

Policy Literacy Fact Sheet

Purpose

The Purpose of the Policy Literacy Initiative is to enhance the Collaborative's knowledge and skills in successfully navigating state government policies, programs, and funding opportunities.

- **Long-term Objective:** An inclusively developed DRAFT policy platform with an implementation strategy.
- **Along the Way:** Support RRRISE's members to develop their Policy Literacy skills and tools further.

What is Policy Literacy?

"It's about knowing where to look, what and who to trust, and how to make sense of it all."

How Does the Initiative Support RRRISE?

Policy Literacy will help RRRISE and its partners to implement its [Regional Roadmap](#). More specifically, improving your policy literacy skills will:

1. Help solve complex issues facing your region.
2. Amplify the voice of priority communities.
3. Influence policies that others are advancing that impact your region.

For priority communities who may not have previously had access to this information, it will help them to develop skills in data analysis, critical thinking, strategy, and leadership.

Examples of How Policy Literacy Relates to Regional Plan Implementation

Successful government engagement is foundational to delivering on the Equity component of the RRRISE [Theory of Change](#).

- "Priority communities in the Redwood Region are empowered advocates and leaders within their communities."
- "Organizations are culturally competent and prepared to partner with diverse groups and leaders to execute initiatives benefiting the community."

In addition:

- The Arts, Culture, and Tourism Sector Strategies employ sector advocacy as one of the six key strategies for advancing the sector. Other strategies, such as partnerships, are very closely aligned.

- The Equity Pillar of the Health and Caregiving Strategy calls for rural policy advocacy to readdress "structural urbanism and healthcare access, and support the unique needs of rural communities, which often face different challenges in the health and caregiving sectors."

Key Issues Addressed in Workshop 1

1. Identifying priority issues based on the Regional Roadmap. Exercise 1 - "[Identifying Priorities for Policy Engagement](#)."
2. Researching issues within a state context. Exercise 2 - [First Step is Capturing What You Know](#),
3. Linking community priorities with public policy. Exercise 3 - [Power Mapping](#) and [Mapping Checklist](#).

Other resources: [Slide Deck](#) and [Government Resources List](#).

Power Mapping

Among other strategies and tools, RRRISE and its members can utilize Power Mapping to understand their current influence better and assess how they can grow through partnerships. Power Mapping also facilitates the identification of key players and how they can support or hinder the implementation of the Regional Roadmap, generally, and key projects, specifically.

Workshop Takeaways

1. Having a clear idea of who we are, what we want, and what we need is the first step in advocating for the needs and priorities of our region.
2. Public policy has its own norms, customs, and language.
3. We have the power and can build the skills necessary to advocate for the needs and priorities of our region.

Workshop Next Steps

1. Create a Work Group (*Contact CCRP if you would like to participate and have the time to take on an additional project. There will be reading and other assignments outside of the meeting time.*)
2. Convene three to four online engagements (*Orientation planned in December, with work group starting up in January.*)
3. Develop a Preliminary Policy Platform for review and comment by RRRISE governance bodies. (*End of the March 2026*)

4. Revise the Policy Platform to address the comments and submit it to the Voting Block for further review and action.