

Rural Connections

Rural Connections is an outreach and networking project of the East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce. It connects rural community governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals to information and resources for community development. It also helps members establish a presence on the Internet (if they do not already have one) and enhance the effectiveness of existing websites.

There are no geographical boundaries to membership in Rural Connections – anyone with an interest in rural community development is welcome to join.

Membership benefits include reduced rates for training and consultation, access to planning and marketing tools, connection with other members via email and Web-based discussions, and an annual conference.

Rural Connections provides a way for small, often isolated communities to connect to others and to a rich array of resources. As Rural Connection membership increases, we will establish regional alliances between members for a stronger voice and localized connections in their regions.

Members can benefit from the resources and expertise that the East Lewis County Chamber has developed through its activities of starting a regional nonprofit organization in a rural area, presenting the area's first ever regional Economic Development Summit, producing local community festivals and education forums, and coordinating local participation in the 18-month Horizons project of the Northwest Area Foundation.

To become a Charter member of Rural Connections today, please call 360-983-3778 or visit www.eastlewiscountychamber.com/ruralconnections.htm

Membership Categories, Benefits & Annual Dues

Level 1: \$100

Listing in print and online membership directories, including a link to your website. For members that do not have a website, Rural Connections will provide a single web profile page with information you supply

Access to members-only discussion group (email and online)

Access to planning and marketing tools

Access to an array of web-based resources on community development, including economic development, fundraising, grant-writing, government agency links, leadership and management resources, tourism and marketing

Member rates for training & consultation

Membership rate to annual conference

Quarterly newsletter highlighting rural issues, resources, and information on new members

Periodic e-mail "news bulletins" with information on new resources, events, and urgent issues

Marketing and promotion for your communities, events, and related interests via newsletter, press releases, events listings, and your materials at East Lewis County Visitors Center

Level 2: \$250

Includes ALL benefits above, and:

Three hours of free consultation with a Rural Connections specialist via phone, or in-person at Chamber office, or at your location (member pays transportation costs for on-site consultation)

A three-page website to promote your community, organization, or business

Reduced rates at events for up to three people from your organization/business