

# Programmatic Investment Summary

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>			
<b>Understanding Community Resilience and Identifying Existing Tools for Assessing Resilience</b> <i>RFP 2008-006</i>			
<b>ALIGNMENT WITH THEORY OF CHANGE</b>			
Forest Retention	Value Streams	Community Capacity	
		<b>X</b>	
<b>TYPE OF PROJECT</b>			
Knowledge	Pilot/Demonstration	Operational	Policy
<b>X</b>			
<b>PROJECT OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES</b>			
<p>Rural communities in the U.S. experience a variety of stresses. They have been and continue to be stressed by successive waves of economic restructuring, demographic shifts, socio-cultural and political transformations, short term environmental disasters and long-term changes. The Endowment wants to understand how rural communities weather these shocks and changes, and what makes some communities able to come through strengthened and renewed, while others struggle and even collapse.</p> <p>This report explores the “state-of-the-issue” of community resilience as it is evolving in the literature and as it is experienced and interpreted by practitioners of rural community economic development in the U.S. It seeks to identify the structural factors, attitudes, resources, and capacities that contribute to resilience in rural communities in the face of a variety of stressors, and to identify approaches and tools that can be helpful in strengthening community capacity for resilient responses to these stressors.</p> <p><a href="#">(View Full Report)</a></p>			
<b>PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS</b>			
<p>Some of the key elements that shape communities’ capacities for resilient response to stressors include functional local institutions, supportive community-focused policies, attitudes of openness among community leaders, and active institutional and informal networks that help communities have access to, exchange, and use new and relevant information.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Share this research with the field and solicit feedback and recommendations for next steps.</li> <li>2) Create and field test a simplified tool for community level assessment based on the revised definition of resilience and a more developed characterization of the stages of resilience.</li> <li>3) Consider investing in researching and developing tools and training in reconciliation</li> <li>4) Expand understanding of community resilience to identify opportunities for new work or adjustments to existing work that would promote community resilience.</li> <li>5) Work with existing grantees to create baseline measures of community/regional resilience and indicators of progress that are region-specific.</li> <li>6) Support (regional) networking efforts among rural communities to exchange information about resources, trainings, tools, etc. that have proven useful to others.</li> <li>7) Provide support and resources to intermediary institutions capable of forging long-term relationships with vulnerable communities.</li> </ol>			
<b>FUNDS COMMITTED</b>			
Endowment Commitment	Leverage via Endowment	Endowment Spending to Date	Leverage Outside Endowment
\$30,576	-	\$30,576	-
<b>CONSULTANTS/GRANTEES</b>			
Yellow Wood Associates, Inc.		Not applicable	
<b>CHRONOLOGY</b>			
Date Approved By Board	Date Agreement Signed or Launched	Project/Initiative Life	Status
November 2007	9-1-2008	3-1-2009 Closed 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Closed