



**Justin Maxson**  
**Deputy Under Secretary**  
**Rural Development**

Prior to being named Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, Justin served six years as Chief Executive Officer at the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. Justin and his team worked to support a unique private-public partnership with USDA, Bank of America and seven foundations; developed a racial equity lens to inform their impact from investing; and, tripled their 2020 grant-making in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before joining the Foundation, Justin spent 13 years as President of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (now Mountain Association), a multi-strategy sustainable economic development organization with CDFI working in eastern Kentucky and Central Appalachia.

Justin was on the founding board of the Center for Rural Strategies, and a yearlong fellow at the Sustainability Institute and the Rockwood Leadership Institute. He served at the Kentucky Governor's request on the Kentucky Climate Action Planning Committee and the planning committee for Shaping Our Appalachian region. He most recently served on Truist Bank's Community Development Advisory board.

He has a master's degree from Boston University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, both in Anthropology.