



RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

RDP Lead Guide

Thank you for your interest in working with Rural Development Partners (RDP) to use New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing for the benefit of low-income communities (LICs) and low-income persons (LIPs) throughout rural America! The purpose of this **lead guide** is to help you better understand the potential alignment between your project, your community, and RDP.

RDP Vision

Quality Job Access for Rural America

RDP Mission

Forging Public-Private Partnerships for Catalytic Job Growth in Rural America

RDP supports businesses and non-profits seeking to attract private investment for the purpose of creating high quality accessible jobs in rural communities across the United States.

- RDP focuses on **manufacturing** and **distribution** businesses due to their large job creation and **catalytic** impact.
- RDP prioritizes projects that demonstrate the potential to stimulate supply chain growth, build the local economy, and thereby **induce additional private/public investment** into the community, resulting in even more quality jobs.
- RDP works to make jobs more **accessible** by
 - 1) Building **public-private partnerships** between project sponsors, LIC representatives, and local backbone organizations to develop **workforce capacity** through RDP's Community Investment Program (CIP).
 - 2) RDP believes that employees and their families cannot thrive at their jobs without **access to healthy food**. To that end, RDP utilizes NMTCs to support **food bank expansions** (often located in metro areas) that build healthy food capacity for rural locations and increase food access for rural employees and their families.

RDP Qualification and Prioritization of Projects

Qualification

- 1) Project is located in a distressed or severely distressed LIC (see [NMTC Map](#))
- 2) Project is aligned with RDP's mission
- 3) Project is aligned with community plan
- 4) But for: initial indication of funding gap and/or IRR requirement to proceed

Prioritization for Manufacturing/Industrial Projects

- 1) Creation of accessible quality jobs for LIPs and LIC residents
- 2) Capacity to drive catalytic value to rural areas through supply chains and induced private investment
- 3) QALICB-community outreach & alignment (degree and quality)
- 4) LIC distress level (degree of need) (see [NMTC Qualification Criteria](#))

Prioritization for Healthy Food Projects

- 1) Provides healthy foods to low-income and low-access individuals located in rural areas (see [Feeding America](#) and [USDA Hunger Atlas](#))
- 2) Affordability of products with highest priority given to providers offering free meals/groceries
- 3) Expands healthy food capacity for rural areas
- 4) Generates new healthy food-focused programs that help target rural communities
- 5) Supports LIP and LICR job accessibility: food access helps LIPs and LICRs thrive in jobs

Contact RDP

Does it look like RDP might be a fit for your project and community? Do you have further questions? Are you ready to complete the RDP Intake Form? Check out our website and contact form

<https://www.rdpimpact.com/contact/> or send an email with the following summary information to info@rdpimpact.com.

- Distress Factors relevant to the census tract
- Project Summary: What will be accomplished and what is the total amount in NMTC financing needed?
- Job creation impacts (# of jobs, quality, accessibility, food access)
- Describe why the NMTC is necessary to make the highly impactful project possible