



www.CARNnet.org

For more information, contact:

Jenny Lancaster, CARN Network Coordinator
(304) 654-0875 • jlancaster@CARNnet.org

Network Membership Information

About the Central Appalachia Regional Network (CARN)

Mission: The Central Appalachia Regional Network connects diverse organizations to promote policy and action to improve the quality of life available to the people of Appalachia.

Vision Statement: The Central Appalachia Regional Network envisions healthy and thriving communities throughout the region. These empowered communities engage civic, public, and private institutions to create change, and ensure a just existence for all Appalachian residents.

CARN membership is open to groups and organizations that are committed to serving and advocating for Appalachian people and places from a policy perspective. CARN is particularly committed to recruiting a membership that reflects the ethnic, racial, gender, age and class diversity of Central Appalachia. CARN members recognize the unique nature of the Appalachian region and the value of coming together to share perspectives from diverse backgrounds and sectors (economic development, housing, childcare, advocacy, leadership development).

CARN members adhere to a set of shared values, common mission, and realize the benefits of understanding different viewpoints and perspectives, sharing ideas and analysis, connecting with common allies and identifying new resources, engaging in professional development activities, coming up with new ideas, and having the opportunity to be in a network that is made up very different kinds of groups and work that pushes us to see how groups in our region can work more cohesively together to have an impact around our shared values.

Broad Policy Areas: CARN members identified four broad policy areas on which to focus their efforts for collective action: **Education, Health, Environment, and Economic Development.**

Policy Priorities & Work Groups: During the 2010 Central Appalachia Policy Summit hosted by CARN, participants identified the following three policy priorities on which to focus their efforts: **Green Jobs, Local Control of Assets, and Broadband.** These priorities were identified because they would benefit the larger region of Appalachia rather a single locality and span more than one of the four original policy focus areas of Education, Health, Environment, and Economic Development. These policy priorities serve as core issues that provide the basis for discussion as CARN continues its regional efforts to promote a higher quality of life for the people of Appalachia.

From these policy priorities, CARN has established the following Policy Work Groups:

Broadband – Project Leader: Rev. James Patterson, Partnership of African American Churches

Local Control of Assets – Project Leader: Carl Mitchell, Virginia Economic Bridge

Emerging Issues – Project Leader: Rotating leadership depending on issue selected

Values: We value:

- Appalachian culture, heritage, and context
- Education and knowledge
- Environmental integrity
- Empowerment
- Children, families, and future generations
- Sustainable place and environment
- Healthy communities
- Equity in access
- Equity in resources
- Stewardship
- Diversity, inclusion, and cultural equity

Membership Levels and Expectations:

The Central Appalachia Regional Network is comprised of three levels of membership depending on funding, time in the network and capacity. Membership Levels include: Affiliate (Work Group) Members, Network Members, and Founding Members.

Affiliate (Working Group) Members: individuals or organizations that participate in a policy work group or general activities of the network. Affiliate members are not required to participate at the same level of Members, but support the network and shares relevant work through its contacts.

Benefits:

- Access to network infrastructure (extranet, coordinator, conference calls, listserv, etc.)
- May be recommended to serve as a TA provider and receive financial support for services.
- Working relationships with other rural advocates throughout the country (other Rural Policy Networks, National Rural Assembly, etc.)
- Access to research, policy advocates, and connections relevant to issues of concern to Central Appalachia.
- Opportunity to share ideas, research, and connections in support of policy goals.

Expectations:

- Must participate on either a policy work group (currently Broadband, Local Control of Assets, or Emerging Issues) or a network committee (Marketing Committee, Sustainability Committee).
- Respond timely to input requests for feedback, information, decision, etc. (2 days via email).
- Promote the work of the network through own connections, and activate their networks when appropriate action is deemed necessary.
- Commit funds or resources needed for participation (time, travel, etc).

Criteria:

- Must be nominated by a current CARN Member
- Must have approval by CARN Membership Committee. *(Any CARN Founding Member has veto power.)*

CARN Network Members

Appalshop, Inc. (KY)
Center for Rural Virginia
Council for Rural Virginia
Community Access, Inc. (WV)
Community Foundation of Hazard & Perry County (KY)
Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. (MD)
Good News Mountaineer Garage (WV)
Hazard Perry County Community Ministries, Inc. (KY)
Highlander Center (TN)
Ohio Appalachian Educators Institute
Ohio Univ. Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs
Partnership of African American Churches (WV)
People Incorporated of Virginia
Rural Action, Inc. (OH)
Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College
VA Rural Center
Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc.
Virginia Rural Health Association
Virginia Rural Health Resource Center
WV Community Development Hub

Membership Levels and Expectations (continued):

Network Members: organizations active in both a policy work group and sustainability of the network. Members have a one vote decision-making ability.

Benefits:

- Receives financial support for meeting attendance if needed. (Lodging, mileage reimbursement, etc.)
- Access to network infrastructure (extranet, coordinator, conference calls, etc.)
- Oversees vision and objectives of the network.
- Use of CARN logo on organizational materials with text "Member of the Central Appalachia Regional Network"
- Has decision-making ability (one-vote).
- May apply to serve as a TA provider and receive financial support for services.
- Working relationships with other rural advocates throughout the country (other Rural Policy Networks, National Rural Assembly, etc.)
- Access to research, policy advocates, and connections relevant to issues of concern to Central Appalachia.
- Opportunity to share ideas, research, and connections in support of policy goals.
- Opportunity to seek and sign on in support of agreed upon network policy goals with the option to "opt-out."

Expectations:

- Must commit 2 participants to the network activities (with decision-making abilities on behalf of their organization).
- Must attend quarterly network meetings (minimum one participant).
- Must attend monthly network conference calls (minimum one participant).
- Must participate on both a policy work group (currently Broadband, Local Control of Assets, or Emerging Issues) and a network committee (Marketing Committee, Sustainability Committee).
- Respond timely to input requests for feedback, information, decision, etc. (2 days via email).
- Promote the work of the network through own connections, and activate their networks when appropriate action is deemed necessary.
- Commit funds or resources needed for participation (time, travel, etc).
- Participate in the development, approval, and implementation of annual work plan, including fundraising and other network sustainability initiatives.

Criteria:

- Must be nominated by a current CARN Member
- Must have participated in the network for a minimum of 6 months as an Affiliate Member
- Must have approval by CARN Membership Committee. *(Any CARN Founding Member has veto power.)*

Founding Members: original CARN member organizations who started the network through the Kellogg RPRP Initiative. Founding members oversee the vision and objectives of the network.

Benefits: same as Network Members, but Founding Members have veto power with regards to admitting new membership and determining policy positions.

Expectations: same as Network Members

Criteria: Original RPRP Network Member funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Membership Criteria and Process

Expanding the CARN membership is key to promoting the sustainability and effectiveness of the network. CARN members are responsible for promoting and improving the network's visibility and for recruiting new members. The network feels strongly that it must expand and diversify its membership to become effective. Rather than approaching network expansion as a selective process, we are agreed to let our policy activities and contact with like-minded organizations sustain and feed the network.

General Criteria:

CARN members and affiliates will be added to the network based on the following criteria:

- Serves the people of the Central Appalachia Region (Appalachian counties of Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia).
- Subscribes to the goals, mission, vision, and values of the network.
- Brings policy-related expertise to the network and/or a constituency relevant to the work.
- Has valuable connections to experts, opinion makers.
- Able to assist with network fundraising efforts.
- Will commit to participate actively.
- Connected to existing membership.
- Ability to commit funds or resources needed for participation (time, travel, etc).

Admission Process:

CARN members and affiliates will be added to the network through the following process:

Affiliate Member:

- Organization seeking membership will be introduced by existing CARN Member or Affiliate.
- Organization must receive approval by CARN Membership Committee. Network relationships are critical to the strength of the network. Therefore, any CARN Founding Member has veto power.

Network Member:

- Must be nominated by a current CARN Member.
- Must have participated in the network for a minimum of 6 months as an Affiliate Member.
- Must have approval by CARN Membership Committee. Network relationships are critical to the strength of the network. Therefore, any CARN Founding Member has veto power.

Membership Period:

- Membership is open-ended and flexible.
- Member may voluntarily withdraw from the network or reduce status to Affiliate with notice.
- Member may be terminated by a majority vote for failure to fulfill network expectations.

Decision Making:

- CARN strives to achieve consensus in its decision-making but will defer to "majority rules" for day to day decisions including meeting logistics, process, and strategy. Network members will be given minimum of 48 hours to respond via email.
- General network management decision may be made by the Executive Committee or in instances when 48 hours notice cannot be given to full network.
- For membership approval: New members must be approved by CARN Membership Committee. However, any CARN Founding Member has veto power.
- For policy positions: unanimous approval is required by members (with option to "opt-out").
- Use of Members' signatures on public statements will be requested on case by case basis.



www.CARNnet.org

For more information, contact:
Jenny Lancaster, CARN Network Coordinator
(304) 654-0875 • jlancaster@CARNnet.org

Membership Application

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Organization Web Address: _____

Person(s) who will serve as representative(s) in CARN:

(At least one of your representatives should have decision-making ability within the organization, including ability to support policy issues, commit organization time and/or resources.)

Representative 1: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Representative 2: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. What type of membership status is your organization seeking?

- Affiliate Member Network Member

2. Do you or your organization have an existing relationship with a current CARN member? If so, please describe:

3. Do you or your organization serve the people of the Central Appalachia Region (Appalachian counties of Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia)?

- Yes No

Please describe: _____

4. Do you or your organization subscribe to the goals, mission, vision, and values of the network (see info above)?

- Yes No

5. Are you or your organization able to assist with network fundraising efforts?

- Yes No

6. Are you or your organization able/willing to participate actively in the network (see criteria above)?

Yes No

7. Are you or your organization able to commit funds or resources needed for participation (time, travel, etc)?

Yes No

Please describe: _____

8. Briefly describe yourself/your organization including any current and future policy work (attach additional pages as necessary). Please be sure to address the following in your response:

Do you/your organization have policy-related expertise or a represent a constituency relevant to CARN's policy work?

Do you/your organization have connections to experts, opinion makers, stakeholders, relevant to CARN's policy work?

Signature

Name

Title

Date