



CALIFORNIA

California Association for Local Economic Development

C A L E D . O R G

Rural Economic Development Exchange Charter

The California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) has long understood that the rural communities of California have specific economic development needs. While their concerns are often similar to those in urban areas (affordable housing, quality infrastructure, trained workforce, access to capital, excessive regulations) the solutions can be different in areas where distance, accessibility, and a lack of population concentration create unique challenges.

As a result, CALED has created a Rural Exchange. The purpose of the exchange is to convene rural leaders, economic development practitioners, and those who care about rural communities for an opportunity to dialogue about priorities, challenges, solutions, and resources to grow rural economies. Potential outcomes of the Rural Exchange include:

- Sharing knowledge & best practices across jurisdictions
- Providing rural advocacy and policy leadership when appropriate
- In-person networking/connections with others
- “Working Sessions” to be held in rural areas
- Identifying resources & financing tools

Specific Exchange Goals

- Convene rural economic development stakeholders at least one time per year (outside CALED’s Annual Conference)
- Include a Rural Exchange opportunity at the conference for resource providers to share updates on how they can support rural economic development as well as showcase best practices
- Work with USDA Rural Development in California to identify ways CALED can support their priorities and promote their work/grants.
- Share what we learn with partners that may be in a position to assist in addressing priorities, challenges, solutions, and resources to grow rural economies