

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 5, Number 16 September 1, 2003

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The campaign-commissioned documentary "A Place in the Country," has now shown on PBS stations reaching 49.4 percent of the TV viewing audience.

POLICY UPDATE

The Community Development Venture Capital Alliance (CDVCA) reports that there has been little substantive progress made on the regulations to implement the Rural Business Investment Company program since CDVCA's last newsletter. Debate over an interagency agreement between USDA and the Small Business Administration regarding implementation of the program has prevented the promulgation of temporary regulations to implement the law. After much back and forth, it now looks like the USDA and SBA will sign an interagency agreement in the next month or two, with regulations to be drafted by this fall. To subscribe to Ventures, CDVCA's free newsletter, go to www.cdvca.org and click on mailing list.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis has announced the opening of the first round of the 2003 Affordable Housing Program (AHP).

Approximately \$5 million is available this round. The AHP can be used for the acquisition, purchase or rehabilitation of owner-occupied or rental housing for low to moderate-income families. For an application and related materials, go to www.fhlbi.com/housing/ahp_app_gateway.asp.

Veritas Software Foundation, the nonprofit established by Veritas Software Corporation, has introduced its Software Donation Program. It allocates \$500,000 worth of software to be distributed over the next year to nonprofit and educational organizations with storage software technology. Application deadlines vary. For more details, visit www.veritas.com/aboutus/foundation/Foundation.jhtml.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Community Development Venture Capital Alliance (CDVCA) will hold a one-day workshop in Denver, September 24. Participants will receive a comprehensive overview of the growing field of community development venture capital and have an opportunity to hear from some of the most experienced CDVC practitioners. For more information, visit www.cdvca.org or contact Christina Mayo at cmayo@cdvca.org.

The Rural Telecongress Annual Conference will be held September 28-October 1 in Washington, D.C. It will cover six Communities of Interest: Infrastructure, Policy and Regulation, Tele-Health and Tele-Medicine, E-government, Education, Community and Economic Development. For more information, go to www.ruraltelecon.org/conference.

The Path to Stronger Communities: Expanding Economic Growth in Small Communities and Rural Areas will be held in Erie, Pennsylvania October 8. Sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, the conference will provide community development practitioners, small business owners and operators, developers, financial institutions, nonprofit organizations, and government entities in rural areas and small communities with information and tools for creating and growing sustainable communities in New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Contact Daniel Holland at 412 261-7947 or email daniel.holland@clev.frb.org for more information.

The National Business Incubation Association's 2003 Fall Training Institute will be held October 22-24 in Smithtown, NY. Visit www.nbia.org/nbia_events/fti_2003 for more information.

The Heartland Center for Leadership Development will hold a five-day community development workshop, "Helping Small Towns Succeed," October 23-27, 2003 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The workshop focuses on the basics of community development models, assessment, marketing, strategic planning and developing new leaders. For registration and more information call 800-927-1115, or visit www.heartlandcenter.info/jhsite/jh_home.html.

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INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

DiscounTech is a technology product distribution service for nonprofits. For a small administrative fee, nonprofits can order donated and discounted software and other technology products. DiscounTech assembles contributions from technology providers for the benefit of the nonprofit sector. DiscounTech is a service of TechSoup, the technology website for nonprofits. For more information, visit www.techsoup.org/DiscounTech/aboutus.asp.

According to the Center for Women's Business Research, women entrepreneurs are an increasingly important part of our national economy. To see the data from the Center for Women's Business Research, go to www.nfwbo.org/StateMetroReports.html. Women-owned businesses are growing at twice the rate of all U.S. firms. The U.S. Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor recently launched a website for women entrepreneurs and other small business owners. The Women of the 21st Century web site provides information on federal government resources for women entrepreneurs. Visit the website at www.women-21.gov.

"Transit: A Lifeline for Rural America," by the US Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration is a guidebook to help state agencies, small communities (populations of under 50,000), rural transportation providers and others understand relevant federal funding programs To see this report, go to www.fta.dot.gov/office/program/rural/.

"Rural America in the Digital Age" is the title of a study conducted by the Institute for Information Policy at The Pennsylvania State University. It examines the range of digital challenges in rural America by looking at five counties in N. Dakota and five in Pennsylvania. The study examines the range of information assets available, i.e., newspapers, public libraries, telephone, TV and radio, cable/broadband, the Internet, etc. Despite obvious similarities among rural areas, several variables make in N. Dakota differ from Penn. With the exception of Alaska, N. Dakota has some of the least densely populated counties in the United States at 9.3 persons per square mile. Penn. counties represent some of the most densely populated rural counties at 274 persons per square mile. The study is available at www.utexas.edu/research/tipi and a policy brief based on the study's findings by the Rural Policy Research Institute can be found at www.rupri.org.

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.

