



[Rural LIFE Website](#)

Rural LIFE Program Updates

- The Rural LIFE project is winding down. The \$8.8 million federal EIR project was scheduled to end September 30, 2022 but was granted a six-month extension (primarily due to complications related to the pandemic). The new end date is March 31, 2023. The Rural LIFE team is working to maximize the available resources (time and money) to ensure the project ends on a positive note and leaves a positive legacy.
- The “5 years, \$5,000” is a mini-grant program open to any school/teacher in NE Tennessee. *Five* successful applicants will be able to select a \$5,000 assortment of books to commemorate the *5-year* project. The application focuses attention on our Rural LIFE website, which curates learning resources generated by the project. Seventeen teachers have submitted applications already, and we expect several more before the February 5 deadline.
- The Rural LIFE Coaching Collaborative (RLCC) is a two-part learning activity for any interested school staff member whose assignment involves academic coaching. Part 1 was a 1-hour virtual session Wednesday, February 1, 9-10 a.m. Part 2 is in-person on Wednesday, February 15, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., in Greeneville. This session will bring together instructional coaches from across the region to discuss effective coaching and learner advocacy, using lessons learned from the Rural LIFE grant.
- Two reports are in process. Our independent evaluator (AnLar, LLC) is analyzing student data and preparing a final-evaluation report; the evaluation plan was revised mid-project, due to the cancellation/modification of state-test administration in prior years. Our staff is working on our final Annual Performance Report (APR).
- An expectation of EIR projects is to disseminate findings and “what we’ve learned” as a result, of our work. Presentations (national conferences, webinars, etc.) are one part of our dissemination efforts.

Different combinations of our staff, partners, and participating schools/teachers have presented at:

- **National Rural Education Association (NREA) annual conference – a virtual presentation, October 21, 2022**
- **Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE) annual conference, Orlando – 2 teams, 2 presentations, November 3-5, 2022**
- **Learning Forward annual conference, Nashville – 2 teams, 2 presentations, December 5-6, 2022**
- **Several mini presentations for EIR Communities of Practice (COPs)**