

TITLE 67  
STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATE AFFAIRS

CHAPTER 90

IDAHO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027]

67-9001. SHORT TITLE. [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027] This act may be referred to and cited as the "Idaho Rural Development Partnership Act."

[67-9001, added 2007, ch. 238, sec. 1, p. 703.]

67-9002. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027] The legislature finds that:

(1) Rural development has been given a high priority as a means of achieving a sound and mutually beneficial balance between the economies, culture, infrastructure, and community vitality of rural and urban areas of Idaho.

(2) (a) During the last half century, the legislature has enacted many laws and established many programs to provide resources to rural communities; and

(b) Efforts have been made, and continue to be needed, to coordinate rural development programs.

(3) Partnerships between governmental and nongovernmental entities can extend scarce funding through collaboration and cooperation.

[67-9002, added 2007, ch. 238, sec. 1, p. 703; am. 2024, ch. 202, sec. 1, p. 717.]

67-9003. DEFINITIONS. [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027] As used in this chapter:

(1) "Agency with rural responsibilities" means any public entity of the state of Idaho that:

(a) Implements a provision of law targeted at rural areas; or

(b) Administers a program that has a significant impact on rural areas.

(2) "Community" means a group of people linked by common policy, common social interests and interaction with one another.

(3) "National rural development partnership" means the organization created by the national rural development partnership act (7 U.S.C. 2008m).

(4) "Partnership" means the Idaho rural development partnership established by section [67-9004](#), Idaho Code.

(5) "Rural area" means:

(a) All the territory of the state of Idaho that is not within the boundary of any standard metropolitan statistical area as defined by the United States office of management and budget;

(b) All territory within any standard metropolitan statistical area described in paragraph (a) of this subsection within a census tract having a population density of less than twenty (20) persons per square mile, as determined according to the most recent census of the United States as of any date; and

(c) Such areas as the partnership may identify as rural.

[67-9003, added 2007, ch. 238, sec. 1, p. 704; am. 2016, ch. 90, sec. 1, p. 278.]

67-9004. IDAHO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP CREATED. [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027] (1) There is hereby created an independent public body corporate and politic to be known as the "Idaho rural development partnership," which shall be a public instrumentality of the state, and its exercise of the powers conferred by this chapter is and shall be deemed to be the performance of essential public functions and purposes. The Idaho rural development partnership shall be exempt from taxation and shall be an entity of the state of Idaho as provided in the tort claims act, [chapter 9, title 6](#), Idaho Code, and shall be entitled to all the protection as provided in the tort claims act, [chapter 9, title 6](#), Idaho Code.

(2) The Idaho rural development partnership shall reside within the Idaho department of commerce or within another department of the executive branch as designated by the governor. The designated agency shall manage the budget and staffing requirements to meet the needs of the partnership.

[67-9004, added 2007, ch. 238, sec. 1, p. 704; am. 2024, ch. 202, sec. 2, p. 718.]

67-9005. RESPONSIBILITIES. [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027] In accordance with the mission of the national rural development partnership in bringing together partners from all levels of government as well as private for-profit and nonprofit organizations to address the needs of rural America, the partnership's responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Assess community and economic conditions of rural Idaho;
- (2) Advise the governor and the legislature on public policy and strategies to identify the community and economic development opportunities in rural Idaho;
- (3) Act as a clearinghouse of information and as a referral center on rural programs and policies;
- (4) Conduct outreach to rural communities and facilitate communication between rural residents and public and private organizations that provide services to rural communities;
- (5) Identify organizations, authorities and resources to address various aspects of rural development;
- (6) Serve as a nonpartisan forum for identifying and understanding rural issues from all perspectives;
- (7) Improve intergovernmental coordination and private and public cooperation, and seek out opportunities for new partnerships to achieve rural development goals within existing governmental and community structures;
- (8) Foster coordinated approaches to rural development that support local initiatives, with an imperative not to usurp the individual missions of any member organizations or duplicate effort;
- (9) Seek solutions to unnecessary impediments to rural development within Idaho;
- (10) Work cooperatively and seek solutions to impediments with the national rural development partnership and other state rural development councils; and
- (11) Submit an annual report to the governor outlining the work and accomplishments of the partnership.

[67-9005, added 2007, ch. 238, sec. 1, p. 704; am. 2016, ch. 90, sec. 2, p. 279; am. 2024, ch. 202, sec. 3, p. 718.]

67-9006. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027] (1) The partnership shall be managed by a board of directors that shall include the following members:

- (a) One (1) representative appointed by the governor;
- (b) Three (3) directors from state agencies of the executive branch as appointed by the governor;
- (c) The director of the cooperative extension service in the state of Idaho;
- (d) Four (4) representatives from federal agencies. Such agencies may include: the United States department of agriculture's rural development, farm service agency and forest service, the United States department of the interior's bureau of land management, the United States department of commerce's economic development administration, the United States environmental protection agency, and the United States department of housing and urban development;
- (e) Two (2) state legislators consisting of one (1) member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and one (1) member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (f) Two (2) representatives chosen by the federally recognized Indian tribes in the state of Idaho;
- (g) Two (2) representatives from organizations of local government in the state of Idaho, as appointed by the governor, representing cities, counties, economic development agencies, and resource conservation and development organizations;
- (h) One (1) representative, as appointed by the governor, from for-profit business organizations, to include agribusiness and other businesses operating with special emphasis on rural areas of the state of Idaho;
- (i) One (1) representative of the principal contractor for the United States department of energy's Idaho national laboratory; and
- (j) Two (2) rural leaders chosen by the governor representing private entrepreneurs, chambers of commerce, and nonprofit and community-based organizations living in rural Idaho and representing a geographic balance across the state.

(2) Except for appointments by the governor under this section, members of the board of directors shall serve at the pleasure of the organization or entity the member represents. Board members appointed under subsection (1) (j) of this section shall serve four (4) year terms concurrent with the governor's term.

(3) The board of directors shall elect a cochair as provided in section [67-9007](#), Idaho Code.

(4) The board of directors shall hold a meeting at least annually. A majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

[67-9006, added 2007, ch. 238, sec. 1, p. 705; am. 2016, ch. 90, sec. 3, p. 279; am. 2024, ch. 202, sec. 4, p. 719.]

67-9007. COCHAIRS. [EFFECTIVE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027] The board of directors of the partnership shall have two (2) cochairs, one (1) elected by the partnership's board of directors from among the board's membership and the other appointed by the governor. The cochair elected by the board of directors shall serve a two (2) year term and may be reelected until a total of four (4) consecutive years have been served, following which that individual

will be disqualified for election to the position of cochair until at least one (1) term of office has intervened.

[67-9007, added 2007, ch. 238, sec. 1, p. 706; am. 2016, ch. 90, sec. 4, p. 280; am. 2024, ch. 202, sec. 5, p. 720.]