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Youth, Families, Community

Extension programs drive economic growth and community vitality

Especially in rural areas, business owners, local leaders and others can have trouble finding support, information and resources. Across the nation, Extension programs are helping boost local economies and build vibrant communities.

Here are a few examples of that work:

- In **Mississippi**, Extension professionals lead a program that educates new small business owners about resources and strategies that can help them succeed. The program also guides participants in drafting a business plan. *Mississippi State University Extension Service; Smith-Lever. See [full statement](#).*
- Extension personnel with the Center for Cooperatives in **Wisconsin** fulfill the unique training and education needs of co-ops, which are owned by members and operate differently than investor-owned, for-profit corporations. They're especially important when it comes to providing goods and services in rural areas. *University of Wisconsin Extension; State appropriations, Other USDA competitive. See [full statement](#).*
- **Michigan** Extension professionals are assessing local and regional tourism economies. Their First Impressions Tourism program analyzes perspectives of first-time visitors and helps local leaders identify areas to improve or capitalize on. *Michigan State University Extension; Smith-Lever. See [full statement](#).*
- Counties in **Nevada** benefit from a database that aids local planning and economic development decisions, helping counties, especially those in the state's rural and frontier areas, seek grants and decide on which projects to pursue. *University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; County funding, Nonprofit Grants and Contracts. See [full statement](#).*

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The National Land-grant Impacts Database (NIDB) documents the individual and collective impacts of the national Land-grant University System of joint research, education and Extension. Much of this work is supported by capacity and competitive funds through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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- An Extension program in **Tennessee** prepares recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for in-demand jobs that require some training beyond a high school diploma but not necessarily a four-year degree. Participants received vocational and technical training, which set the stage for many to earn certifications and land jobs. *University of Tennessee Extension; Other USDA Capacity – extension. See [full statement](#).*
- **Missouri** Extension educators held conferences and developed webinars focused on rural entrepreneurship. Participants learned about networking and technology's role in running a small business. *University of Missouri Extension. See [full statement](#).*