



Nearly 2.6 million people live in rural Ohio and are affected by a variety of unique issues, such as energy costs, agricultural concerns, access to healthcare and challenges in infrastructure development. Rural Ohioans are exponentially affected by socioeconomic considerations as well: the drop-out rate for high school seniors is higher; residents are less likely to receive higher education; the poverty levels are higher; and they rely more on social security income.

In a shared effort to address these issues and others, including worker rights, social justice, agriculture, education, healthcare and the environment, 16 progressive organizations in rural NW Ohio have formed The **Rural Organizing Campaign (ROC)**.

- ❖ The **ROC** seeks to connect likeminded local, state and national organizations that have memberships or interests in rural, Northwest Ohio.
- ❖ The **ROC** will streamline the energies and assets of participating organizations as they work, independently and as a collective, towards improving the lives of residents in rural Ohio.
- ❖ The **ROC** will use collaborative social action to educate and activate residents around the unique issues faced by rural communities.
- ❖ The **ROC** will leverage its combined resources to maximize efforts at communicating with elected leaders, increasing the membership and reach of participating organizations and building an expanding base of collaborating local and community stakeholders in NW Ohio.

The **ROC's** initial organizing efforts are focused on the following 7 counties: **Fulton, Williams, Defiance, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert.**

