

## 2020 Plan of Work Outline

### Developing Pathways to Resilient Communities

- **Local & Regional Food Systems – SERA 47** – Continue to facilitate progress on:
  - Successful models for structuring multi-disciplinary Land-Grant University initiatives
  - Learning Community to strengthen local foods efforts
  - Impact Measures – identify and implement a shared measurement system
  - Resource Bank – develop a repository for Extension and Research resources related to local foods work.
- **Broadband Access and Adoption:**
  - National Digital Education Extension Team (NDEET) – facilitate work on:
    - Developing partnerships
    - Helping communities organize to connect to broadband
    - Supporting digital literacy skill development
    - Researching issues related to broadband access
  - 4H/Microsoft Digital Ambassadors, Tech Changemakers project – Continue to provide coaching assistance to 16 pilot states as needed.
- **Heirs' Property**
  - Research initiative – estimating the extent of heirs' property issue in the South
  - Convene a regional Extension and research meeting to develop a plan to strengthen regional collaboration
- **2020 Census**
  - Explore opportunities to facilitate collaborative planning with identified partners such as State Data Centers, Cooperative Extension Service, Kids' Count State Centers
  - Identify/develop tools to encourage rural participation
  - Document lessons learned
- **Coming Together for Racial Understanding** – support the 25 pilot states that began working in August 2018 and October 2019. Facilitate continued research following the teams' efforts.

### Build Strategic Partnerships

- **CREATE BRIDGES**, Walmart project – Continue efforts with the three pilot states to explore ways to strengthen the retail economic sector in rural places; looking for opportunities to expand in subsequent years.
- **USDA Office of Partnership and Public Engagement** – aid in facilitation/training for state summits; build a toolkit for communities to use in exploring key priorities related to generating wealth; develop a basic grant writing workshop for use in underserved communities; explore opportunities to advance assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers/ranchers. Focus: Helping rural communities and disadvantaged groups increase access to USDA and other resources.
- **Southern Region Program Leadership Network (PLN)** – continue to support the annual work of PLN along with helping support the Program Leadership Committee's efforts to plan for the annual joint meeting.
- **Southern Region Community Resource Development (CRD) Indicators** – facilitate gathering and reporting of southern region CRD indicators.

### Mobilize Resources around Emerging Issues and Opportunities

- **Disaster Resilience** - Assist in national scan of priorities for Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
- **Rural Water and Sewer Systems** - Conduct a survey of the LGU (research and Extension) system on efforts related to rural water and sewer systems, looking at both financial and infrastructure sustainability.