



# EAST

## Pathways to Rural Prosperity and Small Town Resilience

CSG East Policy Summit: Portland, Maine 2025

### Friday, April 4, 2025

- 0:00 **Morning Travel**
- 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Registration at Portland Regency Hotel & Spa**  
*20 Milk St., Portland, ME 04101*
- 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Rural Population Loss and Revitalization**  
*Atlantic Rm (2<sup>nd</sup> fl)* *Discover responses and solutions to declining populations in rural communities, the impact on economic development, and pathways to revitalization.*
- Phillip Connor, Senior Demographer and Immigration Fellows Director, FWD.us
  - Kyle Kopko, Executive Director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania
  - Yellow Breen, President & CEO, Maine Development Foundation
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Housing Solutions for Rural America**  
*Atlantic Rm (2<sup>nd</sup> fl)* *Discuss the unique housing challenges facing rural towns and the solutions policymakers are exploring to bring forth better affordability and opportunity.*
- Jacob Hemmerick, Community Planning and Policy Manager, Vermont DHCD
  - Patrick Hess, Director of Real Estate Development, Avesta Housing
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Reception at Ironside Lounge (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Dinner on your own**

### Saturday, April 5, 2025

- 7:30 a.m. **Breakfast**  
*Armory Rm (1<sup>st</sup> fl)*
- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **The Rural Healthcare Crisis**  
*Atlantic Rm (2<sup>nd</sup> fl)* *Discuss ways states are approaching healthcare challenges in rural areas, including access, quality, and availability.*
- Rep. Susan Johnson, Connecticut; Committee on Human Services
  - Dimple Patel, Policy Director, Casey Family Programs
  - Kristin Barnum, Executive Director, Community Nurse Connection
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **15-minute Break**

9:45 – 11:15 a.m.    **Public Transit in Rural Communities**

*Atlantic Rm (2<sup>nd</sup> fl)*    *Explore obstacles to expanding transit in rural communities, and the innovative policies and funding mechanisms states use to serve these vital areas.*

- Jill Hough, Senior Transportation Planner, KFH Group
- Benito Pérez, Policy Director, Transportation For America
- Dana Rowangould, Assistant Professor, University of Vermont

11:15 – 12:00 p.m.    **Pack and Checkout**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.    **Lunch and Speaker**

*Armory Rm (1<sup>st</sup> fl)*

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.    **15-minute Break**

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.    **Regional Roundtable Discussion**

*Atlantic Rm (2<sup>nd</sup> fl)*    *Conclude the summit with an open discussion on where policymakers go from here, and the legislative agendas in various states.*