



Rural Virginia Prosperity Commission

RURAL VIRGINIA MUST MAKE ITS OWN PROSPERITY, BUT IT WILL NEED HELP

- Each community in rural Virginia has a right to define what prosperity means for it.
- Each community needs to define its goals and develop a coherent strategic plan to achieve those goals.
- Until they do these two things, any expenditures of state funds to aid rural economic development is at high risk of being wasted.
- Rural communities lack the leadership to develop and implement strategies.
- Rural communities will need technical assistance in
 - 1) Training a new generation of effective leaders.
 - 2) Understanding the realities of economic development in a global economy,
 - 3) Developing realistic and obtainable strategic goals,
 - 4) Forming regional coalitions and partnerships to achieve economies of scale, and
 - 5) Identifying needed strategic investments
- The Commonwealth will need to find ways to provide such technical assistance.
- The Commonwealth will also need to be ready to fund cost-effective strategic investments that are beyond the capacity of local or regional authorities.