Developing Pathways to Resilient Communities

- **Community Priority Setting**
    - Continue analysis of national priority survey
    - Host regional listening session
    - Host high priority topic listening session
    - Develop and disseminate reports and infographics related to findings
- **Local & Regional Food Systems – SERA 47** – Continue to facilitate progress on the group's efforts as they launch a new 5-year plan which includes these objectives:
    - Develop a network of food system Extension and research professionals to share best practices, coordinate regional efforts, and generate new knowledge
    - Identify current and emerging issues specific to food system development in the Southern region.
    - Explore policy and economic development opportunities and best practices for communities across the region
- **Broadband Access and Adoption:**
    - Facilitate the work of the National Digital Education Extension Team (NDEET) alongside the ECOP Program Action Team. Efforts include:
        - Develop a resource repository for Extension materials related to broadband access
        - Organize a community of practice to connect Land-Grant professionals (Extension and Research) engaged in related efforts
        - Develop a community access toolkit to help Extension with community organizing around broadband access
        - Design a digital literacy toolkit to help Extension professionals promote relevant skills across program areas
        - Research the impacts of broadband use on quality of life
    - Collaborate with 1890 system to build capacity to aid underserved communities in digital access
- **Heirs' Property**
    - Update the resource scan conducted two years ago
    - Support regional Extension and research working groups established in spring 2020:
        - Research
        - Education and outreach
        - Policy and legal
    - Launch and coordinate the new AFRI grant - *The Racial Wealth Gap, Persistent Poverty, and Heirs' Property: Analysis, Connections, Solutions*
- **Coming Together for Racial Understanding:**
    - Support the 29 states that have trained Coming Together state teams
    - Build capacity for Coming Together dialogues through additional training
    - Evaluate Coming Together impact & lessons learned
    - Support the ECOP DEI Program Action Team
    - Engage with NIFA on co-learning
    - Strengthen DEI Efforts in the South LGU System

Building Strategic Partnerships
- **CREATE BRIDGES**, Walmart project – Continue efforts with the six pilot states to explore ways to strengthen the retail economic sector in rural places; Generate a final report of findings

- **USDA Office of Partnership and Public Engagement** – complete the cooperative agreement which includes these tasks: (1) survey current needs of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, (2) provide a coaching workshop to build capacity to support underserved communities
- **EDEN –** based on listening sessions conducted in 2020-21, generate a set of materials to highlight this effort and the work of EDEN moving forward
- **Southern Region Program Leadership Network (PLN)** – continue to support the annual work of PLN along with helping support the Program Leadership Committee's efforts to plan for the annual joint meeting
- **Southern Region Community Resource Development (CRD) Indicators** – facilitate gathering and reporting of southern region CRD indicators

Mobilizing Resources around Emerging Issues and Opportunities

- **Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging**
  - Follow-up mentorship to pilot grantees and early career scholars
  - Finalize Journal of Rural Sociological Society special issue
  - Develop and host a proposal writing workshop for research collaboration among traditionally underfunded organizations
  - Work with the W4001/5001 multi-state group to organize a policy symposium on rural population change and collaborative follow up research and dissemination
- **Examine Intersections of Existing Programs & Listening Sessions Data** with key topics relevant to the South, including specifically: housing, disaster, COVID-19 impacts, grant writing/management skills, and workforce development