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Region Five Development Commission and Partners Receive National Association of Development Organizations 2014 Innovation Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The Region Five Development Commission (R5DC), based in Staples, Minnesota, received a 2014 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for the *Choose Health* project.

The Choose Health project expands access to locally grown foods in ways that address food insecurity through an innovative partnership.

Funded by Hunger Free Minnesota, physicians from Lakewood Health System refer 50 families for a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) membership. Families receive locally grown/raised commodities bi-monthly from “SPROUT MN” (a 5-county regional food hub of 40+ local growers). The program includes an extensive in-take process of pre & post health care screenings from Lakewood, and nutrition education, cooking and preparation demonstrations, and recipes from the University of MN Extension, alongside a concentrated community referral process and ongoing support for food insecure individuals offered by Todd County Public Health. Additionally, cooking demonstrations are offered by local premier chefs from Prairie Bay restaurant with participants of the program receiving small food prep supplies for those in need.

The program is administered by R5DC, and our region’s expert evaluation company; EnSearch, Inc.



“For 28 years, NADO’s Innovation Awards have recognized regional development organizations for their hard work and commitment to promoting economic development in rural and small communities across the country. Award recipients have created innovative solutions that build on the unique strengths and challenges of their regions, all while continuing to promote sustainable economic growth not only now,

but for many years to come,” said NADO President Peter Gregory, Executive Director of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission in Woodstock, VT.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association’s Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities. Award winners will be showcased during NADO’s 2014 Annual Training Conference, August 23 - 26 in Denver, Colorado.

For more information about the award-winning project found at:

http://www.resilientregion.org/plan/u_implementation.html

or contact the Region Five Development Commission at (218)894-3233.

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Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities. 400 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 390 | Washington, DC 20001 | 202.624.5948 | info@nado.org | NADO.org