



## Grassroots Support Project: Core Concepts

### What is a system of support?

A *system of support* is an integrated multi-county network of organizational development, funding, and other technical assistance resources focused on nurturing and connecting grassroots efforts.

#### A system of support results in:

- Delivering more consistent capacity building support for grassroots leaders and groups
- Promoting strategic alignment and resource sharing among rural grassroots supporters
- Fostering the development of best practices, tools, and shared evaluation frameworks
- Increasing the sustainability of rural capacity building and leadership development efforts

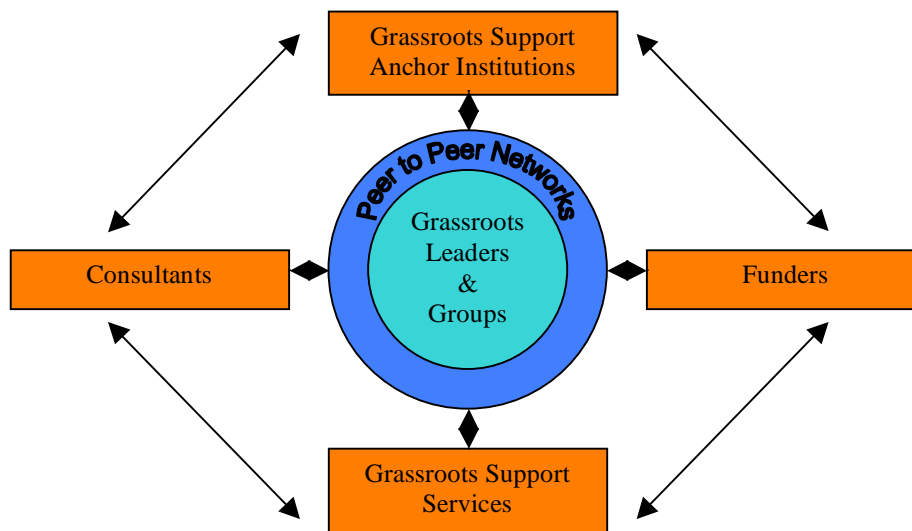
#### Actors within a system of support:

- *Grassroots Support Anchor Institutions*: Regional anchor institutions that are involved in the daily, hands-on work of strengthening and organizing the grassroots sector over the long haul
- *Grassroots Support Services*: Organizations that lend a hand and have a lot to offer the grassroots sector but are not in the community every day (e.g. colleges, outside intermediaries)
- *Consultants*: Provide organizational development expertise to strengthen grassroots groups (generally limited in time and scope)
- *Funders*: Long-term investors in the grassroots infrastructure

#### What SRDI does to develop systems of support:

- Strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of grassroots support anchor institutions
- Partner with anchor institutions to build multi-county grassroots peer-to-peer networks
- Partner with anchor institutions to connect and integrate the system of support actors

*The overarching result* of a system of support is that grassroots leaders, groups, and networks have the support, connections, and resources to move their efforts to scale and sustain their work over the long-haul.



*Thomas Watson, Grassroots Support Project Director*  
*Phone: 828-285-2946 / Email: Thomas@srdi.org*