



Call for Presentations

Mobilizing Rural Communities: The Northern Plains Initiative Conference
October 8-9, 2009
Asset Building Summit October 7
Holiday Inn Grand – Billings, MT

Rural Dynamics is seeking proposals for speakers at **Mobilizing Rural Communities: the Northern Plains Initiative Conference**. Mobilizing Rural Communities is not just a one-time event. This is the next step in a multi-year investment with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to build economic equality across the Northern Plains region. Building upon a series of community meetings and conversations across North and South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming beginning in 2006, **Mobilizing Rural Communities** serves as a forum where opportunities in rural communities are explored and strategies are identified to achieve them.

The region needs your support by speaking at Mobilizing Rural Communities: the Northern Plains Initiative conference, October 7th, 8th, and 9th 2009. Your engagement will provide participants a springboard into community action groups. Now is the time to bring community organizations and leaders together to create relationships and collective thinking which will move into collective action that reaches across individual organizations enabling sustainable community coalitions.

Our goal is to provide engaging sessions during which participants are able to identify action items of benefit to their work and our collective vision of empowering sustainable rural communities. The speaker request for proposal details the conference topics. Each topic will have several sessions facilitated by the best practitioners and speakers from across our region and the nation.

A draft of the conference brochure is attached. Thank you for your support of the Northern Plains region. Your support at this time will make a difference in the quality of rural life across the Northern Plains. For additional information, please visit www.plainstalk.org.

Conference Topics

Multiple sessions will be offered on each of the following four topics.

1. Policy

Purpose: To help participants understand legislative procedures; effects of policy and effecting policy change; advocacy versus lobbying; civic engagement and coalition building; identifying stakeholders; and state specific. One goal of this track is to establish a unified voice for policy initiatives affecting our region. Another is to build participant use of constituent advocacy.

2. Programs

Purpose: To begin a learning network; share best practices; exchange strategies for successful community vision based programs; provide examples of cross-border, region-wide success - building activities across border both geographic and programmatic; learn about community member asset development strategies, social service provider networks, and volunteer networks.

3. Communications and Relationship Development

Purpose: To generate awareness across diverse stakeholders; develop strategies for telling your story; incorporate social corporate marketing and sponsorships; leverage electronic media; grassroots coalition building; help further your relationships with funders and other stakeholders; and create generative dialogue.

4. Systems Thinking and Organizational Learning

Purpose: Learn about systems thinking and organizational learning; develop participant's tools; provide example of successful applications; and utilizing a systemic approach to strengthen reporting and evaluation.

Presenter Benefits

Models and presenters chosen for conference presentation will receive:

- Exposure to a national audience that represents a wide array of organizations and individuals working to create thriving communities
- Registration for **Mobilizing Rural Communities** conference at a discounted rate.
- Participation in a 30-minute teleconference to outline presentation goals and expectations.
- Attend a short welcome reception prior to the conference to meet other presenters and build your network.
- Presentation materials and contact information to attendees and the larger public via the *Plainstalk.org* web site.

Presenter Information

Presentation Title:
First Name:
Last Name:
Job Title:
Organization:
Website:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Additional Presenter Information

Presentation Title:
First Name:
Last Name:
Job Title:
Organization:
Email:

Please Indicate the conference track your presentation is proposed for

Asset Building (i.e. IDA's, free tax preparation)

Policy

Programs

Communications

Systems Thinking/Organizational Learning

Please include three learning objectives for participants or best practices you will feature:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Presentation Summary:

Submission Information

By submitting a proposal, the presenter expresses intent to fulfill the presentation role, if accepted.

Please include a photograph and brief biography or resume that we can utilize in conference materials.

Upon receipt, submissions will be reviewed and you will be notified promptly. To submit or for additional information:

By Email: conference@ruraldynamics.org

By Fax: 406.761.8622

By Mail: Mobilizing Rural Communities Proposals

Rural Dynamics, Inc.

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