

Horizons Community Development



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY STEVENS COUNTY EXTENSION

How do you stimulate economic development without disrupting the family-oriented charm of a remote, small, rural town? That was the challenge facing residents of Northport when a group of them discovered the Horizons Program.

Moving from poverty to prosperity isn't easy. It takes a community of leadership. The Horizons philosophy is to spread the wealth by having citizen leaders teach their peers the skills needed to become leaders in their own communities. And that's just what's happened in Northport.

Focusing on practical strategies, Northport community leader Sandra Everson and her colleagues have breathed new life into their small town. With the skills they learned in the Horizons Program, they've brought home a \$100,000 USDA grant they'll use to seed development of a community center. There, they hope to install computers with high-speed internet access, develop a Running Start program for local high-school kids heading for college, and a place where young people can interact with community elders.

Now, Everson and her colleagues are writing a grant in hopes of funding a boat launch. Located on a major north-south transportation route as well as a tributary of the Columbia River, the boat launch project could make a big difference in this tiny town. If more people stop for recreation instead of going elsewhere on the river, businesses will sprout up.

"That's what I like about WSU Extension," said Everson. "They're willing to think outside the box in order to work with you. Horizons isn't a hand out. It's way of creating change through leadership from within a community."

Community Grant Dollars

(each of the six communities received \$10,000 to further their poverty reduction projects and programs)

\$60,000

Community projects:

Chewelah

Farmer's Market
Buy Local Campaign

Colville

Big Idea Contest
Virtual Assistant Training

Hunters

Fair Association BBQ Unit
Health Education Campaign

Kettle Falls

Community Newsletter
Buy Local Campaign

Northport

Community Center
After-school 4-H Program

Springdale

Community Center
Seniors of Springdale (S.O.S)

New communities in Stevens County:

Tum Tum
Valley
Wellpinit-Spokane Tribe

Horizons is funded by the Northwest Area Foundation and delivered to communities in Stevens County and elsewhere in Washington by WSU Extension.