



## One site links you to community development solutions, data and resources from all 12 Reserve Banks

by: Jennifer Wilding

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Whether your field is housing, childcare, workforce, small business or a host of other community development topics, the Federal Reserve has resources for you. We make it easy for you to find the latest in solutions-oriented research, data and events through [Fed Communities](#), your gateway to insights for the community development field. You can subscribe to the [monthly newsletter](#) or view the [quarterly compilation](#) of select new content for an overview.

### Here's a small taste of what's new on the site

- The series, "[Rural America: A Treasure of Assets](#)," shares what rural residents and organizations are doing to develop high quality, affordable housing, to bring reliable internet services to remote areas, and to build systems to help communities create lasting change.
- [Manufactured housing](#) offers a uniquely affordable homeownership onramp at a time when aspiring buyers can't afford pricier site-built homes. This story explores how some are finding creative ways to extend this homeownership option to more buyers.
- The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago partnered with community organizations to explore whether Black businesses in Greater Indianapolis may have an aversion to debt when seeking capital to increase growth. A survey administered to 238 Black-owned businesses in Indiana gathered 180 responses, with [the results analyzed by Black Onyx Management and the Chicago Fed](#).
- Students at community colleges are much more likely than those in four-year institutions to be enrolled in non-credit programs, a critical source of training for the workforce. The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond conducted in-depth outreach to community colleges across its territory. Their [findings](#) provide context for the economic value of non-credit programs and their associated challenges, and offer examples of support from employers and nonprofits.
- [What's Possible](#) is a collection of essays exploring the intersection of community development and weather resilience. [Download the book](#), or get your [free copy](#) of *What's Possible* with complimentary shipping, and join the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and its partners on October 10 for a webinar with playbook contributors.

## Author



### Jennifer Wilding

#### Community Engagement Advisor

Jennifer Wilding, community engagement advisor for the Kansas City Fed, uses writing and public engagement skills on special projects for the community development department.

**Writing**In 2026, the Kansas City Fed released Wilding's "[The Byways Report: The Scenic Route to Rural Prosperity](#)," examining how small towns have used route-based tourism as a strategy for economic development. Along with expert interviews and technical resources, the report includes stories from several byways, with a focus on Route 66 in Oklahoma. Her [three-part series on Investment Connection](#), the Kansas City Fed's signature program, appears on the [national website](#) about the Fed's work in communities. Wilding co-authored [Disconnected: Seven lessons on fixing the digital divide](#), a layperson's guide to putting broadband, devices and training within reach of a community. In addition to special projects, Wilding edits the Kansas City Fed's [community development newsletter](#). [Subscribe here](#). **Engagement** Wilding served as project director for community-engaged research in a neighborhood where broadband subscriptions were very low. The engagement [built understanding](#) of barriers to connection. She also led [focus groups with unemployed individuals](#) and with people from nonprofits that serve them, held in Chicago, Detroit, Denver and Kansas City. Before joining the Kansas City Fed in 2018, Wilding was executive director of Consensus KC, a nonprofit consulting firm specializing in public policy and civic engagement. She holds a B.A. in urban affairs from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her hobby is letterpress printing, using a 1,500-pound cast-iron press from the late 1800s. **About the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City** The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is one of 12 regional Reserve Banks that, along with the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., make up our nation's central bank. We work in the public's interest by supporting economic and financial stability. The Kansas City Fed's territory includes Colorado, Kansas, western Missouri, Nebraska, northern New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Our headquarters is in Kansas City, with branch offices in Denver, Omaha and Oklahoma City. The Kansas City Fed Community Development Department promotes economic development and public understanding that leads to progress for lower-income individuals and communities. Our focus areas include community development investments, digital inclusion, small business / entrepreneurship, and workforce development.