



Your story matters. Thank you for trusting us in sharing it.

Thank you for your participation in the Resource Rural storytelling program. We're thrilled to partner with you to create intentional media pieces around the work you do for your community.

Resource Rural mobilizes resources, enabling rural communities and Native Nations to access once-in-a-lifetime federal funding and create positive and groundbreaking local change. We work directly with local organizations and individuals to tell the stories of how people are leveraging federal programs and investments to contribute back to their towns (including you)!

As we work to tell your story, there are some pieces and parts that we want to make sure you have the chance to look over. Your story is powerful, and we would love to work with you to showcase your hard work and lived experience. We think it could help improve the lives of rural people in communities across your region. Also, to show our neighbors in urban areas what it means to be a hardworking rural community member and how we care about the places we call home and know them best.

You can take a look at our existing stories [here](#).

A few Resource Rural storytelling collaborators:



Adam Schaller, Baroda Michigan



Scott & Julie Niess, Lime Springs Iowa



Martha McFarland, Fredricksburg Iowa



John Weckesser, Pascagoula Mississippi



Jackie Jones, Reidsville Georgia



Jeff Bauman, Rochester Indiana

Our process:

When working with our storytelling team at Resource Rural, here's what you can expect in terms of your time and our collaboration:

1. **Connection:** We might have been connected with you through a local organization or by cold-calling you from an award announcement or other piece of media. Either way, it's nice to meet you!
2. **Initial Interview:** We'll connect you with one of our freelance writers to conduct an initial interview (30-45 minutes) to discuss your hard work, the grant that you/your business received, and how you expect this funding will impact your community and local economy.
3. **Editing:** Our team will write up the story, send it around internally for any edits, and then send it back to you so that you have a chance to look it over. This can take 2-3 weeks, though sometimes we have the time to move more quickly.
4. **Photography and Videography:** If you don't already have some images of yourself and the project that you love, we will send a photographer or videographer to document your work and take a few portraits. We will send these to you for your use, and the timeline is dependent on your and the photographer's schedule. We love local recommendations to hire if you know anyone!
5. **Promotion and Pitching:** We'd love to place your story locally, either through a trusted news source or an online advertisement. Our goal is for folks to see locally the impact that your hard work has had on the local economy or your business. If you have ideas of where you'd like us to send the story, we're all ears.

Have a better idea on any of the steps above? You're the local, and we'll always follow your lead.

Behind the scenes footage of Adam, a rural Michigan-based die cast manufacturer. Credit: Cody Simpson.



A few more things we'd like you to know:

- Your story is powerful and will help show the role of federal funding in improving opportunities and economies in small towns and rural places.
- Resource Rural is a nonpartisan organization, and we will not use your story or likeness in any partisan or election-related materials.
- The story and visuals produced as a part of this collaboration will be shared with you – as well as Resource Rural and the organization that introduced us to you (if applicable).
- Your story will live on Resource Rural's [website](#), as well as our social media pages to promote your work and story.
- Your story could be promoted by Resource Rural to other people in media outlets and on digital platforms (e.g., Facebook) in your region with the intention of spreading a positive message about how people can seize the opportunities being offered through federal programs like the one you applied to. You can request to review your story and quotes before they are promoted.
- Other organizations and people may want to share your story too. Once we publish your story on our website or share it on social media, other people and organizations may share it and we can't control how they share it.
- You will have access and use of any media created as a part of this collaboration, and that we hope you'll share it with your community and network!
- We will be storing information securely from our collaboration, and that any personally identifiable information will be protected by our team at Resource Rural.
- Our team consists of a Communications Director and a Communications Manager (contact information for our Manager below), who will be able to coordinate outreach for the documentation and sharing of this project.
- Resource Rural respects tribal data sovereignty and recognizes that data is a direct reflection of individual lived experiences and is solely owned by that Tribal Nation. We affirm that it is the Tribal Nation's rights as an inherently sovereign Nation to grant rights to all data and information pertaining to their communities.

If you have any questions about the use case outlined above, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ralph, Resource Rural Communications Manager, at ralph@resourcerural.org.

We want this collaboration to feel like a partnership, and are eager to work with you to make sure it feels that way.

