

# Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 7, Number 10 June 1, 2005

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are very grateful to every group and individual that signed on to our letter to Congress regarding Agriculture Appropriations. We submitted a letter to both the House and the Senate asking Congress not to cut the USDA budget, but to retain the funding levels from the last fiscal year. Thanks to you, we were able to send signatures from more than 200 community development organizations and 1,000 individuals from nearly every state in the country.

Your voices helped convince the House Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee to reject the large cuts proposed by the Administration, especially for Sections 502 and 515, and most of the housing programs maintained their 2005 funding levels.

**THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR RURAL AMERICA!!** It isn't over until the House and the Senate agree. So stay tuned.

## POLICY UPDATE

The mark-up for the HUD Appropriations is scheduled for June 15. Although cuts in many domestic programs are inevitable, it appears that coalition efforts to protect CDBG and other vital housing and community development efforts are making an impact. In the House, the allocation for the Appropriations subcommittee that funds HUD-related programs, including CDBG, received a budget allocation 10.3 percent above the Administration's. This is an indication of broad bipartisan support for stable CDBG funding while keeping the program at HUD. The Senate hasn't set subcommittee allocations yet. To weigh in on the HUD budget in the House, contact the Appropriations Subcommittee at 202-225-2141 and in the Senate, 202-224-4869.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**HHS' Administration for Children and Families has more than \$2 million in grants available in the Community Food and Nutrition Program.** The program works to develop innovative approaches at the State and local level to meet the nutrition needs of low-income individuals, including displaced workers, elderly people, children, and the working poor. Approximately 50 awards will be made. The deadline is June 17. For more information, contact Catherine Beck at 800-281-9519, [ocs@lcgnet.com](mailto:ocs@lcgnet.com) or visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs>.

**More than \$64 million is available in the Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages (ICDBG).** The ICDBG Program provides eligible grantees with direct grants for use in developing viable Indian and Alaska Native Communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, primarily for low and moderate income persons. **The deadline is June 20.** For more information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/icdbgsec.pdf>.

**HHS' Administration for Children and Families has more than \$6.7 million available for the Community Services Block Grant--Rural Community Development Activities Program.** The program's grantees provide training and tech-

nical assistance in developing and managing community facilities in rural areas that will help low-income rural communities develop the capacity and expertise to establish and/or maintain needed community facilities. For more information, visit

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/e.docket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-8133.htm> **The deadline is June 24.**

**HUD has extended the deadline for applications to its Housing Counseling Program.** The new **deadline is June 27.** For more information, visit

[https://apply.grants.gov/forms\\_apps\\_idx.html](https://apply.grants.gov/forms_apps_idx.html) or call 202-708-0667 ext4336 or [Dorthera\\_Yorkshire@hud.gov](mailto:Dorthera_Yorkshire@hud.gov).

**HUD has announced the reopening of its Rural Housing and Economic Development Program NOFA competition,** which was included in the SuperNOFA, which closed May 17. **The new deadline for applications is July 11.** Contact Thann Young, Community Planning and Development Specialist, for more information at 202-708-2290 or visit

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/rhedreopen.pdf>.

**The Rural Utilities Service High Energy Cost Grant Program offers financial assistance** to provide, improve, or reduce the costs of energy generation, transmission, and distribution services for rural communities with home energy costs that are over 275 percent of the national average. More than \$19 million is available. For more information, visit

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric/hecgp/index.htm> or call 202-720-9545 or [energy.grants@usda.gov](mailto:energy.grants@usda.gov). **The deadline is July 25.**

**Nonprofits and state housing finance agencies can apply to create revolving loan funds for the Rural Housing Service's Section 515 revitalization. The deadline is August 8.** See Federal Register, 5/9/05, pp.24367-72 or <http://www.hudclips.org>. For more information, contact Henry Searcy, Jr. at 202-720-1753.

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The School of Community Economic Development at Southern New Hampshire University presents the **Stonyfield Farm Entrepreneurship Institute**, a "boot camp" for community-minded entrepreneurs. The event will be held on campus June 9-10. To register and get more information, go to [www.snhu.edu/CED/stonyfieldinstitute.html](http://www.snhu.edu/CED/stonyfieldinstitute.html).

**Rising Together: The Summit on the Rural South, the annual conference of the Southern Growth Policies Board, will be held on June 12-14 in Point Clear, Alabama.** The Southern Growth Policies Board also will release its 2005 Report on the Future of the South to kick off the event. More information is available at: <http://www.southern.org/conference/reg.shtml>.

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The 4th Annual Financial Management Professionals' Conference **"FM Survivor: In the Black and Alive in 2005,"** sponsored by the LISC Organizational Development Initiative and Citigroup, will be July 27-29 in Chicago.

The conference will cover concrete finance strategies for making your community development corporation stronger and savvier than ever. For more information, contact Daraus Mirza at [dmirza@lisc.org](mailto:dmirza@lisc.org).

**The Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati will hold several workshops in June and early July** in Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio on preparing an Affordable Housing Program (AHP) application through the bank's website. For more information on dates and locations, visit [www.fhlbcin.com](http://www.fhlbcin.com) or call 888-345-2246.

## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**The Nonprofit Board's Guide to Determining Chief Executive Compensation** by Brian H. Vogel and Charles W.

Quatt is available at [www.boardsource.org/viewbookstoreitem.asp?ID=166](http://www.boardsource.org/viewbookstoreitem.asp?ID=166). The report helps nonprofits through the process of setting up compensation plans that will draw top chief executives while withstanding scrutiny by the IRS and the public.

**"Persistent Pockets of Extreme American Poverty: People or Place Based?"** is a new report by Mark D. Partridge and Dan S. Rickman for the Rural Poverty Research Center (RUPRI). The findings indicate that place-based economic development has a potential role for reducing poverty in "persistent-poverty" counties.

**The FHLB of Des Moines recently released a report on a study they commissioned on the Future Prosperity for Rural America.** The report summarizes recent trends and conditions in rural America, reviews federal policies aimed at stimulating economic performance in rural America and develops a conceptual framework and possible policy/program directions to serve as a new foundation for encouraging growth in rural America. The study, *Crafting a Competitive Future*, is available at [http://www.fhlbdm.com/Docs/About\\_Us/PF/SRIReport\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.fhlbdm.com/Docs/About_Us/PF/SRIReport_FINAL.pdf)

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