

Peer Learning Network Facilitation Guide

Building Connections Between Rural Communities

Why Peer Learning Networks Matter

Small rural communities face similar challenges when managing infrastructure projects. Peer learning networks let communities share experiences, solutions, and support with each other.

Benefits of Peer Networks

Communities in peer networks report:

- Reduced isolation and increased confidence
- Faster problem-solving through shared knowledge
- Access to tested templates and tools
- Emotional support during challenging projects

Setting Up Your Network

Identify Potential Members

Look for communities that are similar in size and resources, managing similar types of projects, and open to sharing experiences honestly.

Choose a Meeting Format

Virtual meetings work well for rural communities spread across large areas. Plan for monthly 60-minute video calls with rotating facilitation among members.

Running Effective Meetings

Follow this simple format:

- Check-in round (10 minutes): Each community shares one recent success
- Focus topic (35 minutes): Deep discussion of one issue
- Problem-solving (10 minutes): Quick help with urgent questions
- Planning (5 minutes): Set topic for next meeting

Building Trust

Peer networks only work when members trust each other. **Build trust by:**

- Keeping all discussions confidential
- Sharing both successes and challenges honestly
- Showing up consistently for meetings
- Helping others without expecting immediate return