



# Phases of Leaders In Economic Alliance Development Initiative

## WHAT HAPPENS PHASE WHY IT MATTERS

### State Application Phase

State Rural Development (RD) & State Cooperative Extension Service (CES) jointly agree to partner.

LEAD is built on a foundation of a partnership between RD and CES as each entity brings specific strengths to the initiative:

- RD – expertise in funding mechanisms unique to rural issues
- CES – training, facilitating leadership plus county-level staff to help facilitate regional partnership participation locally
- Minority serving land grant institutions are given priority to participate in this partnership

The state application ensures that both pillar organizations (RD and CES) are prepared to provide the necessary resources to ensure success.

State Resource and Coaching Teams are identified.

Ensures that the Resource and Coaching Teams have adequate expertise to lead the initiative. This includes a team member with strong knowledge and skills interpreting regional economic development data.

2-3 Months from open of application to RD announcement

### LEAD Site Selections

SET applicants that were not selected due to low capacity given priority.

- Sites that self-select have proven to be much more successful than those “hand-picked” by the state teams.
- High and/or persistent poverty counties are given priority.

**OR**

LEAD Application

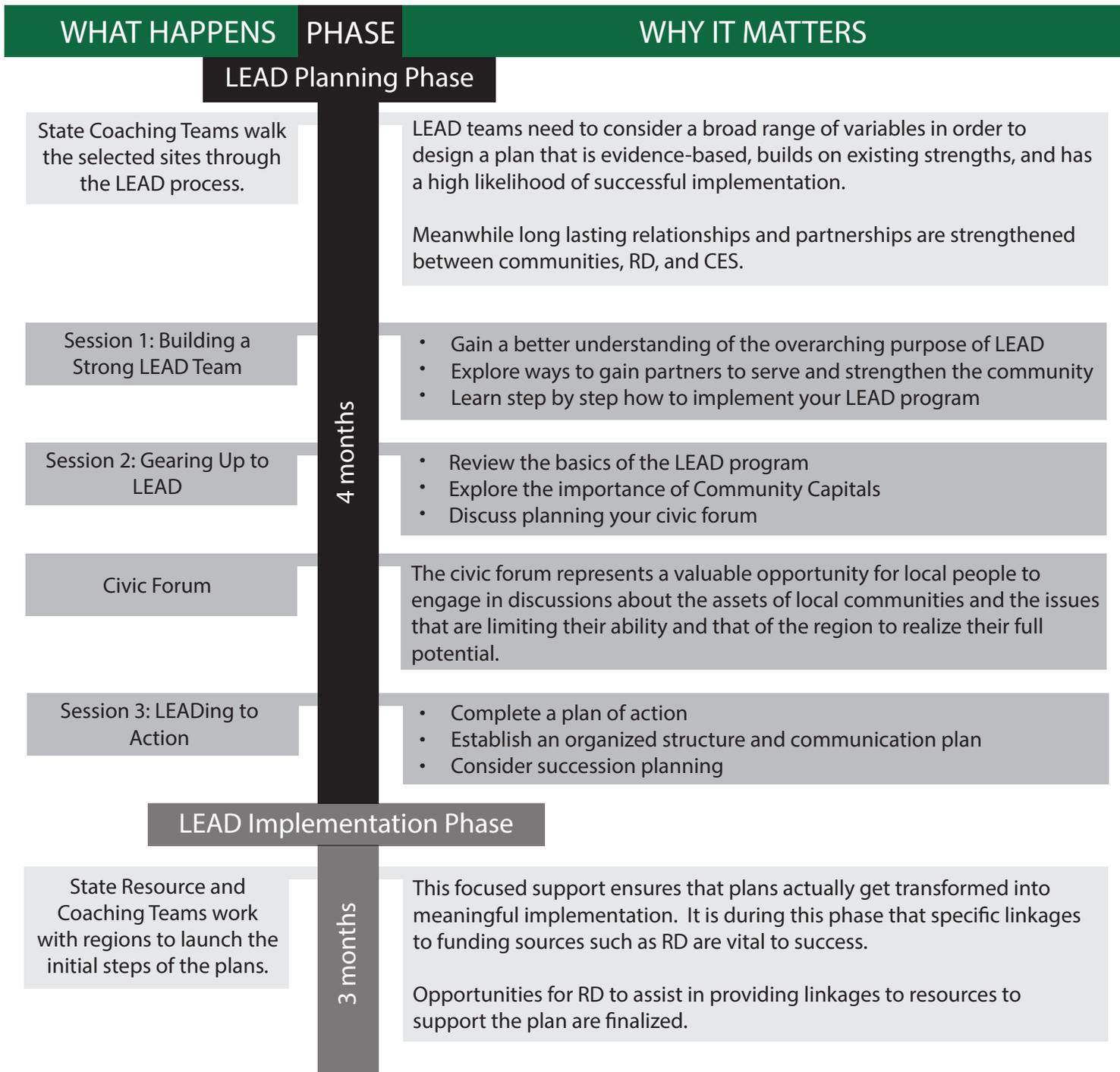
Coaching teams make site visits to top 2-4 applicants.

Site visits help determine readiness and ensures that local partners have clear expectations about what LEAD does and understand what will be expected of them.

State teams make recommendations to the National LEAD Leadership Team which are then forwarded to the RD administration for final approval.

The National LEAD team looks at each of the recommended regions to ensure that important variables are not overlooked and to ensure that the total package of sites fits within the LEAD priorities and is in keeping with available funding.

2-3 Months from open of application to RD announcement



Leaders in Economic Alliance Development is made possible through a partnership of:

