"We demand of ourselves a proactive and invested community that has quality healthcare, adequate housing, and enlightened education in a safe and sustainable environment. Where no person goes thirsty, hungry, or homeless, and every person is accepted no matter who your mamma is. All these things done with love tell the story of our future in rural communities."

- National Rural Youth Assembly, Santa Fe, 2010

With the Presidential elections just around the corner, there couldn't be a better time for a national gathering of rural leaders, practitioners, and advocates to take stock of where we are on the path toward building an inclusive nation, where every person matters, "no matter who your mamma is."

This year, we'll go back to our roots, to The Rural Compact, and reissue our call for inclusive policies that support sustainable communities across the country.

Quick facts about the National Gathering:

Who will participate? Participants will include more than 200 leaders and advocates representing diverse geographies, cultures, ages, and issue areas. Other participants will include White House and other government officials, members of Congress and their staff.

What will we accomplish together? We'll return to our foundational principles as set forth in the Rural Compact, and we'll expand our priorities and recommendations to build a more inclusive and integrated advocacy agenda. The final day of the conference will include a Congressional briefing and visits with members of Congress and Congressional staff on Capitol Hill. Young leaders will also have the opportunity to participate in a full-day strategic planning and action session.

What issue areas will be discussed? The Rural Assembly is intentionally a cross-sector, cross-geographical coalition. The National Gathering is dedicated to hosting conversations at the crossroads of health and climate, immigration and economic development, art and agriculture, poverty and prosperity, to name a few. Your participation influences the content and outcomes of each gathering. If you would like to have a more intentional impact, please answer our call for presenters, which will begin May 25, 2015.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C. Contact Whitney Kimball Coe for more information, whitney@ruralstrategies.org.