

# The Hub 2025

## IMPACT REPORT

EMPOWERING CHANGE IN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITIES



# A STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we complete another year of transformative work, The Hub is committed to our mission, to communities across West Virginia, and to growing the connections among us. This year we coached, supported, connected, and convened, elevating the work of leaders and empowering communities to take action together.

2025 was a year of change and adaptation for The Hub. Our team, like many others, confronted unexpected challenges in funding cycles, resources, staffing, and partnerships. In the fall, we experienced a change in leadership as I stepped into the role of Executive Director, taking over from the formidable Stephanie Tyree, long-time leader, advocate, and visionary. I was lucky to join an already established and dynamic leadership team with Deputy Director, Katie Loudin and Chief Program Officer, Amanda Workman Scott. We continue to find joy creating new norms together and exploring new opportunities for the organization.

From a podcast in Wayne to a motel conversion in Kimball to a documentary watch party on Charleston's West Side, we celebrated community wins. We were on national stages with the Chronicle of Philanthropy, championing the value of AmeriCorps through our Network leadership, and supporting community-based leadership in bingo halls and church basements this year—showing up for West Virginians with care and support. These small acts have big outcomes, and we see the results as communities change and grow. We are proud to be part of that journey with you.



- **HEATHER FOSTER**
- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
- On behalf of the Executive
- Leadership Team



# UNLEASHING LOCAL POTENTIAL THROUGH STRATEGIC SUPPORT

These metrics reflect both the direct impact of The Hub's programs and the broader ripple effects of community-led work. Funding figures demonstrate how Hub support helps communities access and attract resources, while volunteer hours and partnerships highlight the time, relationships, and collaboration that make this work possible. Together, these numbers illustrate not just dollars invested, but indicate significant investments in community capacity building, engagement, and momentum in places where they are needed most.



**\$405,400**

PROGRAM FUNDING  
LEVERAGED



**\$676,375**

OUTSIDE FUNDING  
LEVERAGED

**6,035**

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**126+**

PARTNERSHIPS  
ENGAGED





## PROGRAM FUNDING LEVERAGED

Through Hub-supported programs, communities received **\$405,400** program dollars to advance locally driven projects.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** This represents funding that communities secured directly through programs and support provided by The Hub.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** It shows The Hub's role in helping communities turn ideas into projects, increasing local capacity.



## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Participants contributed **6,035** hours of time, valued at **\$175,780** dollars of resources, and expertise through Hub coaching and engagement efforts.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** This reflects the total number of hours participants spent engaging in Hub coaching programs and community engagement activities.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Volunteer hours highlight the depth of community participation and the energy people are investing to build skills, relationships, and local solutions.



Volunteerism in Wayne comes in waves, and when people see fresh momentum and doable ways to help, they show up.



**LACEY FERGUSON**  
**ACCELERATE WAYNE**  
**TEAM MEMBER**

# OUTSIDE FUNDING LEVERAGED

Communities leveraged an additional **\$676,375** from outside sources, expanding the impact of Hub-supported projects.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** These are additional funds communities secured from external sources, outside of The Hub, to support their projects.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** This demonstrates a ripple effect in that The Hub's support helps communities attract and unlock additional investment.



# PARTNERSHIPS ENGAGED

In 2025, The Hub worked alongside **126+** partners to support community-led initiatives, trust-building and civic engagement activities.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The Hub actively collaborated with 126+ unique partner organizations during 2025.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Strong partnerships expand reach, share resources, and strengthen the collective impact of community-led work.

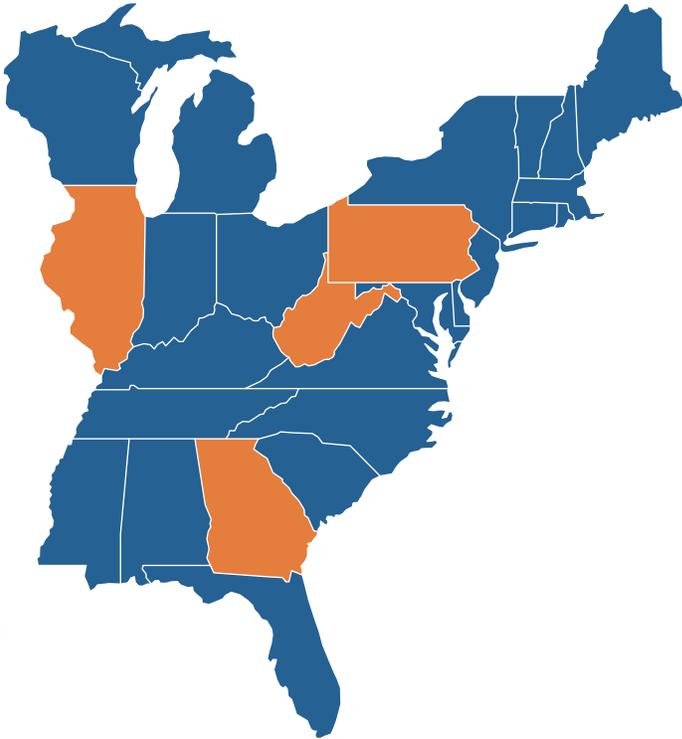


Our greatest success as a result of The Hub's work in Fairmont was strengthening community connections by being more aware of the resources that already exist in our community.

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**ERIN HAGER**  
CULTIVATE FAIRMONT  
TEAM MEMBER

In 2025, The Hub worked in **28** communities, primarily in West Virginia, to enhance the quality of life, civic engagement, and development priorities of that community.

- Fairfield - Community in Huntington
- Fairmont
- Forest County, PA
- Gilbert
- Greater Peoria, IL
- Highlawn - Community in Huntington
- Hinton
- Kermit
- Kimball
- Logan
- Madison
- Mason County
- Monroe County, GA
- Montgomery
- New Martinsville
- Northside East End - Community in Bluefield
- Oak Hill
- Petersburg
- Princeton
- Ronceverte
- Smithers
- Somerset County, PA
- Summersville
- Wayne
- Webster County
- West Side - Community in Charleston
- Weston
- Williamson



Through its participation in the West Virginia Community Development Hub’s Cultivate WV program, the city of Fairmont transformed scattered ideas into coordinated action. Residents, nonprofits, and local institutions aligned projects with a shared community vision, launched grassroots initiatives, and built a lasting support network rooted in inclusion and collaboration. Coaching, mini-grants, and cross-sector partnerships empowered first-time leaders to secure funding, adapt to uncertainty, and leverage local resources—from donated equipment to shared event infrastructure. The result was more than a series of projects: it was a cultural shift toward confidence, cooperation, and long-term civic engagement. Fairmont now serves as a model for rural communities—demonstrating that when neighbors connect their efforts to a common plan and support one another, small investments can catalyze durable local capacity and community pride.

The community of Fairmont exemplifies the following best practices for rural community building:

- Building a common vision and executing a plan
- Utilizing a system of support
- Centering inclusivity, collaboration, and communication
- Leveraging financial opportunities



SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO READ THE FULL  
CASE STUDY.

## WAYNE – ACCELERATE WV

Through its participation in the West Virginia Community Development Hub’s Accelerate WV program, the Wayne community transformed scattered volunteer energy into a coordinated movement for revitalization. By formalizing ACCESS WV, hosting open monthly meetings, and investing in an AmeriCorps VISTA member, local leaders built the structure and capacity needed to sustain civic engagement in a small rural town. Together, residents aligned around a shared vision to position Wayne as a gateway for outdoor recreation and grassroots entrepreneurship—leveraging assets like Twelvepole Creek and nearby trail systems to spark new momentum.

From launching the GetOutWayne 5K to advancing the Twelvepole Water Trail and county-wide branding efforts, Wayne has paired vision with steady execution. The result is a growing culture of participation, clearer strategic direction, and tangible projects that residents can see and join. Wayne’s experience demonstrates that when rural communities create welcoming entry points, invest in local leadership, and commit to incremental progress, they can turn volunteer passion into lasting civic infrastructure and regional opportunity.

The community of Wayne exemplifies the following rural community building best practices:

- Maintaining and growing volunteerism and civic engagement
- Building a common vision and executing a plan



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We would like to thank our private, philanthropic, and federal partners for supporting The Hub's work: AmeriCorps, Appalachian Regional Commission, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, EQT Foundation, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Just Transition Fund, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, National Association of Counties, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, Resource Rural, Truist Foundation, Trust for Civic Life, US Department of Agriculture-Rural Development, US Economic Development Administration, and US Transportation, Housing & Urban Development.

We also deeply appreciate the sponsorship support from United Bank in 2025. Lastly, we couldn't do this work without the dedicated financial and volunteer support of individuals across the region; you are the heartbeat of The Hub and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support.



If you are interested in supporting The Hub, please consider donating to support our work and the work of community leaders across the state.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION.



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