Rural Development Hub

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Iowa Initiative for
Sustainable Communities

Project Statement

Pathfinders asked us to:

Conduct research on successful rural development hubs

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Identify best practices tailored to Pathfinders' goals and local needs

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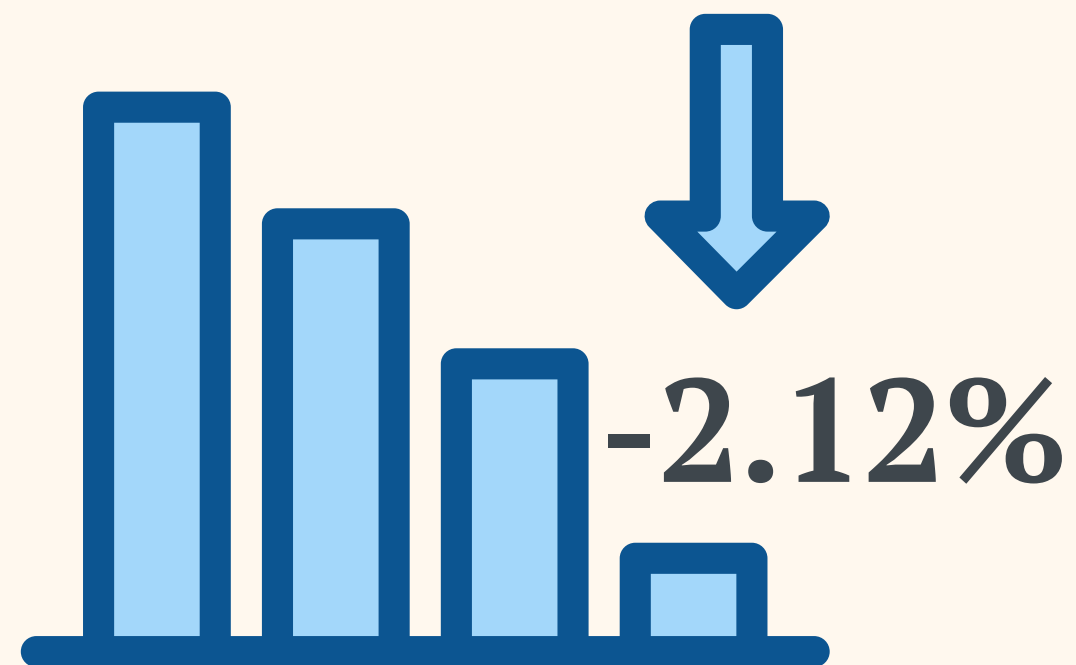Conduct research on successful rural development hubs

Identify best practices tailored to Pathfinders' goals and local needs

Develop recommendations to guide Pathfinders in establishing an effective rural development hub
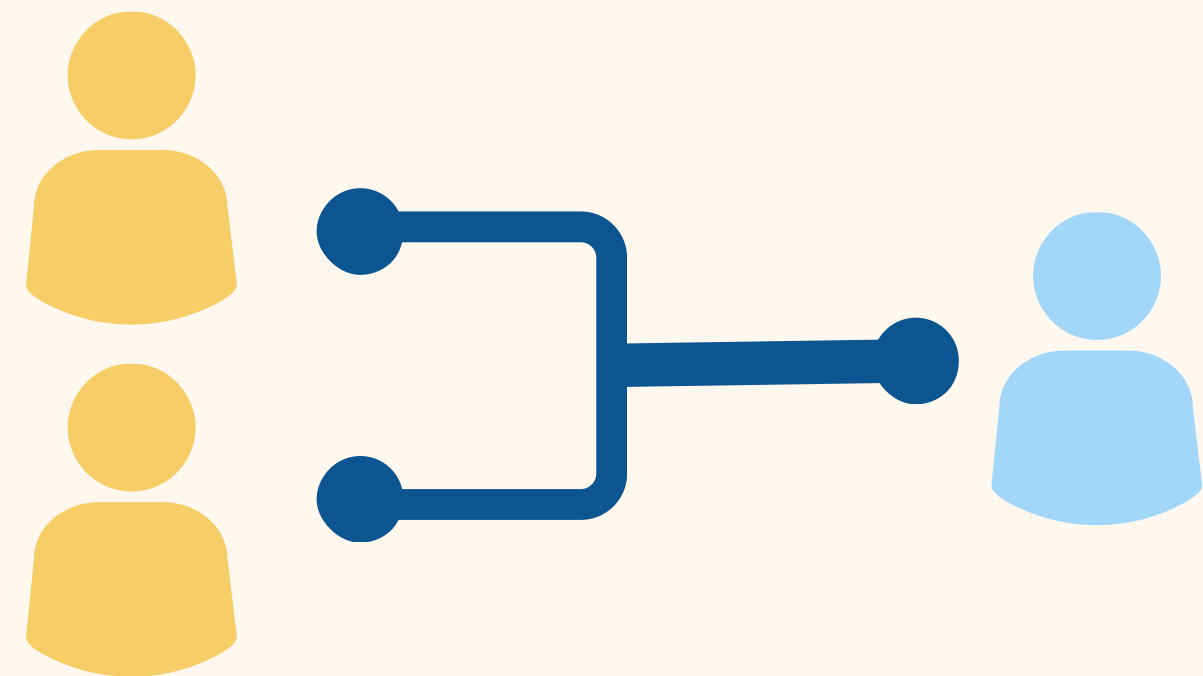
Issue Statement

Declining population

-2.12%

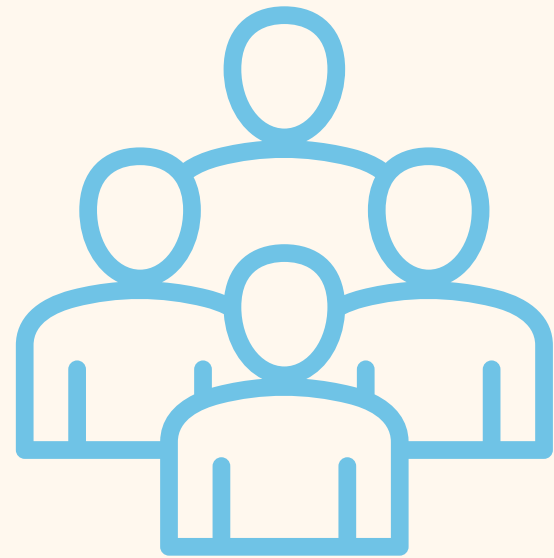Combined decrease in population from 2010-2021 in the 6-county area

Shifting economic environment

Of **9,281 businesses** in Area 15, **6,865** are considered non-employer establishments (sole proprietorships)
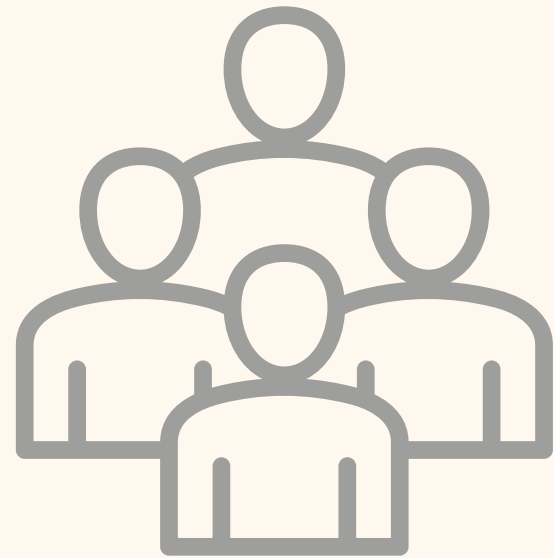
Best Practice

INNO VATE | 120

Empowering the Workforce
- Internships for students
- Youth focused

Best Practice

INNOVATE 120

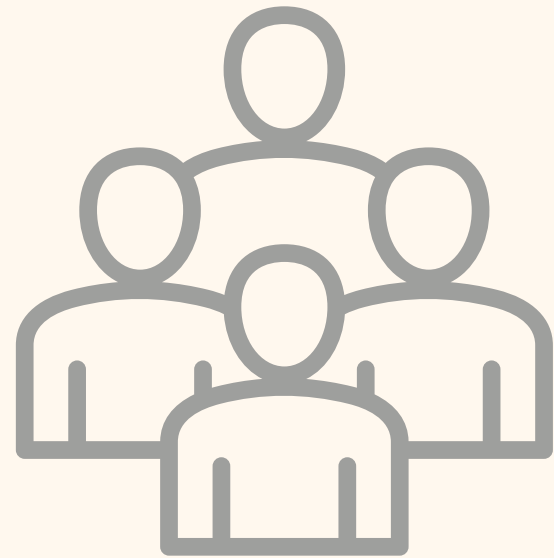Empowering the Workforce
- Internships for students
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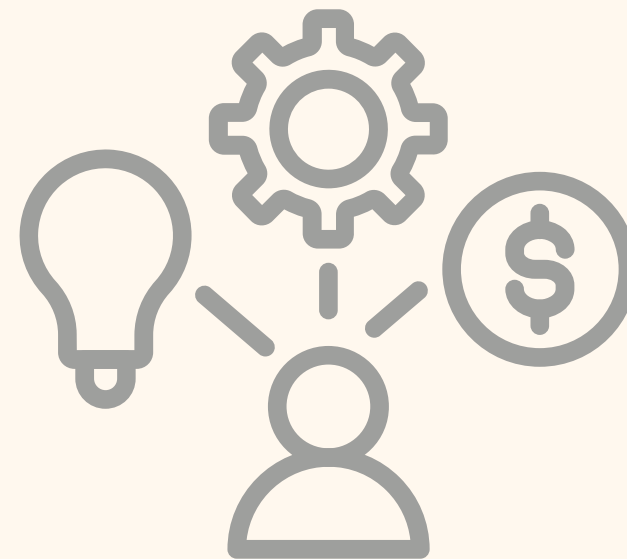Supporting Entreprenurers
- Co-working spaces
- Professional assistance

Best Practice

INNO VATE | 120

Empowering the Workforce
- Internships for students
- Youth focused

Supporting Entreprenurers
- Co-working spaces
- Professional assistance

Building Connections
- Strengthening community
- Amplifying innovation

Best Practices: Story Mapping

Online, **interactive** story map

16 case studies from hubs
with similar demographics
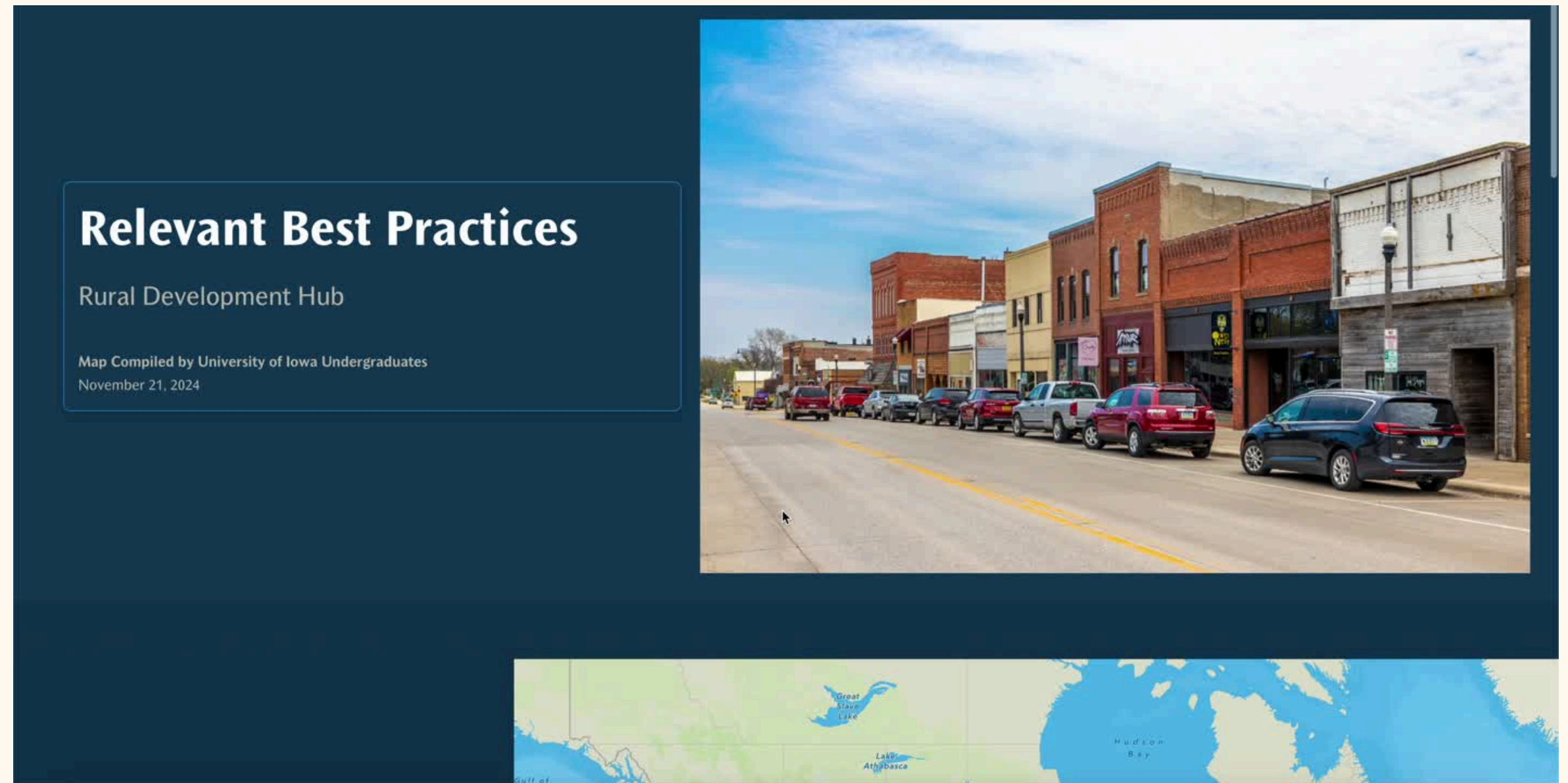and challenges

Replicable **models** for success

Policy Recommendation 1

Best Practices: Story Mapping

Online, **interactive** story map

16 case studies from hubs with similar demographics and challenges

Replicable **models** for success

Relevant Best Practices

Rural Development Hub

Map Compiled by University of Iowa Undergraduates
November 21, 2024

Data-driven Action Plan

- 6-County Area 15 data collective
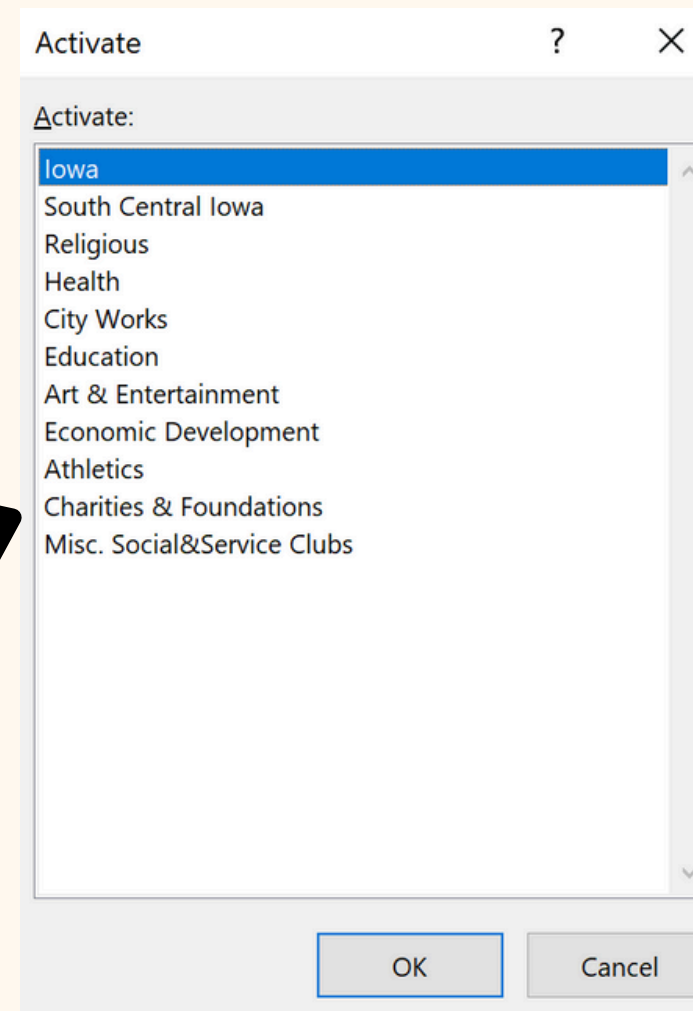- Comprehensive 501(c)(3) Excel sheet for Pathfinders area
- Road map for sorting future Excel sheets

Policy Recommendation 2

Data-driven Action Plan

- 6-County Area 15 data collective
- Comprehensive 501(c)(3) Excel sheet for Pathfinders area
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29,507 Rows

40-100 Rows

Community Focus Groups

Build partnerships
between stakeholders

Policy Recommendation 3

Community Focus Groups

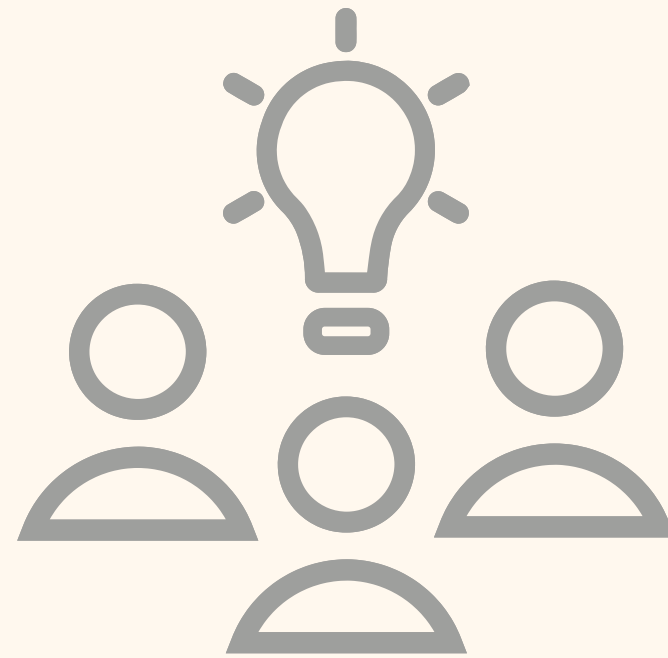Build partnerships
between stakeholders

Identify community
strengths and weaknesses

Policy Recommendation 3

Community Focus Groups

Build partnerships between stakeholders

Identify community strengths and weaknesses

Create a common goal and vision

Works Cited

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