

February 6, 2018

Dear Community Leader,

The Idaho Rural Partnership invites you to apply for a Community Review in 2018 or 2019. Housed within the Idaho Department of Labor, IRP is a collaboration of government, business, education, and nonprofit stakeholders that has supported communities in rural Idaho for 26 years. Last year we conducted our 40th community review in Plummer.



A Community Review is an assessment and strategic planning process conducted in with local leaders, business owners, and residents. IRP assembles a ‘visiting team’ of community and economic development professionals to work alongside your community. These visiting professionals pay their own travel and lodging costs and donate their time and talents to help rural communities manage change and pursue goals on their own terms.

The community review process will give your community more clarity about shared goals and opportunities, improved coordination among business and community organizations, and leads for available funding and other resources. As an added bonus, the substantial in-kind contribution of volunteers can count as ‘soft match’ in future grant applications. Additional information about the review process is provided by the attached documents.

This year marks a re-launching of the Community Review program. The process has been separated into three distinct phases, as described by the Guide document. Phase 1 will be conducted in all communities applying to the program. Communities that demonstrate the interest and readiness have the option of moving on to Phase 2 and 3.

We invite inquiries and applications from all rural communities with populations less than 10,000, including ones in which we’ve conducted a community review prior to 2007. Our intention is to work with one community beginning in the spring, a second community in the summer, and third community in the fall of this year.

You’ll find more information—including written reports from dozens of Community Reviews we’ve completed—at [www.irp.idaho.gov](http://www.irp.idaho.gov). You can also contact the IRP office at 208-332-1730 or email us at [irpcommunityreview@irp.idaho.gov](mailto:irpcommunityreview@irp.idaho.gov). Please note the deadline for the current community review application cycle is **Friday, March 2, 2018**.

Sincerely,

Jon Barrett, Idaho Rural Partnership, 208-332-1730

Roy Valdez, Idaho Department of Labor and IRP Board Co-Chair, 208-332-3570

Art Beal, Idaho RC & D Association and IRP Board Co-Chair, 208-369-0137

Jerry Miller, Idaho Department of Commerce, 208-334-2470

Lori Porreca, Federal Highway Administration, 208-334-9180

Lorie Higgins, University of Idaho Extension, 208-885-9717

Erik Kingston, Idaho Housing & Finance Association, 208-331-4706

Brian Dale, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 208-334-1338

*The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) joins diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.*