

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 5, Number 15 August 15, 2003

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As part of the Neighborhood Funders Group annual meeting in Pittsburgh this September, there are two events designed to increase rural philanthropy - the Rural Funders Working Group Fall Forum and a tour of Fayette County Community Action Agency, a rural community developer in Union County, PA.

Another \$6 million is being made available for community developer capacity building for intermediaries under USDA's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) funding for which is a Stand Up goal. (See August 1 issue of Rural Community developers Network reporter).

POLICY UPDATE

President Bush is on vacation and Congress is in recess.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

USDA invites eligible small businesses to submit research proposals for FY 2004 SBIR program competition. USDA will support high-quality research proposals containing advanced concepts related to important scientific problems and opportunities that could lead to significant public benefit if the research is successful. Phase I awards of up to \$80,000 each will be made for projects not to exceed six months in duration. Phase II awards are expected to range up to \$300,000 for projects not to exceed 24 months. Phase I proposals are due August 29, 2003. For more information, visit <http://www.reeusda.gov/sbir/>.

The US Department of Health and Human Services has \$34 million available in the Rural Health Outreach Grant Program. The program is designed to encourage the development of new and innovative health care delivery systems in rural communities that lack essential health care services. The deadline for FY03 applications is September 26. For more information call Eileen Holloran at 301-443-0835 or email eholloran@hrsa.gov or visit <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/outreach.htm>.

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program, an initiative of Nike Inc., provides matching funds of up to \$50,000 to community-based, youth-oriented nonprofit organizations for the refurbishment or construction of running tracks. The five-year, \$1 million program will distribute approximately \$200,000 each year. Special consideration will be given to existing running tracks in need of refurbishment and to tracks located in low- and moderate-income communities. Proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis through May 31, 2004. For more information about the program, go to www.nike.com/nikebiz/nikebiz.jhtml?page=26&item=bowerman.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Southern Rural Development Center, in cooperation with USDA Rural Development, the University of Georgia, and USDA Forest Service, has joined forces to provide advanced rural development training to key representatives from nonprofits and other organizations in the southern region. This Institute is designed for professionals

who are, or wish to become, actively involved in rural development work at the local, multi-county, state or regional levels. Registration is limited for the institute in Ft. Meyers, FL on September 8-10. For more information, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/sird03>.

The National Association of Development Organizations' (NADO) annual training conference will be held September 13-16, 2003 in Minneapolis, MN.

The conference is preceded by a two-day workshop for loan fund professionals. The conference provides an opportunity for regional development professionals, elected officials, representatives from federal agencies and others to network, share information, and attend training workshops on topics such as economic diversification, workforce development and alternative approaches to economic development. For more information, go to <http://www.nado.org/meetings/atc03web.pdf>.

"Under One Roof: Building Communities in the Delta" will be held Sept. 17-19 in Tunica County, MS. The sixth annual conference of Delta CDCs will offer a wide variety of workshops and training opportunities, as well as an evening of networking with colleagues from the Delta. For more information, contact Cathy Wilson at 662-335-3318 or email at cwilson@liscnet.org.

The Association for Enterprise Opportunity's new Advanced Microenterprise Development Institute will be held September 17-19, 2003, in Oakland, CA.

Trainings will focus on how to develop an access to markets program, develop high quality trainers, integrate IDAs and microenterprise, develop an effective peer lending program, provide high impact technical assistance, and develop risk management strategies, among other topics. For a full brochure and registration form go to www.microenterpriseworks.org/conferences/Oakland%20Brochure%20for%20web.pdf.

National Conference of Commercial Corridor Revitalization (CCR) will be Oct. 8-10 in Philadelphia.

This conference addresses key commercial corridor revitalization issues such as smart growth, safety and cleanliness, historic preservation, creative real estate financing, marketing, gentrification, business recruitment, and market analysis. Hosted by LISC, this event is sponsored by **William Penn Foundation, Washington Mutual, and State Farm.** For more information, contact Erin Kelley at 212 455-9803 or email ekelley@liscnet.org.

National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED) will hold its annual conference October 8-11 in Detroit, MI. This year's theme, "Investing in Communities," will address the challenges communities face and how these factors affect the changing economic life of a community. For more information, visit www.ncced.org/conferences/index.html or call Samantha Gibson at 202 289-9020 or email conferences@ncced.org.

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INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The USDA's Economic Research Service has released "Comparisons of Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Poverty during the 1990s." Download it at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/rdr96/rdr96.pdf>. A new issue of Amber Waves, is available from the ERS. It includes an article titled "Rural Welfare Reform: Lessons Learned," which talks about the success of reform in increasing employment and decreasing poverty levels for single mothers. However, these successes depend on where welfare recipients live. In rural areas, "employment is more concentrated in low-wage industries; unemployment and underemployment are greater; education levels are lower; and work support services, such as formal paid child care and public transportation, are less available." View it at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/>.

The Wachovia Corporation has launched a national partnership with the FDIC to expand the reach of MoneyStart, a program that provides financial literacy education to adults. Wachovia expects to reach at least 5,000 individuals with this training in 2003. The

Corporation has also received New Markets Tax Credits from the U.S. Treasury, giving it \$150 million of investment capital available to use during the next five years. Wachovia will use the money to fund the building of affordable housing along with other projects that promote economic development. Please contact Alison Rice at

Alison.rice@wachovia.com for more information.

The Central Appalachian Network (CAN) would like to invite you to participate in an upcoming online forum, Link, Leverage, Strategize and Thrive: Using Social Network Analysis to Empower Public and Nonprofit Organizations. Network analysis is an exciting tool that allows organizations to build partnerships, tap into resources and strengthen internal capacity. This forum will bring together leading experts from the field of network analysis to discuss how nonprofit organizations and government agencies can use network analysis to improve their effectiveness. The forum will run from August 18-29, 2003. To learn more about CAN and to participate in the online forum, visit www.cannet-work.org. If you have any questions about the forum or have trouble logging on, please contact Amanda Spickard at Spickard@ilgard.ohiou.edu or 740-597-2512.

Send information on funding opportunities, events, publications, resources or rural related policy issues to: reporter@ruralamerica.org. Announcements will be published at our discretion based on space and applicability. To receive the Network Reporter by email contact us at: info@ruralamerica.org.

