



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Rural Development Initiative Leadership Program

Preferred Agenda: June 28, 2022

Submitted By: Julie Fisher, Administrative Services Manager

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion X Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: Type Code/Policy Here

Towards Council Goal: Economic Strength 3. Collaborate with regional partners

Attachments: RDI Leadership

Purpose of this RCA:

Council directive regarding continued support of the Rural Development Initiative Leadership Programs.

Background/Context:

Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) is a regional rural development hub organization working hand in hand with communities to strengthen rural people, places, and economies in the Pacific Northwest.

The Rural Development Initiatives Program (RDI) has been delivering leadership development programs since 2003 and many of Sweet Home's community have been participants. In 2019, RDI began a program, in collaboration with the City, for youth using the same program format. 13 Sweet Home students gained valuable skills and were heavily involved in leadership opportunities in schools, churches and around the community.

Rural communities throughout our region have knowledgeable and skilled leaders who work together to make a difference across the Pacific Northwest. RDI works to make sure rural places can continue to grow by partnering with communities to train and mentor emerging leaders. RDI's Rural Community Leadership Program has reached more than 350 communities and 9,000 people throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The Challenge/Problem:

Allocation of funds to support leadership programs in Sweet Home.

Stakeholders:

- Community – RDI Programs train rural leaders to build community and create community vitality

- Staff – Several staff members have completed leadership training through RDI, building skills and strengthening the organization.
- Council – Understanding the state of rural leadership development around the nation and supporting local efforts.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The Executive Department budget continues funding that could be used toward support of Rural Development Initiatives Programs.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

Community leadership development in rural communities is foundational to their efforts to create vital places, as without skilled leaders, rural towns can find it difficult to reach consensus about local priorities and agree on how to move forward.

Options:

1. Option #1 – Do nothing.
2. Option #2– Make a motion to approve the allocation of \$20,000 in support of Rural Sweet Home Community Youth Leadership Program.
3. Option #3 – Make a motion to approve the allocation of \$20,000 in support of the Sweet Home Combined Community Leadership Program.

Recommendation:

1. Option #3 – Make a motion to approve the allocation of \$20,000 in support of the Sweet Home Combined Community Leadership Program.