



Committed to the future of rural communities.

New Mexico—Rural Housing Service

# Regional Collaboration

## North East New Mexico Kickstarts Regional Development Planning with USDA Program



*Members of the North East Central Stronger Economies Together (SET) program listen to one of nine modules facilitated by USDA-RD and NMSU-CES. The group met once a month for 3-5 hours in different locations throughout the region. Members continue to work collaboratively towards a regional development plan following the completion of the formal training.*

### Outline Of Need:

Regional economic development planning is critical for enabling rural communities to strategically build on current and emerging strengths in the regions.

### How Rural Development Helped:

Representatives from seven counties in North East New Mexico participated in the Phase I pilot of the Stronger Economies Together (SET) Program. Through this program, USDA-RD worked closely with New Mexico State's Cooperative Extension Service (NMSU-CES) to facilitate a nine-module training course that guided regional participants through the development of practical and viable regional and economic development strategies.

Following the completion of the formal training sessions in August 2011, USDA-RD continues to pro-

vide technical assistance to the group.

### The Results:

The formal SET program ran from December 2010 to August 2011 and was well attended by representatives from the seven county area. Program participants reported significant gains in knowledge regarding rural economic development as well as strengthened partnerships with other regional leaders.

To continue the work jumpstarted by the SET program, the group formed the North East Economic Development Organization of New Mexico (NEEDO-NM). NEEDO-NM continues to meet regularly throughout the region as it works towards the formulation of a regional development plan.

As a result of the SET program, formal resolutions in support of joint economic development planning have been voted on and signed by the counties or Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Quay, San Miguel and Union and the cities/towns of Las Vegas, Maxwell, Eagle Nest, Cimarron, Springer, Angel Fire, Mosquero, Roy and Clayton.

## Fast Facts

**Program:** Stronger Economies Together (SET)  
**Investment:** Training and Technical Assistance  
**Partners:** NMSU-Cooperative Extension Service, North Central New Mexico Council of Governments, Eastern Plains Council of Governments

### Demographics

- Median Household Income for the region in 2008 was \$36,755 compared with \$43,719 for the state as a whole.

### Impact:

- Provided planning tools and strengthened relationships among regional leaders

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