

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

Volume 7, Number 13 July 15, 2005

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee included \$6.5 million for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI). If it holds up, total RCDI funding to date will top \$43 million.

## POLICY UPDATE

Great News! The House passed its appropriations bill to fund the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and HUD, as well as some other programs, in 2006. HUD is funded at \$37.5 billion, \$1.547 billion above last year's level and \$4.32 billion above the President's Request. The Bill provides \$4.2 billion for the Community Development Block Grant of which \$3.86 billion in the formula funds to entitlement communities and states, a reduction of \$250 million from the amount last year. The bill cut some HUD programs but did not adopt the Administration's proposal to consolidate CDBG, RHED, and other programs at the Department of Commerce. RHED survived but saw its funding cut to \$10 million. HOPE VI, Brownfields, Empowerment Zones, and Youthbuild were eliminated. Funding for Section 8 programs is split into two accounts. Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> for more information. The Senate expects to mark up its bill shortly.

The Senate Appropriations Committee completed work on USDA funding for FY 2006. Section 502 direct loans and Section 515 were cut by 8.7 percent and nine percent respectively. The Administration's plan to provide vouchers for displaced 515 tenants got \$16 million. Senators created a new \$16.5 million multifamily housing preservation demonstration program. More information is at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app06.html>.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITES

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has grants up to \$15,000 available. Funds are for projects that: Test innovative strategies, strengthen partnerships between safety professionals and agricultural organizations and the media, explore new research questions, and translate research findings into practical applications. The deadline is August 10. For more information, visit <http://www2.marshfieldclinic.org/research/children/grant/default.asp?doc=2005Announcement.xml>.

The Environmental Protection Agency will fund tribes and tribal consortia to support lead educational outreach activities and baseline assessments of children's existing or potential lead exposure. **Deadline is Aug. 15.** See Federal Register, 6/30/05, pp. 37831-37. Contact Colby Lintner, EPA, 202-554-1404, [TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov](mailto:TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov).

The Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative has \$500,000 available for an unspecified number of grants to public schools in rural areas for computers, to connect schools to the web to make online resources an integral part of the school curriculum. The deadline is September 14. For more information, visit <http://www.fred.org/teachtech.html>

**Give Back to Grow, a Scotts Miracle-Gro Company corporate initiative, will honor individuals who take pride in giving back to their communities through gardening.** Each winner will receive \$5,000, and each of two finalists in each category will receive \$2,500. **The deadline is December 2.** For more information, visit the [www.scotts.com](http://www.scotts.com) and click on "social responsibility."

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis will hold a series of workshops on preparing the 2005 Affordable Housing Application (AHP). The first one will be held on July 22 in Indianapolis with subsequent workshops in Evansville, Mackinac City and Merrillville, IN, and Detroit MI. For more information, visit <http://www.fhlbi.com/housing/conf.asp>.

The Minnesota Rural Summit will be held July 28-29 in Collegeville, MN. This year's theme is "The Great Reconnect - Bridging Rural & Urban Resources for Community & Economic Success." For more information, visit [www.minnesotaruralpartners.org/2005\\_summit/index.htm](http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org/2005_summit/index.htm) or call 651 645-9403 or [jleonard@minnesotaruralpartners.org](mailto:jleonard@minnesotaruralpartners.org).

Rural Rental Housing will be the Aug. 9, 2:00 p.m. ET KnowledgePlex chat. The discussion will cover current programs for preservation of rural rental housing and actions needed to ensure affordability of rural rental units. To learn more about this chat, visit <http://www.knowledgeplex.org>.

"Faith-Based Community Development Training Symposium," sponsored by Branch Banking & Trust Company (BB&T) and Freddie Mac, will be held August 9-11 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. It will explore the costs, risks and rewards of community economic development for the church communities. For more information, visit [www.bbandtevents.com](http://www.bbandtevents.com).

The Association of Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) Regional Training Institutes will be held on September 12-13, 2005 in Stamford, CT and on October 13-14 in Oklahoma City, OK. For more information visit [www.microenterpriseworks.org/conferences/rti.htm](http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/conferences/rti.htm).

HUD's National Indian Housing Summit will be held in Reno, Nevada, September 19-22. For more information, visit [www.hud.gov/codetalk](http://www.hud.gov/codetalk) or call 888 774-3774.

"What Works! Rural Entrepreneurship & Community Development in the Northeast" will be held September 28-30 in Burlington, Vermont. Sponsors are The University of Vermont, The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and the Association for Enterprise Opportunity. More information is available at <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/entrepreneur2005wksp.htm>.

State Science & Technology Institute's (SSTI) Annual Conference will be held on October 19-21 in Atlanta, GA. More information is available at: <http://www.ssti.org/conference05.htm>.

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The National Business Incubation Association's (NBIA) **15th Fall Training Institute will be held on October 24-26 in San Diego, CA.** Stay tuned to the NBIA website [http://www.nbia.org/nbia\\_events/index.php](http://www.nbia.org/nbia_events/index.php) for more information as it becomes available.

**The National Brownfields Conference will be November 2-4 in Denver.** The conference is the official EPA and ICMA co-sponsored event on all aspects of brownfield redevelopment and reuse. To learn more, visit <http://www.brownfields2005.org/en/index.aspx>.

**Verizon has a number of classes available on the web** for nonprofits in planning, technology, fundraising, recruitment, etc. Grants are available to cover the cost of one class. For more information, visit <http://charitychannel.com/cu/2/verizon/grants/>.

**USDA's Rural Housing Service (RHS) Administrative Notice 4089** (June 15, 2005) covers the application process for Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Technical Assistance grants and is available at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/an/an4089.pdf](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/an/an4089.pdf) or from RD offices. For further assistance, contact the appropriate regional TA contractor listed at <http://www.ruralhome.org/infoSheets.php?id=188>.

## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**Homes Across America**, [www.homes-across-america.org](http://www.homes-across-america.org), is a "searchable technology showcase" meant to connect homebuyers, builders, designers, and technical assistance providers around the country interested in resource-efficient homes.

**The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) has issued a report**, Effective Rural Governance: What Is It? Does It Matter? It defines effective governance and lists eight key principles of effective rural governance and includes examples of rural governance efforts that address these principles. Go to: [www.rupri.org/ruralPolicy/publications/RGI\\_in\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.rupri.org/ruralPolicy/publications/RGI_in_pdf.pdf).

**A new website [www.community-wealth.org](http://www.community-wealth.org)**, partially sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, provides information about the broad range of community wealth strategies, policies, models, and innovations. The site is built upon the proposition that above all, practitioners, policy makers, academics and the media need solid, cross-cutting information and tools that can help them to understand and support the expansion of these institutions.

*Send information on funding opportunities, events, publications, resources or rural related policy issues to: [reporter@ruralamerica.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@ruralamerica.org).*

