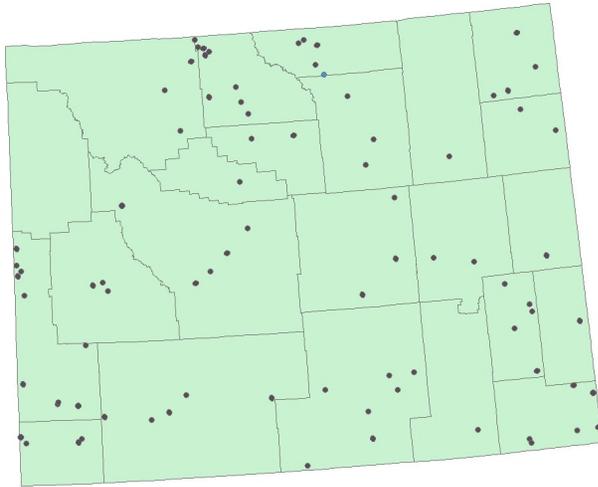


# Wyoming's Community Reviews program has positive impacts on rural communities



Western  
Community  
Assessment  
Network



The Wyoming Business Council implemented the Wyoming Community Reviews program in 2000. A community review is an assessment and strategic planning process designed for towns with fewer than 10,000 people. The program brings together community members and local leaders with experts in rural community and economic development to identify local priorities and resources to achieve them.

## Communities that have completed a community review

Since 2000, community reviews have been completed in 85 rural communities, with three new assessments completed each year.

*Plans are currently underway to begin reviews in Cody and Fort Laramie.*

## A community review is a multi-step process

Community reviews are co-developed with local leaders, business owners, and residents. Each review is unique, focuses on a wide range of community issues, and is tailored to the community. This process helps communities move from assessment to action to results.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
EXTENSION



Contact the Wyoming Business Council to learn more about, or participate in, the Wyoming Community Reviews program:  
[www.wyomingbusiness.org/creviews](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/creviews); 307-777-5812



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It is part of the AFR Foundational program.

**"The assessment gave us a way to work together toward a common goal."**

With funding from a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture research grant, University of Wyoming is partnering with University of Idaho to study ways to improve Wyoming's Community Reviews program.

To date, five Wyoming communities have participated in the evaluation process called "Ripple Effects Mapping," which helps communities identify the chain of effects resulting from the review and their implementation efforts. Another 10 communities, at least, will be evaluated before the grant ends in 2020.

Participating communities receive up to \$1,000 to implement a project identified as a need by their review.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Green River**

Downtown revitalization including a new building for police department

#### **Rawlins**

Received grant to participate in the Main Street Program

#### **Wright**

Received several grants to build a visitor center and fire hall.

### **IMPROVEMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **Cokeville**

Installed back-up generator at city hall to help with frequent blackouts

#### **Rawlins**

Improved the leaky reservoir

### **BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER**

#### **Baggs**

Formed a women's empowerment group; Established a monthly community dinner and oral history

#### **Rawlins**

Created several new community groups, including an artist guild and several physical activity classes

### **PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH**

#### **Baggs**

Raised about \$500,000 for a new community center

#### **Cokeville**

Created a new rec program that includes a soccer league and bussing kids to swim lessons

#### **Rawlins**

Passed a bond for a new aquatic center and new schools

### **IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTHCARE**

#### **Baggs**

Formed a rural health district and a new health clinic

#### **Cokeville**

Created a hospital districts and a local health clinic

### **IMPROVEMENTS IN TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Baggs**

Started a community bus to other towns and regional events

#### **Wright**

Created safer roads by adding lanes and easier access to commercial property