

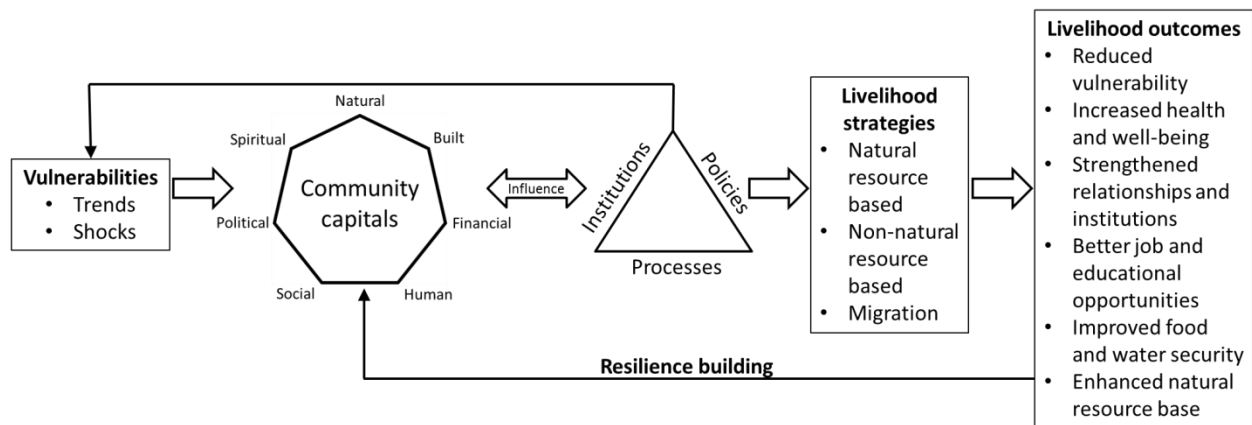
# Tier 1 Rural Renewal Initiative

## Oklahoma State University

### Request for Seed Grant Proposals

**Synopsis:** We invite OSU faculty members to apply for a research seed grant through the Tier 1 Rural Renewal Initiative. The proposed research project may include up to \$100,000 in total direct costs and should have a duration of ~2 years. Five-page proposals and supporting documents should be sent to [ruralrenewal@okstate.edu](mailto:ruralrenewal@okstate.edu) by 5:00 p.m. CDT, June 30, 2020.

**Background and purpose:** The mission of the Rural Renewal Initiative is to catalyze the renewal of rural communities and places in Oklahoma and beyond through interdisciplinary research, student mobilization, and community engagement. We aim to work with faculty, students, and rural communities to discover effective ways to enhance natural, human, and technological capitals, which reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience. This seed grant program is designed to generate a highly interdisciplinary research portfolio designed for exponential growth through external funding. A key feature of these efforts will be participatory research, driven by priorities and questions generated jointly by the community and the researchers. Such research may span from cutting edge basic research, such as developing new broadband and Internet of Things (IoT) communications technologies for agriculture, to community-based participatory research, such as designing effective family and school-based interventions for rural youth to improve educational and career outcomes. This broad spectrum of research recognizes the complex and “wicked” nature of rural problems that must be organized, interpreted, and communicated using a robust conceptual framework for rural communities as coupled human and natural systems, uniting existing models for vulnerability, community capitals, and resilience building (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Rural communities experience vulnerabilities from both gradual trends and sudden shocks, the impacts of which are mediated through diverse, interacting forms of community capital. These capitals influence and are influenced by institutions, policies, and processes at local, state, national, and global levels. In this context, rural citizens choose livelihood strategies in hopes of achieving desirable livelihood outcomes, which create the possibility of resilience building through reinvestment in community capitals. Such reinvestment stimulates renewal and spiraling up.

**Details:** This competitive seed grant program is open to all OSU faculty members and their collaborators, providing funds to initiate research in, with, or for rural communities in the current focus counties for the Rural Renewal Initiative – Harmon and Tillman County, Oklahoma. Future seed grant competitions may focus on projects in other counties in Oklahoma and beyond. One seed grant will be awarded for a research project of ~2-years in duration and up to \$100,000 total direct costs. This seed grant program is intended to stimulate community-engaged and community-based research by creating opportunities to engage communities in refining research questions and opportunities to build new community-academic partnerships. These seed grants are also designed to attract new researchers from all career stages into Rural Renewal research and to provide training opportunities for students and postdocs. Researchers awarded a seed grant will only be eligible to apply for a subsequent seed grant if they provide proof of one or more external funding proposals submitted that leveraged the prior seed grant funds.

**Proposal guidelines:**

1. Include project title, list of team members and affiliations, problem statement, objectives, expected contribution to rural renewal, methods, and role of each team member.
2. Describe researcher partnerships (or plans for developing such partnerships) with individuals and/or organizations in one or both of the focus counties.
3. Provide a clear project evaluation and communication plan with appropriate resources allocated to these efforts.
4. Provide a plan for leveraging the seed grant to pursue external funding.
5. Proposal narrative including items 1-4 above must be five pages or less, 12-pt Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins. Proposal narrative must be submitted as a Word document. A list of references is required and is not included in the page count.
6. Projects should start approximately August 17, 2020, and end on June 30, 2022.
7. Include a budget spreadsheet based on the standard template for the PI's academic unit. Include a detailed budget justification. Do not include indirect costs.
8. Include a two-page NSF-style biosketch for each team member and relevant letters of commitment from partners in the focus communities. The budget justification, biosketches, and letters should all be compiled into one pdf file.

**Review process:** The Rural Renewal Initiative leadership team will coordinate peer reviews and ratings of the proposals by external researchers and by an external advisory board including members of the focus communities. Research supported by these seed grants must focus on and engage partners in the initial Rural Renewal focus areas, Harmon County and/or Tillman County. Proposals that include training opportunities for graduate students, postdocs, and early career researchers will be prioritized. Members of the leadership team will not contribute to the proposal rankings and will be eligible to submit proposals or serve as team members on proposals. Questions may be directed to any member of the Rural Renewal Initiative leadership team or submitted to [ruralrenewal@okstate.edu](mailto:ruralrenewal@okstate.edu). To learn more about the Rural Renewal Initiative and the current set of active seed grants visit <https://ruralrenewal.okstate.edu/>.