

# News Release

Tri County Economic Development District  
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## Northeast Washington Trends Debuts

The Northeast Washington Trends website came to pass through a partnership between Tri County Economic Development District and the Eastern Washington University Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis with support from a federal appropriations bill to fund indicator projects in rural Eastern Washington counties.

The EWU Institute for Public Policy & Economic Analysis (IPPEA) was created in 2002 to provide data and analysis about a variety of factors in the region that will be useful for businesses, communities and others as they plan for the future. The Institute recently secured \$190,000 from the Congress to conduct the work, administered by the Small Business Administration. The IPPEA's Director is Dr. Patrick Jones. Sarah Reynolds is the Project Coordinator for IPPEA's Community Indicators Initiative.

The first project to be started will focus on Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties in the northeastern corner of Washington, and a second project will focus on Grant County, located southwest of Spokane County. The goal of these two projects is to create a website for each region that will give them a first-time comprehensive, easily accessible data portrait of themselves.

The indicators on the site were chosen through the collaboration of community focus groups and a steering committee. To launch the project, a series of focus groups were held to help choose the statistics that would make up the indicators. Best practices and other communities' priority indicators informed the discussion. Each focus group used a simple voting process to select their most significant indicators.

The unveiling of this free, local, online data resource is open to the public. Come to any of the three debut presentations to learn more about your community and to network with like-minded people from your area.

The goals of the Northeast Washington Trends website are:

- To collect and share a broad spectrum of information to support informed decision making by individual community members, governmental policy makers, non-governmental organizations, businesses, business organizations, researchers, and the press.

- To measure progress over time of various efforts toward a healthy, vibrant community.
- To measure the community's progress via relevant benchmarks outside of the County.
- To enable analysis of these trends.
- To create a forum for a discussion of the issues underlying the data, either on-line or in person.

Who might use this resource: planners, developers, business owners, K-12 students, real estate agents, city and county government, grant writers, and anyone who wants current and accurate data on the Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties.

### Stevens County Debut

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Place: Community Colleges of Spokane, Colville Center Theater

Address: 385 S. Elm

Colville, WA 99114

### Pend Oreille County Debut

Date: Thursday, May 6, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Place: Pend Oreille County Counseling Services Building Conference Room

Address: 105 S. Garden Ave.

Newport, WA 99156

### Ferry County Debut

Date: Thursday, May 13, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Place: Board of County Commissioners Office

Address: 290 E. Tessie Ave.

Republic, WA 99166

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