliate, works to build power for working people across the state with a coalition of over 100 faith, labor, community and student organizations. Member groups hold community education events and organize voter advocacy actions. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Missouri								
	X	X				X		X
Montana League of Rural Voters ruralvoters.com Montana Rural Voters works to defend and elect candidates for federal office who will champion rural issues; help small business prosper and stay in family hands; maintain a level playing field for farmers, ranches and producers; and ensure that clean air and water is protected. MRV also organizes to activate and empower rural Montanans in non-election years, elevating crucial rural issues for elected officials to stand up for our values. MRV partners with other members of <u>Western Organization of Resource Councils Grassroots Democracy Program</u> . <u>State(s) active in:</u> Montana								
X	X		X		X	X		
New Rural Project newruralproject.org New Rural Project engages young and marginalized residents in 7 rural counties in North Carolina to amplify their voices through increased civic and electoral engagement to develop community-driven solutions. NRP listens to rural stakeholders at community meetings, focus groups and local events, to identify needs, increase voter participation and ongoing engagement. <u>State(s) active in:</u> North Carolina								
X	X	X	X			X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research,
education
& trainingYear-round
issue-based
organizingSeasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

North Dakota Native Vote*ndnativevote.org*

North Dakota Native Vote works to engage tribal members in constructing a representative democracy by working in reservation communities as well as urban areas to create and affect policy and equal representation for the Native people of North Dakota. We foster sustainable, positive social change in our communities through community organizing, mobilization, leadership development, education, civic engagement, and public policy advocacy.

State(s) active in: North Dakota

X

X

North Dakota Rural Voters*ndruralvoters.org*

North Dakota Rural Voters is building power and activating rural North Dakotans in our democracy. We defend and elect candidates for local, state, and federal office who will champion rural issues such as protecting family agriculture, supporting small businesses, and fighting for clean air and water. We strive to change the political landscape by elevating rural issues and pushing candidates and elected officials to stand up for our values.

State(s) active in: North Dakota

X

X

X

X

X

Our Wisconsin Revolution*ourwisconsinrev.com*

Our Wisconsin Revolution is a membership-based organization, working statewide to build a united grassroots that can challenge power in Wisconsin to build a true democracy - with a government & economy of, by and for the people. OWR does issue-based, as well as electoral organizing, with a focus on local elections. works to make both our economy and our government a true democracy—of, by and for the people.

State(s) active in: Wisconsin

X

X

X

X

Research,
education
& trainingYear-round
issue-based
organizingSeasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Reclaim Idaho reclaimidaho.org Reclaim Idaho works to make government work for all Idahoans, regardless of social or political class. RI organizes at the grassroots to build campaigns focusing on issues that bring Idahoans together, from affordable healthcare to strong public schools, employing the ballot initiative process as a primary tool for change. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Idaho								
	X	X				X		
Rural Power Labs movementlabs.com/ruralpowerlab Rural Power Labs partners with state and local Democratic parties, providing resources, training and support to rural areas. RPL aims to connect rural Democrats nationwide and improve the party brand in rural areas by showing local effects of what national Democrats do and will deliver. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Virginia, Wisconsin								
X	X		X				X	
South Dakota Rural Voters sdruralvoters.org South Dakota Rural Voters works to elect and support candidates for local, state, and federal office who champion rural issues such as protecting family agriculture and small business, fighting for clean air and water, respecting tribal sovereignty, and defending direct democracy through the initiative and referendum process. SDRV works to elevate rural issues and shift the political narrative about South Dakota. <u>State(s) active in:</u> South Dakota								
			X		X	X		
Take Action Minnesota takeactionminnesota.org Take Action Minnesota acts as a multi-racial hub for Minnesota's progressive movement, organizing for policies that promote a people-centered democracy, with action on issues, elections and political education. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Minnesota								
	X	X	X			X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
<div>The 134 PAC</div> <div>the134pac.org</div> <div>The 134 PAC supports and strengthens county Democratic party organizations in The 134 rural Texas counties, providing grants to county parties for candidate and voter turnout support.</div> <div>State(s) active in: Texas</div>								
			X	X	X	X		
<div>Working America, AFL-CIO</div> <div>workingamerica.org</div> <div>Working America organizes non-unionized working people in support of policies and candidates that address their priorities and improve their lives. Working America staff and volunteers write letters, phonebank, and canvass persuadable voters in battleground states and races.</div> <div>State(s) active in: all</div>								
X	X	X	X				X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local



02

MULTI-ISSUE RURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Appalachian Voices <i>appvoices.org</i> Appalachian Voices organizes and advocates to protect land, air and water of Central and Southern Appalachia, and to advance a just transition to a generative and equitable clean energy economy. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee Virginia, West Virginia								
	X					X		X
Central Valley Partnership <i>centralvalleypartnership.org</i> Central Valley Partnership (CVP) mobilizes San Joaquin Valley activists, organizations and communities to hold elected officials accountable, train for campaigns, and advocate for social, racial, environmental and economic justice. CVP hosts meetings, workshops, community forums, regional summits and program meetings to increase engagement toward progressive ideals. <u>State(s) active in:</u> California								
	X	X						X
Citizen Action of Wisconsin <i>citizenactionwi.org</i> Citizen Action WI, a People's Action affiliate, recognizes the power of average people to see their stake in the public sphere and to participate fully in their democracy. To unlock that power, CAWI engages in multiracial organizing that bridges the urban/rural/suburban divide. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Wisconsin								
	X		X			X		
Colorado People's Action <i>coloradopeoplesaction.org</i> Colorado People's Action, a People's Action affiliate, builds governing power by organizing and electing local people, holding elected officials and corporations accountable, and pursuing a co-governing model in which elected officials work with those most directly impacted to develop policies for change. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Colorado								
	X	X	X			X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Communities for a New California

cncedfund.org

Communities for a New California promotes prosperity and health for rural California Central Valley communities. CNC organizes poor and working-class residents through issue organizing, integrated leadership development and non-partisan, consistent voter engagement.

State(s) active in: California

X

X

X

X

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)

cdscej.org

DSCEJ addresses environmental and health inequities in the Louisiana Mississippi River Chemical Corridor and the Gulf Coast Region using a racial justice lens. It created and embraces a collaborative partnership between universities and communities called "Communiversality."

State(s) active in: Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana Alabama, Florida

X

X

Dolores Huerta Foundation

doloreshuerta.org/programs/civic-engagement

Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) works at the grassroots level to engage and develop leaders and a volunteer base to advocate for policies at the local, state, and federal levels. DHF trains community members - most of whom are immigrants, farm workers and women, registering and educating voters, advocating for education reform and infrastructure improvements in low-income communities.

State(s) active in: California

X

X

X

X

X

X

Down Home North Carolina

downhomenc.org

With chapters spanning the state, People's Action affiliate Down Home North Carolina organizes education and advocacy around uniting working class and poor folks of all backgrounds to build progressive power in rural areas. DHNC provides membership training, leadership development and the full range of GOTV opportunities.

State(s) active in: North Carolina

X

X

X

X

X

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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Faith in the Valley

faithinthevalley.org/organizing-model

Faith in the Valley organizes faith communities in Fresno, Kern, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties, to address and advocate on issues of concern in their communities, influencing policies to benefit vulnerable community members and to build power for making the Central Valley of California a safe and healthy environment for all.

State(s) active in: California

X

X

For West Virginia's Future

fwvf.org

For West Virginia's Future supports mission-driven groups statewide with policy advocacy, research, training, funding, data analysis, digital support, and operations support to increase economic opportunity and security for West Virginians across religion, gender, race, and location

State(s) active in: West Virginia

X

X

X

X

Groundwork Project

groundworkproject.com/about-us/#mission-statement

Groundwork Project invests in year-round, local community organizing, providing multi-year, longterm funding to hyperlocal community organizing groups. GP grants offer general operating support, while wraparound support provides training and expertise.

State(s) active in: Alabama, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Oklahoma, West Virginia

X

X

X

X

Grow Wisconsin (GROWW)

gro-ww.org

GROWW supports ordinary people to become leaders who can act together to tackle the issues most urgently facing western Wisconsin. GROWW offers a grassroots organizing educational program and engages in one-on-one conversations to build trust and identify shared values.

State(s) active in: Wisconsin

X

X

X

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Hometown Action Alabama <i>hometownaction.org</i> Hometown Action, a People's Action affiliate, supports small town Alabamians fighting to build inclusive and sustainable communities by pursuing progressive rural organizing on a mass scale. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Alabama								
	X					X		
Hoosier Action <i>hoosieraction.org</i> Hoosier Action, a People's Action affiliate, builds power for working families through deep, relational organizing in small town and rural communities. Focusing on family, community health and worker protection, HA leads issue-based outreach and advocacy, as well as public events amplifying issues. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Indiana								
	X					X		
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement <i>iowacaci.org</i> Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI), whose <u>Action Fund</u> is a People's Action affiliate, engages grassroots organizing, educating and mobilizing on community issues. ICCI takes action to stop factory farms and on related issues that bridge urban-rural divides, promoting equity and economic policies that serve the public good. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Iowa								
	X	X	X			X		
Maine People's Alliance <i>mainepeoplesalliance.org</i> Maine People's Alliance, a People's Action affiliate, works to advance economic, environmental, racial, and social justice, educating and training everyday people to participate in decision-making processes and advocate to elected officials. MPA holds issue-specific meetings to update on and strategize advocacy. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Maine								
	X					X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Michigan People's Campaign <i>mipeoples.org</i> Michigan People's Campaign, a People's Action affiliate, cultivates leadership, training candidates and campaign managers from small towns to cities that are most impacted by injustice. MPC also trains members in public speaking, canvassing and political education, while advocating for racial, health, economic and environmental justice in small town and urban MI. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Michigan								
X	X					X		
Oregon Rural Action <i>oregonrural.org</i> Oregon Rural Action is grassroots and culturally diverse community-led organization in Eastern Oregon working to promote social justice, agricultural, environmental, and economic sustainability, through community organizing, public conversations, and policy advocacy, <u>State(s) active in:</u> Oregon								
						X		
Pennsylvania United <i>paunited.org</i> Pennsylvania United organizes to build a multi-racial, multi-generational, poor and working-class movement, connecting issues with politics in small cities and towns across Western PA, with leadership training, candidate recruitment and GOTV to produce long-term change. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Pennsylvania								
	X					X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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People's Action

peoplesaction.org

People's Action organizes through training & actions, to build power among poor and working people to mobilizing for equitable change. Maintains a national network in urban, rural and suburban areas of 28 states, uniting 38 state and local grassroots power-building organizations "in the work of building a bigger 'we.'"

State(s) active in: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia

X

X

X

X

X

Poor People's Campaign

breachrepairers.org/poorpeoplescampaign

Under Reverend William Barber and Liz Theoharis, the Poor People's Campaign allies with Repairers of the Breach and Cairos Center to unite poor people under a moral agenda centered on building economic justice through advocacy, demonstrations, media and cultural arts.

State(s) active in: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia

X

X

Progressive Maryland

progressivemaryland.org

People's Action affiliate Progressive Maryland's county-based chapters work to redistribute political power to working class people. PM endorses and supports candidates and policies that ensure rights for all people to quality education, health care, a livable environment, housing, safety and justice.

State(s) active in: Maryland

X

X

X

X

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant-making	PAC	State-wide	National	Local
Rights and Democracy New Hampshire <i>radnh.org</i> Rights & Democracy, a People's Action affiliate, builds movement politics by developing local leadership through issue campaigns, recruiting members for issue education and to join in skill-building on running for office and pursuing an endorsement process to support community leaders and allies in running for office. <u>State(s) active in:</u> New Hampshire								
	X	X				X		
Rural Arizona Action <i>ruralazaction.org</i> Rural AZ Action (RAZA) seeks to create more equitable and just systems through issue advocacy, constituent outreach and leadership training in rural Arizonan communities. RAZA organizes rallies, press conferences, public testimony and GOTV efforts, with volunteer and paid positions. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Arizona								
	X		X			X		
Rural Assembly <i>ruralassembly.org</i> Rural Assembly works as a national convener, amplifier and communicator on issues identified by rural leaders, with roundtables, advocacy and working groups of cross-sector folks convening to address issues and identify solutions for sharing via the Assembly, with focus on amplifying rural America's diversity. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
	X						X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant-making	PAC	State-wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Rural Democracy Initiative (RDI) ruraldemocracyinitiative.org RDI invests in rural leaders and organizing infrastructure to inform and influence public opinion, elections, redistricting and policy outcomes. Goals include reinvigorating rural areas with progressive leadership to reflect current and emerging rural populations, and influencing local, state and federal elections. Provides grants for immediate electoral efforts and sustainable organizational infrastructure. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin								
X	X			X		X	X	X
RuralOrganizing.org RuralOrganizing.org RuralOrganizing.org works to rebuild a thriving and equitable rural America by employing forward-thinking policies and leveraging digital technologies to empower rural organizers, activists, elected officials and candidates for office to address challenges facing our communities. Rural Organizing also produces a daily Rural Press Clips newsletter. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X	X						X	
Rural Organizing Project rop.org Rural Organizing Project supports a network of autonomous, volunteer-run human dignity groups across rural Oregon. ROP works to strengthen skills, resources and primary leadership in local groups, through workshops, election organizing and protection, advocacy, community events, youth fellowships and collaborative communications. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Oregon								
	X	X	X	X		X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Southern Crossroads Organizing Project for Empowerment (SCOPE)

fight4thesouth.org

SCOPE works to build a multi-racial alliance of organizations comprised of poor and working class people in small towns across the South. Member groups organize to build community, run campaigns, develop leaders and win meaningful changes in people's lives, leveraging local perspectives and expertise to build allied power relationships through the South.

State(s) active in: Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee

X

Southwest Organizing Project Action

swop.net

Southwest Organizing Project Action, a People's Action affiliate, organizes in disenfranchised communities to build economic, political and cultural power, providing youth leadership training, leveraging strategic partnerships and offering fiscal sponsorships for mission-aligned grassroots community groups.

State(s) active in: New Mexico

X

X

X

X

United Action for Idaho

uaidaho.org

United Action for Idaho, a People's Action affiliate, organizes to advance social, economic and environmental justice, promoting policies and individuals who espouse these ideals. UAI identifies and amplifies issues, providing a platform-based candidate questionnaire and a conduit for advocating with elected officials.

State(s) active in: Idaho

X

X

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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United Farmworkers of America (UFW)

ufw.org

United Farm Workers of America (UFW) is the nation's largest farm workers' union. UFW has been at the forefront of organizing for farm workers, and proactively champions important legislative and regulatory reforms for farm workers covering issues such as overtime, heat safety, other worker protections, and pesticides.

State(s) active in: all

X

X

Virginia Organizing

virginia-organizing.org

Virginia Organizing empowers people in local communities to address quality of life issues, encouraging participation by historically underserved community members. VA Organizing provides advocacy guidance and resources, with member groups engaging in policy forums, direct actions, community-building events and voter registration.

State(s) active in: Virginia

X

X

We the People

wethepeoplemi.org

We the People (WTP) seeks to connect and unite urban and rural residents across Michigan to advocate for equitable education, opportunity, housing, resource infrastructure, health care and representation. WTP applies alliance-building tools ranging from storytelling to political education and racial healing to cultural and issue organizing in pursuit of its mission.

State(s) active in: Michigan

X

X

X

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
<div><div><div><div><div><div>West Virginia Citizen Action Group</div><div>wvcag.org</div><div>WV Citizen Action Group, a People's Action affiliate, works to increase the voice of the average citizen in public affairs through research, education, lobbying, organizing and coalition building, empowering individuals by providing them with resources to become effective advocates on issues that affect/impart their lives.</div><div><u>State(s) active in:</u> West Virginia</div></div></div><div>X</div><div>X</div><div>X</div><div></div><div></div><div>X</div><div></div></div></div></div>								
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

The background features a stylized American flag motif. The top and bottom sections consist of a white field with light blue stars. A dark blue field with white stars is located on the right side. A horizontal light blue band runs across the middle, containing the title text.

03

RURAL VOTER PROTECTION AND REGISTRATION

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Center for Common Ground centerforcommonground.org Center for Common Ground combats voter suppression in underserved areas in the Rural South, locating Democracy Centers in low-voting propensity BIPOC communities. Democracy Center year-round services include food and clothing distribution, rides to polls, voter registration, information and training in election protection and advocacy, civic engagement, community relationship building and development. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia								
	X		X	X		X		X
New Georgia Project newgeorgiaproject.org New Georgia Project is a nonpartisan effort to register, civically engage, and build power with the New Georgia Majority—the large and growing population of Black, brown, young, and other historically marginalized voters in the Peach State. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Georgia								
			X			X		
New Pennsylvania Project newpaproject.org New PA Project (NPP) engages and empowers young residents and those living in underrepresented and often neglected communities of color and immigrant rural, urban and suburban, communities to vote, providing education about the issues that matter in their neighborhoods and mobilizing the electorate to vote in every election. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Pennsylvania								
	X		X			X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant-making	PAC	State-wide	National	Local
Pennsylvania Stands Up pastandsup.org Comprised of six rural and urban chapters, People's Action affiliate Pennsylvania Stands Up (PASU) trains everyday people to engage from the streets to the ballot box. PASU members learn to advocate, lead, organize rallies, advocacy on local and national issues and voter registration. PASU also organizes neighborhood mutual aid networks while advocating for policies to expand the freedom to vote <u>State(s) active in:</u> Pennsylvania								
	X	X	X		X	X		X
Prairie Roots Kansas prairierootsks.com Prairie Roots Kansas (PRK) organizes, trains and deploys volunteers to reach registered voters who do not get out to the ballot box. Focused on long-term results, PRK engages in community organizing, relationship-building and education with voters to bring them into the political process and realize the power of their vote. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Kansas								
	X	X	X			X		X
Rural Engagement Project ruralengagementproject.com Rural Engagement Project builds voter engagement and education, amplifies local voices to hold legislators accountable, advocates to officials on local issues, models inclusion, respect, and fairness and empowers candidates to run for and hold elected office. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Oregon								
	X				X			
Welcome PAC welcomepac.org Welcome PAC applies a big-tent approach to expanding the footprint of today's Democratic party. Focusing on flippable GOP-held districts, Welcome PAC recruits and supports moderate candidates to attract swing voters to oust the most undemocratic GOP members of Congress. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Ohio								
					X		X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant-making	PAC	State-wide	National	Local

RURAL CANDIDATE SUPPORT AND CAMPAIGN RESOURCES

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Dirt Road Organizing dirtroadorganizing.org Founded and led by two people in their early thirties with direct and successful rural campaign experience, Dirt Road Organizing works to empower the next generation of rural political leaders. The organization provides concrete tools and strategies to support organizers, staff, legislators and aspiring leaders who are working towards an equitable and just democracy in rural America. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X							X	
No Dem Left Behind PAC nodemleftbehind.com No Dem Left Behind (NDLB) PAC focuses on electing Democrats to Congress, primarily in rural districts and states. NDLB recruits community leaders to run for office, connects them with campaign professionals and provides the resources they need to build successful infrastructure and to craft winning strategies. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming								
					X			
One Country Project onecountryproject.com One Country provides guidance on the issues impacting rural voters and how Democrats can best connect with them on the key issues of the economy, inflation, abortion, immigration, crime, and others. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Georgia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nevada								
X							X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Outrun Coalition twitter.com/TheOutrunCo Outrun Coalition is dedicated to encouraging young and diverse people to run in their rural communities, through trainings to local progressive and Democratic organizations and fostering a community of diverse candidates. <u>State(s) active in:</u> New York, West Virginia, Vermont, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Nebraska, Virginia, and Tennessee								
Progress Michigan progressmichigan.org Progress Michigan provides communications training and strategy guidance for digital and social media, spokesperson and message development, narrative building, and other communications services. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Michigan								
X	X					X		
RepGA repga.org RepGA recruits, trains and develops leaders across the state of Georgia, elevating the voices of marginalized populations to build a civic empowerment community that amplifies diverse representation state-wide. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Georgia								
X								
Rural Arizona Engagement (RAZE) raze.org RAZE educates, advocates and coordinates in rural Arizona communities to build progressive civic participation and engagement, focusing on youth leadership, voter registration and issue advocacy. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Arizona								
	X		X			X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Rural Turnout facebook.com/RuralTurnout Rural Turnout amplifies rural issues and promotes civic and political engagement in rural areas. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
	X						X	
Rural Voter Institute ruralvoterinstitute.com Rural Voter Institute researches and develops effective ways to improve communications with and outreach to rural voters, employing interviews and focus groups to help campaigns and organizations engage more productively with rural Americans. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X							X	
Rural Ground Game ruralgroundgame.org Rural Ground Game augments work of local Virginia Democratic campaigns and committees, with direct support staff, trainings and access to tools, and developing an innovative and replicable model for inclusive electoral participation with a grassroots, community-centered messaging platform and organizing hub. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Virginia								
X	X		X			X		
Rural Urban Bridge Initiative (RUBI) www.ruralurbanbridge.org RUBI works with liberal, progressive and Democratic people and organizations to understand the underlying causes of the Rural Urban Divide, and then to take practical actions to begin to overcome it. RUBI offers monthly briefings from experts in the field, in-depth trainings and workshops on overcoming the divide, research and analysis related to the divide, and practical political, organizing, communications and community building strategies. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X							X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Rural Utah Project ruralutahproject.org/work Rural Utah Project seeks to empower underrepresented Native American and other rural voters through training, education, voter registration and issue advocacy. RUP leverages existing skills and relationships within indigenous communities to build infrastructure, tools and programs that resonate mobilize them to vote and collaborate on issues of importance to Utah's future. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Utah								
	X	X	X			X		
Rust Belt Rising rustbeltrising.com Rust Belt Rising works with Democratic candidates in states bordering the Great Lakes to render their values into persuasive economic messages. Through down-ballot work in these six states, RBR builds a pipeline of qualified candidates and strengthens Rust Belt party infrastructure. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin								
			X			X		
Sally's List sallyslist.org Sally's List trains, supports and elects progressive women for public office in Oklahoma. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Oklahoma								
	X					X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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United Rural Democrats

unitedruraldemocrats.org

United Rural Democrats seeks to build Democratic coalitions and provide rural leaders with support to organize effectively, endorsing, financially supporting and performing electoral outreach for election candidates.

State(s) active in: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin

			X		X		X	
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West Virginia Can't Wait

wvcantwait.com

WV Can't Wait recruits, endorses and supports pro-labor, small donation candidates to run for office, providing seed money, physical and digital GOTV resources, promotion, volunteers, training and professional staff support. WVCW provides team members with deep training, mentorship and fiscal sponsorship to help them build independent, lasting organizations.

State(s) active in: West Virginia

	X	X	X			X		
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Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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05

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
100 Rural Women 100ruralwomen.org 100 Rural Women builds leadership through networking, mentoring and civic engagement. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Minnesota								
X						X		
Family Farm Defenders familyfarmers.org Family Farm Defenders (FFD) works to create a farmer-controlled and consumer-oriented food and fiber system, empowering farmers to represent themselves in their quest for social and economic justice. FFD creates opportunities for farmers to cooperate in issue advocacy and to bridge the socioeconomic divide among many rural and urban communities. <u>State(s) active in:</u> California, Florida, Wisconsin								
	X						X	
Farm Aid farmaid.org Farm Aid raises awareness and funding to keep family farmers on the land, strengthen farmers, advocate for fair farm policies, connect farmers and eaters, register voters and recruit organizers to help change the dominant system of industrial agriculture and promote food from family farms. <u>State(s) active in:</u> California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming								
	X		X	X		X	X	X
Jubilee Justice jubileejustice.org Jubilee Justice's Black farmers program provides Black farming communities with sustainable, regenerative practices, cooperative ownership and financial security in the whole value chain of their crops <u>State(s) active in:</u> Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi								
X				X		X		

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Just Transition Fund justtransitionfund.org/about Just Transition Fund supports economic transition in communities impacted by the decline of the coal industry, supporting place-based economic development strategies through grant making, coalition building and federal public policy advocacy. <u>State(s) active in:</u> "post-coal" communities and regions, such as Appalachia, the Navajo nation, and parts of Illinois and Wyoming								
X				X			X	
Land Stewardship Project landstewardshipproject.org Land Stewardship Project brings together culturally and racially diverse Minnesotans to promote sustainable land stewardship, community resilience and racial justice for family farmers and rural communities <u>State(s) active in:</u> Minnesota								
X	X					X		
Missouri Rural Crisis Center morural.org Missouri Rural Crisis Center supports independent family farmers and rural communities with organizing to preserve family farms and their output, prevent environmental degradation, promote land stewardship, safe and affordable high-quality food supply, healthcare systems and defend justice and economic opportunity for both rural and urban communities <u>State(s) active in:</u> Missouri								
	X	X				X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) <i>nffc.net</i> NFFC supports family farmers and ranchers taking action in their communities to ensure fair prices for farmers, local jobs for communities and fresh foods for all. NFFC works on credit, trade, farm and food policy issues and legislation, freedom from corporate domination and in promotion of harmony with the environment. <u>State(s) active in:</u> California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming								
X	X				X		X	
National Farmers Union <i>nfu.org</i> The National Farmers Union (NFU) represents family farmers, fishers, ranchers and their communities, with divisions in 33 states. NFU advocates for policy positions developed from local to national levels, through education, cooperation, and legislation. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
	X						X	
North Carolina Rural Center <i>ncruralcenter.org</i> NC Rural Center works to improve the quality of rural life with engagement in leadership development, internships, small business support, policy advocacy, research, community engagement, faith-based collaboration and small-business lending. <u>State(s) active in:</u> North Carolina								
	X			X		X		
Reimagine Appalachia <i>reimagineappalachia.org</i> Reimagine Appalachia works to ensure that Appalachians have a say in how our region builds a 21st century economy that benefits workers, communities and our shared environment. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia								
	X							
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI)

rafiusa.org

RAFI challenges the root causes of unjust food systems and is building a movement of farmers, workers, rural communities, and consumers to take back our food system from corporations. It also operates a financial crisis hotline for farmers.

State(s) active in: all

X

X

X

Southern Maine's Worker Center (SMWC)

maineworkers.org

Southern Maine Workers' Center organizes for human rights and a just economy, working in local and national coalitions to improve the lives, working conditions, and terms of employment for working class and poor people in Maine. SMWC engages in cultural activities, creative work, political education and activism to build solidarity among community, workers and labor organizations.

State(s) active in: Maine

X

X

State Rural Development Councils

[.partnersforruralamerica.org/state-council-directory](http://partnersforruralamerica.org/state-council-directory)

Twenty eight states have Rural Development Councils, whose purpose is to promote rural development in partnership with federal, state, local and tribal governments. Many of them, like the Arizona Rural Development Council, also work closely with non-profit organizations and the private sector.

State(s) active in: approximately half of all states

X

X

The Grange

nationalgrange.org

The Grange provides conduits for individuals, families and communities to pursue grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness. With an annual convention, a youth program and volunteer opportunities, The Grange provides a full range of civic engagement, with emphasis on agriculture, producing our food, fuel and fiber.

State(s) active in: all

X

X

X

X

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
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06

RURAL POLICY ADVOCACY

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Center for Rural Affairs cfra.org/about The Center for Rural Affairs' mission is to establish strong rural communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship, and genuine opportunity for all while engaging people in decisions that affect the quality of their lives and the future of their communities. The Center does research, education, policy analysis and advocacy while also offering training, technical assistance and financial capital to farms and rural businesses. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X	X						X	
Center for Rural Strategies ruralstrategies.org CRS seeks to improve economic and social conditions for communities in the countryside and around the world through the creative and innovative use of media and communications. Their strategy includes building coalitions, developing partnerships, leading public information campaigns, and advancing strategies that strengthen connections between rural and urban places. Note that Daily Yonder, also included in this directory, is an initiative of CRS. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X							X	
Farmworker Justice farmworkerjustice.org Farmworker Justice is a nonprofit that works with farmworkers and their organizations throughout the US to empower farmworkers to improve their living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety, and access to justice. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
							X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Housing Assistance Council (HAC)

centralvalleypartnership.org

HAC is a national nonprofit that supports affordable housing efforts throughout rural America, providing below-market financing for affordable housing and community development, technical assistance and training, research and information, and policy formulation to enable solutions for rural communities.

State(s) active in: all

National Rural Health Association (NRHA)

ruralhealth.us

The NRHA is a national nonprofit membership organization providing leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research.

State(s) active in: all

Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)

pirg.org

PIRG advocates in the public interest, pursuing a broad range of food and product safety, environmental and legislative initiatives, with current priorities including a series of consumer alerts and Congressional advocacy for a rural right-to-repair campaign.

State(s) active in: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin

X

X

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant-making	PAC	State-wide	National	Local
Rural Voices USA <i>ruralvoices.us</i> Rural Voices USA organizes rural people to advocate, communicate and hold policy makers accountable for rural issues. We connect rural leaders, farmers and community members working nationwide to ensure rural voices are being heard on key policy issues that impact them and their families. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania								
	X						X	
United Today Stronger Tomorrow (UTST) <i>unitedtoday.org</i> UTST brings people together from red, blue, and rural communities to identify pressing issues and advocate for solutions to the toughest problems folks are are facing today: affordable housing, healthcare, clean air and water, cheap and clean energy. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Colorado, Iowa, Montana, South Dakota, Utah								
	X							
Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) <i>worc.org</i> WORC connects eight local grassroots community organizations, with thirty-nine local chapters and 18,435 members, to bring rural voices to commercial and legislative decisions affecting the West. WORC provides leadership and organizing training, coordinates issue work and community action. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Colorado, Idaho, Montana and its seven Native American reservations, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Wyoming								
X	X		X			X		X
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant-making	PAC	State-wide	National	Local

07

RURAL NEWS AND MEDIA

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Barn Raiser <i>barnraisingmedia.com</i> Barn Raiser Media delivers rural and small-town news, analysis and culture. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all							X	
Daily Yonder <i>dailyyonder.com</i> The Daily Yonder provides rural-focused news, analysis, and cultural reports in a daily digital newspaper and weekly podcast. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all							X	
High Country News <i>hcn.org</i> High Country News produces reader-supporting journalism relating to the natural and human communities of the western U.S. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all							X	
Indian Country Today <i>ictnews.org</i> Indian Country Today is an independent, nonprofit news service that serves Indigenous communities with news, entertainment, and opinion across digital and broadcasting platforms. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all							X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
My Rural America myruralamerica.eluuf.com MyRuralAmerica seeks to reverse the trend in declining rural news outlets by bringing news and opinions from reliable national sources and “citizen journalists” from across rural America, to help keep rural citizens informed on the issues and topics that affect them. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
X							X	
Public News Service (PNS) publicnewsservice.org Member-supported PNS produces short radio segments broadcast by 6000 media outlets in 37 states, lifting up voices that are often unheard in mainstream media. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
							X	
Rural Press Clips actionnetwork.org/forms/get-rural-news-clips-straight-to-your-inbox Rural Press Clips offers a daily compilation of rural news headlines curated by RuralOrganizing.org. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
							X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

08

DEPOLARIZATION

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Braver Angels <i>braverangels.org</i> Braver Angels is a national movement to bridge the partisan divide. Local Braver Angels chapters host depolarization and cross-partisan dialogue workshops that are open to the public. <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
							X	
Kentucky Rural Urban Exchange (Kentucky RUX) <i>kyrux.org</i> Kentucky RUX works to bridge divides and build connections among Kentuckians by meeting people, exploring place, and cultivating partnerships through annual weekend intensives and other programs, with cultural and multidisciplinary arts focus. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Kentucky								
						X		
New Hampshire Listens <i>carsey.unh.edu/new-hampshire-listens</i> New Hampshire Listens is a community engagement initiative of the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire. Its mission is to help NH residents talk and work together to create communities that work for everyone <u>State(s) active in:</u> New Hampshire								
						X		
Urban Rural Action <i>uration.org</i> Urban Rural Action brings together rural, urban and suburban Americans across divides to tackle our nation's most urgent challenges <u>State(s) active in:</u> all								
							X	
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

IDENTITY-BASED RURAL ORGANIZING

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)

april-rural.org

APRIL is a national disability-led organization that advances the equity of people with disabilities in rural communities through advocacy, collaboration, shared experience, leadership development, education, and training.

State(s) active in: all

X

Black Rural Network

facebook.com/BlackRuralNetwork

Black Rural Network provides outreach to engage existing and emerging Black leaders in rural Oregon.

State(s) active in: Oregon

X

Campaign for Southern Equality

southernequality.org

Campaign for Southern Equality is building a movement for LGBTQ equality in the South. It provides technical and financial assistance as well as rapid responses to immediate political threats

State(s) active in: Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee

X

X

X

X

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

glifwc.org

GLIFWC supports the hunting, fishing, and gathering rights of 11 Ojibwe tribes.

State(s) active in: Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin

X

Research,
education
& training

Year-round
issue-based
organizing

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(persuasion)

Seasonal
electoral
organizing
(registration
and/or GOTV)

Grant-
making

PAC

State-
wide

National

Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
Out in the Open <i>weareoutintheopen.org</i> Out in the Open engages in community-building and multi-issue social justice organizing for rural LGBTQ+ people in Vermont <u>State(s) active in:</u> Vermont								
	X					X		
Southern Echo <i>southernecho.org</i> Southern Echo pursues intergenerational engagement and education across marginalized and vulnerable communities, organizing, training and providing diverse support resources to develop community-based stewards of their own destinies, electoral outcomes and public policies. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Mississippi, with partner groups in New Mexico and Texas								
	X					X		
Southerners on New Grounds (SONG) <i>southernersonnewground.org</i> SONG builds the skills, connection and leadership of thousands of Southern rural LGBTQ people of color, immigrant people and working class people – united together in the struggle for dignity and justice for all people. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia								
X	X	X				X		
Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice (SRBWI) <i>srbwi.org</i> SRBWI engages rural black women to model and promote women-led, rural economic development strategies <u>State(s) active in:</u> Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi								
						X		
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local
The Stay Project thestayproject.net The Stay Project works to connect, organize and provide space, resources and skills to build lasting local community among Appalachian youth activists generally aged 14-30, with a members' cultural programs, political education and a member support fund for community events and projects. <u>State(s) active in:</u> Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia								
				X				
White Earth Land Recovery Project welrp.org White Earth Land Recovery Project works to facilitate the recovery of the original land base of the White Earth Indian Reservation while preserving and restoring traditional practices of sound land stewardship, language fluency, community development, and strengthening of Ojibwe spiritual and cultural heritage <u>State(s) active in:</u> Minnesota								
	X							X
Research, education & training	Year-round issue-based organizing	Seasonal electoral organizing (persuasion)	Seasonal electoral organizing (registration and/or GOTV)	Grant- making	PAC	State- wide	National	Local

APPENDIX TO RURAL DIRECTORY:

A SAMPLING OF PERSPECTIVES AND RESOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING AND EFFECTIVE ACTION IN RURAL AMERICA

Many of the organizations listed in the Directory do research, track and compile data and publish information, analyses or commentaries. This includes the co-producers of the Directory, The Democratic Strategist (TDS) and the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative (RUBI).

Because our understanding of rural people, voters, politics and communities is constantly evolving, both TDS and RUBI believe it is critical to stay abreast of new research and insights, especially regarding what works in strengthening rural communities and winning rural people to progressive ideas and candidates. For these reasons, we offer below a sampling of some of the available research, resources and analyses, followed by three thoughtful commentaries which readers might find useful.

I. A sampling of available research and resources

- [“The Rural Urban Divide: A Guidebook to Understanding the Problem and Forging Solutions”](#)

This Guidebook, assembled by RUBI, focuses on the underlying causes of the rural urban divide as well as strategies for overcoming what divides us. It includes perspectives of more than twenty different authors and organizers.

- [“Can Democrats Succeed in Rural America?”](#)

Released in November, 2022, this report from RUBI has two parts: A distillation of a wide body of research into why and how Democrats lost rural and working-class voters, and what works to regain their support; and a summary of what in rural campaigns, based upon interviews with fifty Democratic candidates who ran for state or federal office in rural districts between 2016 and 2020.

- [“Rural Policy Action Report”](#)

Growing out of a national convening organized by the Rural Democracy Initiative, Rural Organizing.org and Family Farm Action, this report provides a comprehensive and detailed set of progressive policy recommendations designed to increase rural prosperity, resiliency and ecological sustainability. More than fifty rural leaders and experts participated in developing the analysis and recommendations. A follow up report, focused on state-level policy is also available at the site.

- “Winning Jobs Narrative”

The “Winning Jobs Narrative” is a field-tested strategy for effectively communicating progressive policy stances to working-class and rural people across race, by putting workers and work at the center of policy discussions. Developed by the Rural Democracy Initiative and several partners, the WJN is being utilized in both rural urban campaigns around the country and has been embraced by a number of progressive leaders and elected officials.

II. Why we’ve lost working-class and rural voters, and how to win them back: Three perspectives

Joan Williams, “How Democrats Can Win Non-college Educated Voters Without Giving In to Racism”, Originally published in The Hill, June, 2023, excerpted below

The diploma divide has been extensively documented: Democrats lose, or win only narrowly, because noncollege voters of all races are moving right. Progressives often assume that attracting noncollege voters means pandering to racism. New research shows that this is false.

Racism is definitely part of the picture: racial resentment was highly predictive of voting for Trump in 2016. But that’s not why he won, a new study shows. He won because he also attracted a much larger group of voters with moderate levels of racial resentment. A prior study found that 2016, 19 percent of Trump voters polled as “anti-elites” with moderate views on race, immigration, gay marriage and the environment. If Democrats could peel off even a modest percentage of anti-elites, they could win handily in both presidential and congressional elections...

Erica Etelson and Anthony Flaccavento, “Bette Midler’s Contempt Fuels Right-Wing Populism”, originally published in The Nation, December, 2022, excerpted below.

Last week, Bette Midler tweeted that the people of West Virginia are “poor, illiterate and strung out.” Donald Trump should send her a thank-you note.

Right-wing populists – who pretend to honor working-class voters while serving the interests of the richest Americans – hit electoral pay dirt every time an urban elitist denigrates rural, working people...

Andrew Levison, “Three Important Facts about Rural Areas that Democratic Candidates and Political Strategists Need to Understand”, offered in its entirety here:

1. Rural political districts are widely diverse and any “One Size Fits All” political strategy will inevitably miss the mark.

The two photos that inevitably illustrate the text of most political articles about rural areas are of wheat fields and cattle ranches. In reality, however, there are actually a very wide range of very distinct rural areas with equally distinct social and political characteristics.

Agricultural areas alone range from Florida districts where oranges and other citrus fruits are harvested to California districts where lettuce, grapes, tomatoes and other vegetables are grown and other areas devoted to tobacco, soybeans, corn and wheat. Other rural areas are devoted to resource extraction and exploitation - strip and open-pit mining, fracking, natural gas and oil well operation, commercial timber and fishing operations and, increasingly, the rapidly growing outdoor recreation and tourism industries. A third distinct rural environment are places where manufacturing and food processing facilities are located: industrial plants that fled from urban areas in previous decades, carpet and furniture making factories and poultry, pork and beef processing facilities. All these areas are “unmistakably rural” but the communities and cultures that exist around them are so significantly different from each other that they create substantial differences in social and cultural outlook.

For Democratic political strategy the key fact is this: No single generic rural “message” or organizing strategy can adequately capture the distinct local “flavor” of these communities without sounding out of touch and unconvincing.

2. Rural small towns have deep social divisions between a rural economic elite and the working class population

As an article in *The U.K. Guardian* noted:

A class of local elites owns the valuable land that surrounds a typical rural small town, which is home to a post office, public schools, a grocery store, and sometimes a hospital... the owners of physical assets – fast food franchises, apartment complexes, car dealerships – make up the rest of this scaled-down hierarchy. They sit on local non-profit boards, run the chamber of commerce, and are influential members of their churches. They often hold elected office and are disproportionately responsible for the political constitution of rural areas.¹

Beneath this rural elite there are a wide variety of working-class occupations, ranging from farm and ranch workers and foremen to truck drivers, feedlot, storage facility and warehouse workers, mechanics and repairmen and regional concentrations of lumber workers, fishermen, oil pipeline and refinery workers, strip mine and open-pit mine workers, forestry employees, firefighters and others.

Both the business and resource owners and the people who work for them in these places share a clear “rural consciousness” of themselves as “country people” rather than “city people” and have a widespread resentment of the latter. But there is also a substantial difference between their outlooks. The first group is the natural, quite

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/feb/22/us-politics-rural-america>

passionate base of the Republican Party while the working people have a wider range of views.

In formulating progressive and Democratic strategy it is important to clearly focus messaging and outreach on the second group in particular, that is working-class rural people.

3. Rural voters are largely Republican but they are not all staunch ideological conservatives or MAGA extremists.

To begin with, there are very significant pockets of Democratic support in rural areas. Latinos in Texas and the Southwest, African-Americans in the “Black Belt” of rural counties that stretches from Georgia to Louisiana and Native American communities in many areas of the West, Southwest and Mountain West remain majority democratic (although among Latinos there has been some slippage in recent years).

But on a deeper level it is crucial to recognize that while a very daunting majority of white rural workers now vote for the GOP, they are not all staunch ideological conservatives or MAGA extremists.

The basic, very widely shared political outlook in rural America is properly called cultural traditionalism. It is a perspective shaped by the major social institutions in rural life – the church, the military, the local business community and the version of the American system of government taught in traditional High School civics classes. The values it endorses are religious piety, patriotism, small business/free enterprise and constitutional democracy.

These same values are shared by many people in urban America as well but whereas people who live in urban areas are clearly aware that there are people with a range of different values and ideas who live around them, people in rural areas find these traditional values to be almost universally held and therefore see them as obvious “common sense” or “what everybody just knows” rather than as a specific perspective.

In the post-World War II era in rural areas liberal and progressive “New Deal” democrats like Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern were able to succeed because they combined their progressive social and economic views with an understanding and respect for the basic cultural traditionalism of the districts and voters they represented.

But today there is also an important distinction between MAGA extremists who hold racially biased, theocratic, and bitterly anti-liberal views on the one hand and others who were raised with a more tolerant and compassionate “Judge not lest ye be judged” version of Christianity (one which is still widespread in rural America) and an instinctive “populist” distrust of business and politicians.

For progressives and Democrats the key to effective rural organizing is to carefully follow a basic two level approach. On the one hand candidates should show a clear understanding and respect for many rural voters' basic cultural traditionalism, even in cases where they disagree with it on specific issues, while at the same time drawing clear distinctions between the extremism of the MAGA supporters and the more tolerant and economically populist views of non-extremist rural Americans. For progressive and Democratic political strategy the basic fact is that the MAGA supporters in rural America cannot be persuaded; a significant group of non-MAGA rural voters can.

The recent report by the Rural-Urban Bridge Initiative *Can Democrats Succeed in Rural America? A Review of Strategies & Practices that Work* is a companion study to this directory that offers a wealth of specific examples of how this approach can be applied in practice. Every prospective Democratic candidate who wants to run in rural districts should read and apply it as a key resource for their campaign.



THANK YOU FOR USING THE DIRECTORY OF RURAL ORGANIZATIONS



THE DEMOCRATIC
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Political Strategy for a Permanent Democratic Majority