



National Rural Development Partnership

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **That SRDCs shall include representation from all agencies, organizations, and individuals who are dedicated to enhancing economic and social opportunities for rural citizens.**
- **That SRDCs should have the support and participation of the state government (including, ideally, the governor, cabinet and independent agencies, and legislature) of the states in which the SRDC operate.**
- **That participation in SRDC decisions and operations shall be open to all who wish to participate.**
- **The SRDCs shall represent the diversity of states' rural populations and geography.**
- **That all who participate in SRDCs shall have a voice in SRDCs decisions and that the SRDCs shall be free from control of any single individual, organization, agency, sector, political party, or interest group.**

Principles continued

- **That SRDCs shall provide open, neutral environments where all participants' voices can be heard and where major decisions are reached, whenever possible, through consensus.**
- **That SRDCs shall receive financial and other support from diverse sources.**
- **That each SRDC shall retain an executive director will manage the operation of the SRDC; that the executive director shall be hired, supervised, and if necessary, removed through the collective participation of all of the SRDC's partners, without any one partner dictating or dominating the decision-making process; that the executive director shall be a senior-level individual with the experience, knowledge, and stature to attract all those who should be participating in the SRDC and to guide those who participate in the SRDC to effective and meaningful solutions; and the executive director shall be provided with a support staff and budget adequate to meet the expectations that have been established for the SRDC.**
- **That all SRDCs shall participate in the nationwide network of SRDCs; attend NRDP national conferences; participate in the governance of the NRDP; and participate in NRDP committees, task forces, and other bodies, such as Partners for Rural America.**