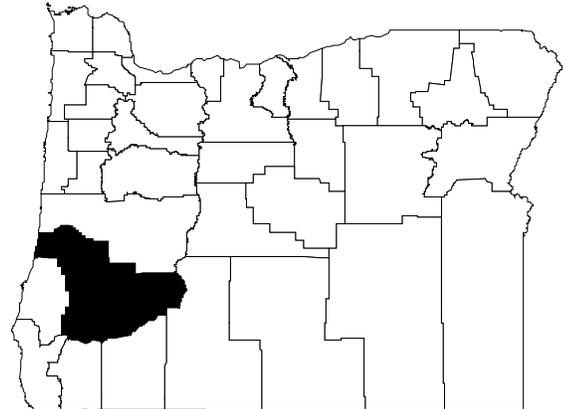




## NeighborWorks Umpqua

### Community Profile

County Douglas  
 City Roseburg  
 Population 22,000



### Assignment

Organization NeighborWorks Umpqua  
 Supervisor Michelle Martin  
 RARE Member Kate Ayres

#### About NeighborWorks Umpqua

NeighborWorks Umpqua is a private, rural-focused 501c3 that, since 1991, has provided affordable housing and community development throughout Southern Oregon. We own 568 units of rental housing, have developed more than 50 single-family homes for low-income buyers, and have redeveloped several vacant commercial structures. Our community development activities include provision of capacity-building support to grassroots organizations, asset-building tools and training (including one of the nation’s largest Individual Development Account programs), and economic and workforce development. Roseburg is our home, though our service area stretches over several counties. We have about 50 employees, 33 of whom work in the main Roseburg office.

Kate will investigate and communicate best practices in collective impact, paving the way for NeighborWorks Umpqua to better leverage the work of other NeighborWorks organizations within the national network. She will also coordinate an initiative around responsible landlord engagement as well as design and implement a resident engagement program. Her final project will be to coordinate information sharing between project teams and the public as NWU works on six related strategic priorities.

#### Meet Kate Ayres



- B.A. in Environmental Studies and Political Science - Pacific Lutheran University
- People may be surprised when they learn that I took the grand championship in dog sowsmanship my Junior year of high school
- My most significant accomplishment was being nominated by the environmental professor community to give the opening and welcoming speech introducing Dr. Caroline Finney at the 2015 Earth Day Conference. Having not applied for this honor, being nominated and being able to give this speech showed to me how I had made an impact in the environmental studies community to the point where I was seen as someone who would properly and accurately present the environmental studies program to the school and outside community.