

# Funding and Finance initial assessment outline

- Challenges and strategies for accessing sustainable climate resilience funding and finance in rural communities
- Descriptions of Private Funding and Finance Mechanisms
- Descriptions of Public Funding and Finance Opportunities
  - Public Funding and Finance by Issue Area
  - Public Funding and Finance by Mechanism
  - Federal Funding and Finance Programs by Agency
  - State Funding and Finance Programs for Target States
    - Oregon
    - Montana
    - Colorado
    - Minnesota
    - Maine
    - North Carolina
- Case studies of successful climate resilience funding and finance in rural communities
- Informational Resources

# Challenges for accessing funding and finance

- Political and Cultural
  - Lack of prioritization (or open hostility) to climate change
- Capacity
  - Staff capacity and skills to pursue funding opportunities
  - Lack of access to data
- Regulatory and Administrative
  - Grant prerequisites and match requirements
  - Special challenges for unincorporated areas

# Strategies for Accessing Funding and Finance

## Collaborative Partnerships

1. Use cross-sector partnerships to increase project capacity.
2. Get buy-in from community and government leaders in positions of power.

## Intentional Processes

3. Prioritize equity in all project decisions.
4. Co-develop climate resilience projects with community residents.
5. Seek a variety of funding and finance types to cover all stages of project life.
6. Bundle projects by program to pursue joint funding and finance

## Innovative Accounting Practices

7. Use comprehensive accounting practices that make a strong business case for action.
8. Project processes and outcomes grounded by resilience metrics.

## Enabling Regulatory Frameworks & Enabling Policy

9. Clearly connect to existing local government plans.
10. Benefit from policies that incentivize climate resilience action.

# Private funding and finance mechanisms

- Foundations
- Social impact funding
- Payments for ecosystem services
- Environmental impact bonds/green bonds

# Public Funding and Finance Opportunities by Issue Area

- Clean Water
- Natural resources conservation
- Rural development
- Workforce development
- Agriculture
- Emergency management/hazard mitigation
  - Fire
  - Flood
- Climate resilience
- Coastal resilience

# Public funding and finance mechanisms

- Grant (no match)
- Grant (with match)
- Low interest loan
- Revolving loan fund
- Soil and water conservation districts

# Emerging questions

- What challenges for accessing climate resilience funding and finance are rural communities experiencing? Which of those challenges are similar to those experienced by many types of communities with low capacity and which are specific to rural communities?
- What strategies/actions are succeeding in increasing climate resilience funding and finance access for rural communities?
- What public funding opportunities (e.g. federal or state) are currently being used to advance climate resilience work in rural communities? What new opportunities are coming online that seem particularly promising? Why?
- What are important considerations about rural community context that may make particular funding and finance mechanisms (e.g. grants, loans, bonds, etc) more or less appropriate or accessible?