

## Informed Consent Statement

Welcome to the "Stronger Economies Together (SET)" initiative. The four Rural Regional Development Centers, USDA Rural Development, and [insert site-specific Land Grant University] are working with eight pilot states to promote regional economic development.

You are invited to participate in this research by completing the attached survey. In addition, we will ask you to complete a short survey after each of our sessions together over the coming months. These surveys will each take about 5-10 minutes to complete. Your responses are important, but you may choose not to answer any question. Your participation is completely voluntary and you may choose to discontinue your participation at any time without penalty.

We do not ask you to put your name on the survey anywhere to protect the confidentiality of your responses. However, we ask you to think of a four digit number that you can easily remember and use it on all of your surveys. Please write your number in your personal notes so you can refer to it later if needed.

**Statement of Risk:** We do not anticipate any significant risk with your participation. However, it is possible that answering one or more of the questions on this survey may make you feel uncomfortable. Should that happen, please feel free to leave the question(s) blank or simply not respond.

If you have questions about this project, please feel free to contact Dr. Bo Beaulieu at the Southern Rural Development Center at 662-325-3507. For additional information regarding your rights as a participant, please feel free to contact the Mississippi State University Regulatory Compliance Office at 662-325-2238.

Please keep this page for your records. Your participation indicates your consent.

MSU IRB  
Approved: 9/22/10  
Expires: -/-/-