

Umpqua Community Development Corporation

Community Profile:

Population 100,850

Location Douglas County

Position Description:

Sponsor Umpqua Community Development Corporation

Supervisor Shawn Winkler-Rios

Assignment

The RARE participant serves as the Micro-Enterprise Development and Lending (MEDAL) Program Coordinator and will be responsible on a daily basis to coordinate and implement the business education, training, and mentoring components of the MEDAL Program in Douglas County, as well as assist in the planning and implementation of the expansion of the program to Coos and Curry Counties. The RARE participant will carry out program marketing, assist with participant recruitment, provide or make referrals for business counseling and technical assistance to MEDAL participants, coordinate the MEDAL Loan Committee, and assist with grant writing. The RARE participant should gain an understanding of microenterprise programs in Oregon, microenterprise as an economic development strategy, and the conditions and needs of micro-business owners in rural Oregon.

Required Skills

Leadership, team building and community relations skills, ability to facilitate meetings, prepare handouts, and use visual aids, experience in working with minority groups, experience with social service agencies or organizations, experience with small business or micro-enterprises.

RARE Member: *Michael Meyers - 2000-2001, Year 7 Participant*

Michael Meyers received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Spanish from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, in the Spring of 2000. Michael has directed his learning towards economic development, and more specifically, towards the emerging field of microenterprise. Upon completing his thesis in economics which discussed the sustainability and viability of microcredit programs in developing countries, Michael interned with the Grameen Foundation USA in Washington D.C. for three months. Grameen Foundation USA works to advance the philosophy and microcredit model of the Grameen Bank in the Americas. Michael is a native Oregonian, born and raised in Tillamook.