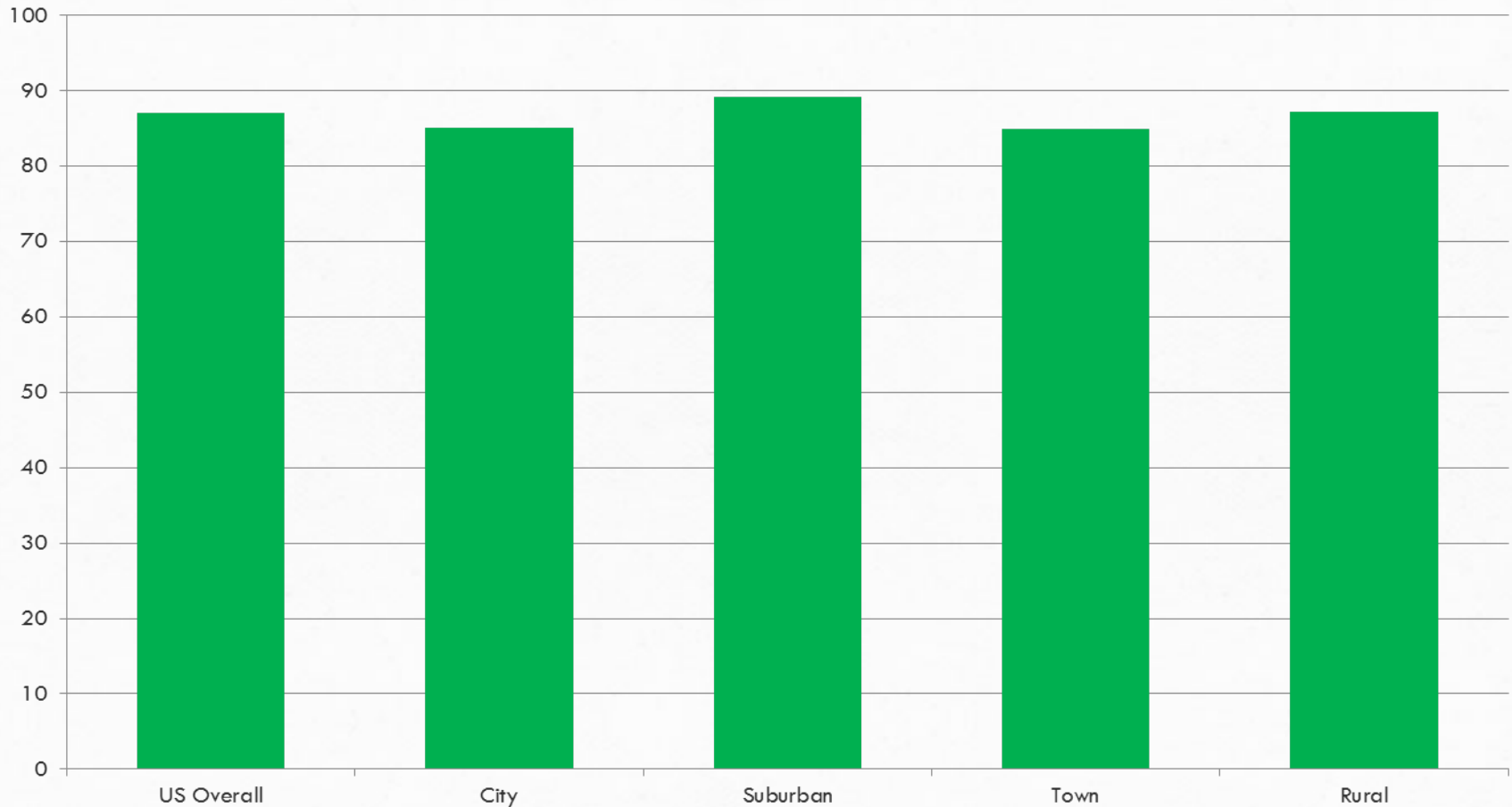**Answering the Call for Greater Prosperity in Rural America**

Appalachian Higher Education Network

June 2018

PERCENTAGE 25 YEARS AND OLDER WHO COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL
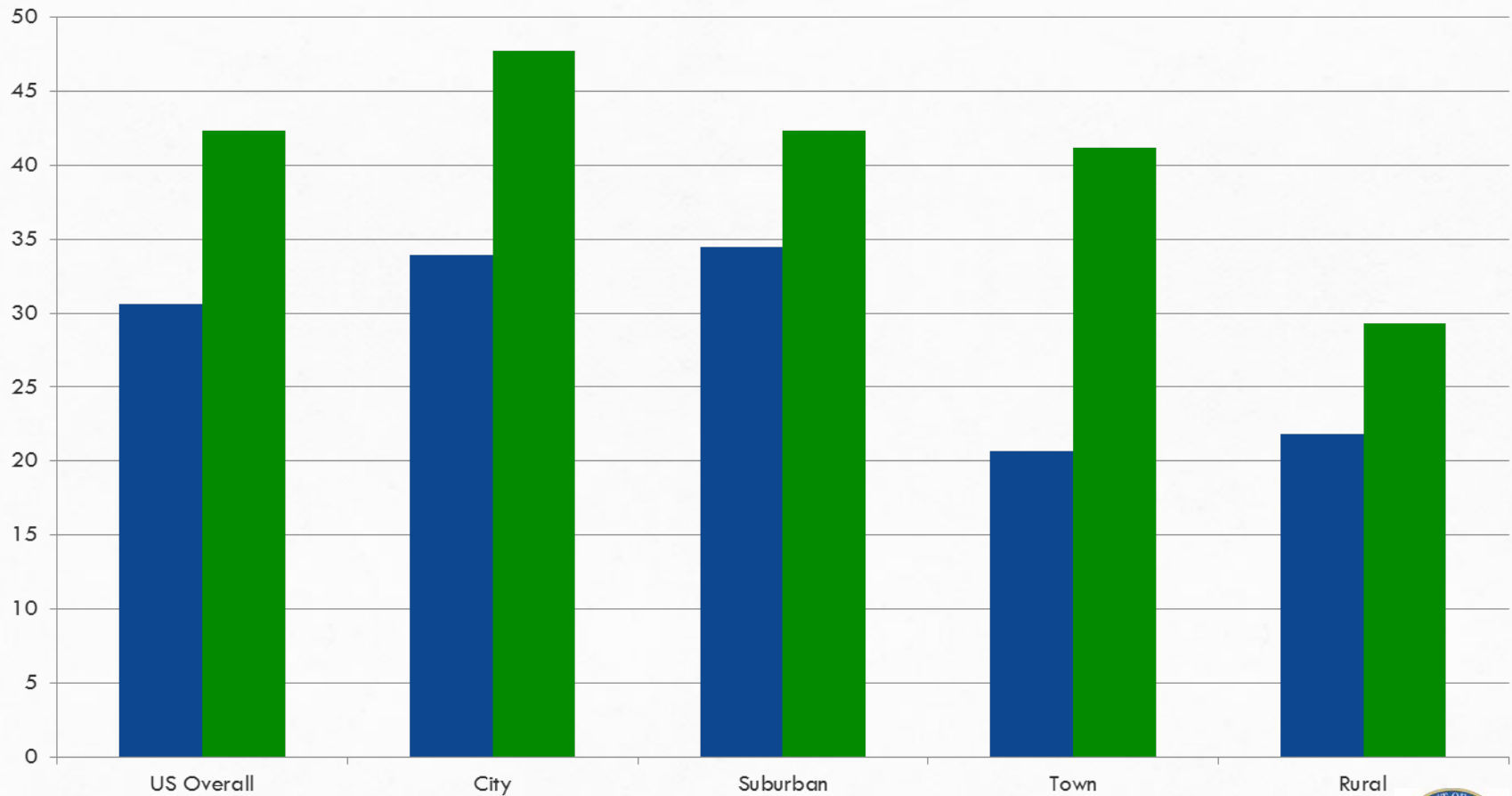

https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ruraled/tables/b.3.c.-1.asp

POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT

■ Percentage 25 Years Old and Older Who Have Bachelor's Degree or Higher
https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ruraled/tables/b.3.c.-1.asp

■ Percentage Aged 18-24 Enrolled in Any College or University Program
https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ruraled/tables/b.3.b.-1.asp

RURAL MATTERS

- "Rural" is not a monolith but a compilation of thousands of unique communities, each with its own characteristics, opportunities and challenges.

- Ominous trends
  - Traditional rural industries waning (ag, mining, manufacturing)
  - Declining population
  - Brain drain

- Rural Americans have had the feeling their voices have not been heard.

INTERAGENCY AGRICULTURE AND RURAL PROSPERITY TASK FORCE

- Created by Executive Order 13790, April 25, 2017, chaired by USDA

- Purpose: Identify legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to promote agriculture, economic development, job growth, infrastructure improvements, technological innovation, energy security, and quality of life in rural America

- Organized around 5 key indicators of rural prosperity: e-Connectivity, Quality of Life, Rural Workforce, Technological Innovation, and Economic Development

- Working with local, state, and tribal leaders, 21 federal agencies, offices, and executive departments identified over 100 actions for consideration

- Issued report and recommendations on January 8, 2018

ED'S ROLE IN RECOMMENDATIONS

E-Connectivity

- Establish executive leadership to expand e-connectivity across rural America, including an interagency effort to develop and implement strategy that reflects best practices for deployment of rural e-connectivity

Quality of Life

- Advance educational opportunities, including partnerships that can maximize digital learning, STEM subjects relevant to agriculture, manufacturing, military, and business
- Modernize healthcare access
- Innovate options for rural housing

Rural Workforce

- Improve access to education and training by improving interagency collaboration with USDA to increase investment in facilities and support increased access to existing federal resources
- Catalog federal training on a single platform and encourage shared use of federal infrastructure

ESSA, SECTION 5005

- Requires ED to review the organization, structure, processes and procedures … in order to
  - assess how ED takes into account, considers input from, and addresses the unique needs and characteristics of rural schools and districts; and
  - determine actions that can increase consideration and participation of rural schools and districts in the development and execution of the processes, procedures, policies, and regulations of ED
- ED published preliminary report on December 20, 2017
- Public comment period through February 20, 2018
- Final report is being drafted

ED RURAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create intra-agency rural workgroup
2. Expand rural listening sessions
3. Explore simplifying applications, documents, and processes
4. Develop training for rural schools and districts
5. Explore increased collaboration with other Federal agencies and commissions
6. Develop a comprehensive communications plan

PRIORITIES WITH RURAL FOCUS

- **Priority 1 – Choice**
  - 1(b)(i) Increasing access to educational for… [c]hildren or students in communities served by rural local educational agencies

- **Priority 6 – Promoting STEM**
  - 6(d) Expanding access to and participation in rigorous computer science… coursework for traditionally underrepresented students such as racial or ethnic minorities, women, students in communities served by rural local educational agencies
  - 6(h) Utilizing technology for educational purposes in communities served by rural local educational agencies

- **Priority 8 – Promoting Effective Instruction**
  - 8(c)(ii) Promoting innovative strategies to increase the number of students who have access to effective educators in… [s]chools that are located in communities served by rural local educational agencies
  - 8(d)(ii) Promoting innovative strategies to increase the number of students who have access to effective principals or other school leaders in [s]chools that are located in communities served by rural local educational agencies

RETHINK SCHOOL

- ESSA gives more control to states and locals
- Take a step back and rethink school:
    - Why do we group students by age?
    - Why do schools close for the summer?
    - Why must the school day start with the rise of the sun?
    - Why do students have to go to a school building in the first place?
    - Why can't a student learn at his or her own pace?
    - Why isn't technology more widely embraced in schools?
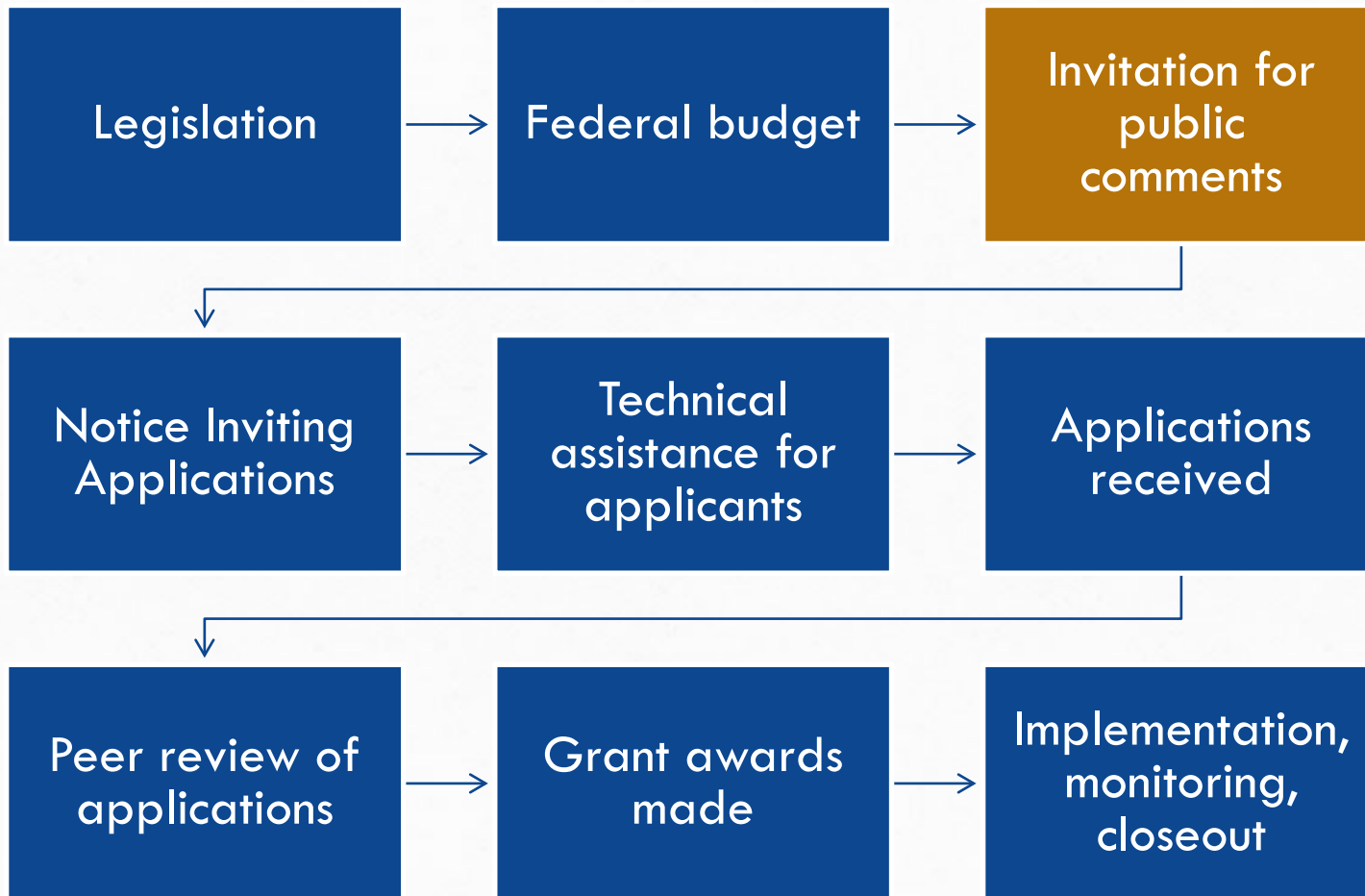- Rural schools may be the best places to rethink.

ED PROGRAMS WITH A RURAL FOCUS

- Rural Education and Achievement Program (REAP)
  - Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA)
  - Rural, Low Income Schools (RLIS)
- Regional Education Laboratories (RELs)
- Education Innovation and Research (EIR) - 25% set aside
- Charter School Programs (CSP) - Competitive Preference
- Promise Neighborhoods (PN) - Absolute Priority
- Pathways to STEM Apprenticeship (OCTAE) – Invitational Priority

NOTE: The National Center for Education Services (NCES) assigns locale codes to schools and districts, which are used to determine status as a rural school or district: 32, 33, 41, 42, 43.

GRANTS PROCESS – FEDERAL LEVEL

Legislation → Federal budget → Invitation for public comments

Notice Inviting Applications → Technical assistance for applicants → Applications received

Peer review of applications → Grant awards made → Implementation, monitoring, closeout

WHERE DO I GO FOR INFO?

GRANTS.GOV
Central location for funding opportunities across the federal government
Provides information about the grants process, including video tutorials
Portal for submitting applications that allows grant team collaboration, which requires registration

ED.GOV
US Department of Education website (only ED funding) (www.ed.gov/rural-education)
Find programs by title (A-Z listing of all ED programs), by eligibility of the type of applicant, or access the Grants Forecast.
Forecast provides anticipated application release date, due date, amount of award, and program contact.
Program webpages provide background, including information on current and previous grantees. Some programs post successful applications and reviewer comments.

FEDERALREGISTER.GOV
Daily compilation of published federal documents of public interest

HINTS AND TIPS FOR ED APPLICATIONS

HELPFUL HINTS
Revisit the mission of your organization, ensuring it is updated to reflect any changes in priorities
Develop and nurture partnerships and coalitions that include schools and community organizations
Conduct community and school district needs assessments and maintain updated statistical data
Regularly research funding opportunities on ed.gov and grants.gov
Read "Grantmaking at ED" and explore the tutorials on Grants.gov
Practice writing skills and consider serving as a peer reviewer for grant competitions
Develop a master plan or logic model that outlines the vision, expected results, and activities to ensure that the pieces all fit together
Apply, apply, apply
Read the reviewer comments

BEYOND HINTS

MUST DO'S
Carefully review the grant notice inviting applications, ensuring that you meet the eligibility criteria
Apply for DUNS number and obtain a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) Register your DUNS and TIN with the System for Award Management (SAM) Register with Grants.gov
Develop your team and establish work plan and timeline
Address the selection criteria and any priorities
Include all required forms and documents
Submit the application before the deadline

TWO GREAT RESOURCES:
Grantmaking at ED
https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/about/grantmaking/grantmaking.pdf

Developing a Competitive SAMHSA Grant Application
https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grant-application-manual.pdf

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