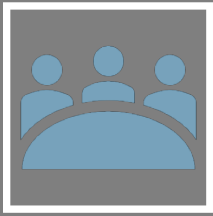


STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES

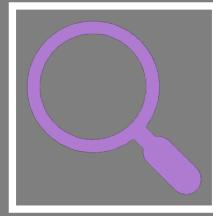
Association of Community College Trustees

With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
ACCT is assessing the needs and strengths of rural
community colleges across the country.



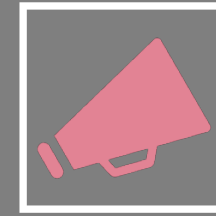
Convene

Convene trustees, presidents,
and community stakeholders



Research

Research the needs facing
rural communities



Advocate

Develop policy solutions to
support the viability of rural
community colleges and their
students

5 State Partners

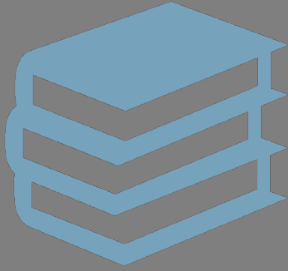
North Carolina

Kentucky

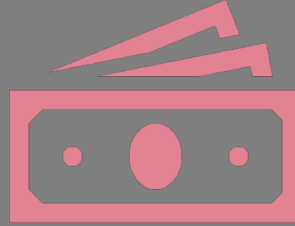
Iowa

Texas

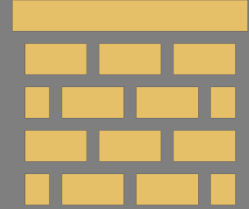
California



Definitions



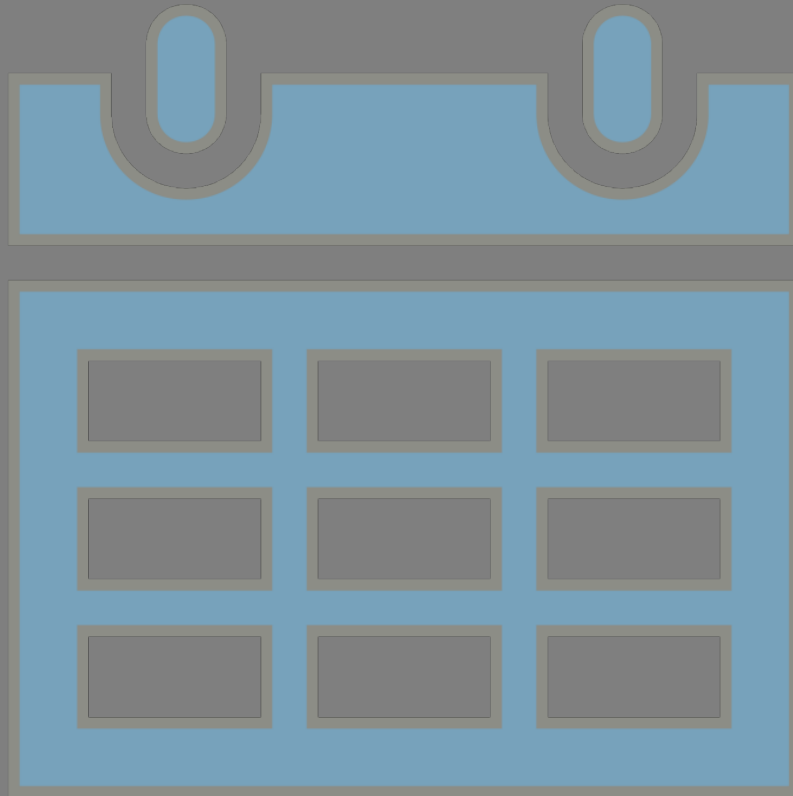
Challenges



Strengths

Rural Community College Landscape

Timeline



- **October 2019 - December 2019**
 - *Developing research methodology, scheduling interviews, soliciting input from wide variety of stakeholders*

- **January 2020 - August 2020**
 - *Field work (interviews and convenings) with trustees, presidents, legislators, local business leaders, and other community members*

- **August 2020 - January 2021**
 - *Information synthesis and report writing*

Spring 2021 - Report publication

Through
these
convenings
and research
report we
aim to:

Collect

information about challenges faced by rural institutions.

Increase

public awareness around issues facing rural community colleges.

Develop

state and federal policy solutions to support their long-term viability.



WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO BE
RURAL?

Federal Definitions

“Any place with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants.”

“Any place with 10,000 or fewer inhabitants.”

“Areas with a population density between 7 and 1,000 people per square mile.”

“Any place with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants.”



“A populated area with boundaries at least 40 miles apart, which is not contiguous to a large urban area, and considered “rural in character.””

Texas Definitions

“Rural county means a county with a population of less than 50,000”

“Rural county means a county with a population of less than 60,000”

“Rural county means a county that has a population of not more than 125,000”



“Rural county means a county that is outside the boundaries of a primary metropolitan statistical area or a metropolitan statistical area”

US Department of Education

Rural (remote):

“More than 25 miles from an urbanized area (population of 50,000 or greater) and more than 10 miles from an urban cluster (population of 2,500-50,000).”

Cedar Valley College

Clarendon College

Grayson College

Northeast Texas Community College

Vernon College

RURAL
TEXAS
COLLEGES

WHAT'S CHANGED?

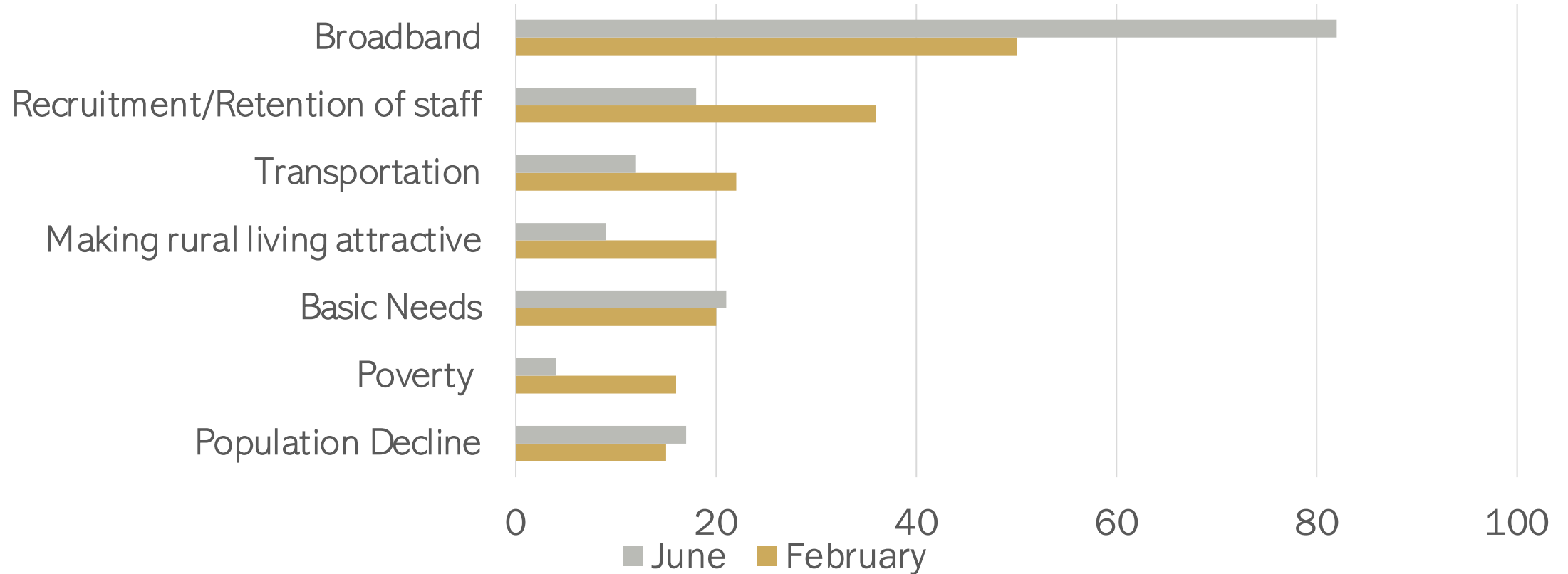








Needs Assessment Interview Data





Federal

Hold interagency discussion at NLS 2021
Leverage the first 100 Days following 2020 election &
new Congressional session



State

Engage governors and state legislators



Local

Explore and highlight partnerships with local businesses,
community organizations, and service providers

Policy Opportunities

Federal Resources



USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Programs- provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas.



Department of Education's Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS)- to support or establish campus-based child-care programs primarily serving the needs of low-income students. Grants may also be used to serve the child-care needs of the community served by the institution.



National Science Foundation's Project Vision- provides funding, expertise, and professional development opportunities to assist colleges in discovering and matching innovative ideas with NSF funding opportunities

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[@CCTrustees](https://twitter.com/CCTrustees)