



ReIMAGINING RURAL

REIMAGINING RURAL VIRTUAL GATHERING 2024 APPLICATION

REIMAGINING RURAL VIRTUAL GATHERING EXPLAINED

At its heart, Reimagining Rural brings people together in your town to learn some new ideas of what is working in other small towns and to have discussions about what is possible for your town. In the first three years, Reimagining Rural communities were eligible for small seed grants from Montana Community Foundation to implement an idea that came out of Reimagining Rural discussions. We hope that grants will be available this year but will not know until the program is underway.

Communities selected for Reimagining Rural will host three nights of gatherings where people come together to hear speakers share fresh new ideas on rural community vitality. Following the speakers, those gathered locally will have time to discuss the ideas presented with the help of a local trained facilitator.

- **Monday, January 29, 2024** – Rural is Changing, Not Dying
- **Monday, February 12, 2024** – New Ways to Get Things Done in Small Towns
- **Monday, February 26, 2024** – Stories of What is Working in Small Towns

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Reimagining Rural Virtual Community Gathering is a great opportunity to energize local leaders, as well as rethink what is possible for your community.

Participating communities will:

- Receive up to \$200 to defray costs of local event.
- Have community coaching available as you plan your local event.
- Receive free facilitator training for the local facilitator you choose.
- Receive individualized free marketing materials to assist in local promotion.
- Have access to county data on some of the changes happening.

COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The virtual gathering is designed to be as inclusive and expansive as possible for each community. Therefore, communities must apply to participate to demonstrate you have broad support for participating in Reimagining Rural. **Complete and return the application to the address below by December 15, 2023.** If you have questions, please email communityvitality@montana.edu.

Please mail or email the completed application to:

Tara Mastel
MSU Extension Community Vitality
PO Box 2182
Red Lodge, MT 59068
communityvitality@montana.edu



Reimagining Rural Virtual Community Gathering Application

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Please complete this application and return it to MSU Extension PO Box 2182 Red Lodge, MT 59068 or to communityvitality@montana.edu by December 15, 2023.

Community: _____

Individual Completing the Application: _____

Sponsoring Organization (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Organizing Committee

Please let us know who will be assisting with the planning and organizing of your community's local event. We will communicate with this group about all aspects of this event. Include **names, email, mailing address and phone numbers** of two or three people who will lead the planning for your town.

1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

How will Reimagining Rural benefit your community?

Very briefly (4-5 sentences) share why you think your community would benefit from being a part of Reimagining Rural. What are your ideas or your vision for how participating could improve your community? What impact do you hope this has on your community and/or your community members? Don't worry! There are no wrong answers.

Collaboration/Community Partnership Roster

Having people from all parts of your community participate is the key to a successful Reimagining Rural event. To get more than “the same ten people” to attend, it is best to make sure that many different people are informed and involved in helping make the event happen.

There are many ways to partner to make Reimagining Rural a success including simply attending, helping with marketing, or helping organize part of the event. Some groups to consider asking to help include: your community foundation, school, local paper, local radio station, healthcare, civic organizations, senior centers, chamber of commerce, youth organizations, law enforcement or faith-based organizations.

Please list ten potential partners in your community who may help make your event a success. Please have at least three individuals sign below as a commitment to hosting, supporting or participating in your local gathering.

Individual, Group or Organization Name	Interest/Role	Possible Contributions (Assets they bring)	Signature of Commitment

Return your application by December 15, 2023, to:

Tara Mastel, MSU Extension Community Vitality, PO Box 2182, Red Lodge, MT 59068 or communityvitality@montana.edu