

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

Volume 7, Number 14 August 1, 2005

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**WANT TO SEE AN EXTREME MAKEOVER? IT'S THE STAND UP WEBSITE!** Please visit the new and improved [www.ruralamerica.org](http://www.ruralamerica.org). We're pretty sure you won't regret it.

## POLICY UPDATE

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the HUD budget for FY 2006 on July 21. As in the House, the Senate did not adopt the Administration's proposal to consolidate CDBG, RHED, and other programs under one umbrella at the Commerce Department. The Senate set funding for the CDBG program at \$4.2 billion, the same as in the House. Of this amount, \$3.676 billion is for communities and states, a sum slightly lower than what the House appropriated. For the HOME program, the Senate appropriators authorized \$1.85 billion. The Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) was funded at \$24 million in the Senate, as compared to \$10 million in the House. Brownfields Redevelopment was set at \$15 million, a decrease of \$8.8 million from the previous year. The House appropriations bill did not have any money for this program. CDFI received \$55 million. The differences between the Senate and House versions of the HUD Appropriations will be worked out in the conference committee. <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app06.html>.

The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee has approved a bill to strengthen regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The bill does not include an Affordable Housing Fund, which the House bill does include. However, some observers believe that a fund will be included if the Senate bill does move ahead.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention has \$1.7 million available** for Cooperative Agreement Awards for Tribes and Tribal Organizations in Tobacco Prevention and Control. The purpose of the program is to support American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations leading regional efforts to prevent and reduce the use of tobacco and exposure to secondhand smoke, and to conduct evaluation and implementation of culturally relevant prevention strategies. **The deadline is Aug. 15.** For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/AA066.htm>.

**The national office of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) supports nonprofit organizations** whose programs help improve the health and well being of children. The next deadline for letters of inquiry is **August 22**. For more information, visit <http://www.rmhc.org/>.

**USDA Rural Development has \$200 million in guaranteed loan funds and grants for investments in renewable energy systems and energy efficient improvements** by agriculture producers and rural small businesses. The funds will be set aside until August 31. For more information visit, [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/9006%20regulation%20in%20text.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/9006%20regulation%20in%20text.html).

**The Treasury Department invites applications for a**

**fourth round of New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocations.** The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund provides authority to community development entities (CDEs) to offer tax credits over seven years. The program is designed to attract private-sector capital investment into distressed urban and rural areas to help finance community development in NMTCs, stimulate economic growth and create jobs. In 2006, up to \$3.5 billion will be available for awards of up to \$150 million. Applicants must be certified as a CDE. **Electronic applications are due September 21.** More information is available at [www.cdfifund.gov](http://www.cdfifund.gov). **The Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration has \$1.4 million available** for grants to support development of rural health networks. For more information, visit <http://fedgrants.gov/Applicants/HHS/HRSA/GAC/HRSA-06-010/Modification2.html> or Erica C. Molliver at 301-443-1520, [emolliver@hrsa.gov](mailto:emolliver@hrsa.gov). **The deadline is September 26.**

**The Office of Rural Health Policy's Health Care Services Outreach Program** encourages the development of new and innovative health care delivery systems in rural communities that lack essential health care services. The program has **\$10 million for approximately 66 grants.** **The deadline is September 23.** For more information, visit <http://fedgrants.gov/Applicants/HHS/HRSA/GAC/HRSA-06-005/Grant.html> or Lilly Smetana at 301-443-6884, [lsmetana@hrsa.gov](mailto:lsmetana@hrsa.gov).

**The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation**, in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government, is accepting applications for the **\$100,000 Innovations in American Government Awards**, including two special awards: the Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations Award in Affordable Housing and the Annie E. Casey Innovations Award in Children and Family Systems Reform. **The deadline is Sept. 15.** For more information, go to <http://www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu/>. **The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program** honors community health leaders for their work in addressing some of today's most complex health problems. Each leader receives **\$120,000**, to be used for personal and program enhancement for a period of up to three years. The deadline for the required letter of intent is Sept. 22 and **applications are due Nov. 10.** For more information, visit <http://www.communityhealthleaders.org>.

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**The Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada Reno will hold a workshop August 8-10 in Sparks, Nevada.** It is titled "Energizing the Economy through Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer: What Has Benn Tried? What Has Been Tested? What Will Work?" For more information, visit [www.ag.unr.edu/uced](http://www.ag.unr.edu/uced) or call Elizabeth Fadali at 775-784-1326. **The Gilbert Center is offering online seminars in Nonprofit Technology Planning and Implementation August 9th, 10th, & 11th, Noon to 1:30 PM PST.** For more information, contact The Gilbert Center at 202-726-0047 <http://gilbert.forms.soceco.org/81450>.

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**The Economic Development Finance Service (EDFS) is offering three loan fund management training courses** in Seattle in August: EDA RLFs: Keys to Improved Compliance, USDA IRPs: Keys to Improved Compliance; and Analyzing Borrowers' Tax Returns. For more information, visit [www.nado.org/edfs/seattle05.pdf](http://www.nado.org/edfs/seattle05.pdf) or contact Bill Amt at 202-624-8467.

## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**The Rural School and Community Trust Policy Program has issued its third in a series of reports** analyzing the importance of rural education and the urgency with which state policy makers should address high poverty rates, increasing diversity, population decline, deteriorating facilities and low graduation rates, etc. The report concludes that rural education is often overlooked by a society preoccupied with an urban identity. Visit [www.ruraledu.org](http://www.ruraledu.org) for a copy.

**The Cooperative Housing Development Toolbox: A Guide for Successful Community Development** was created by Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund (NCDF) to assist community leaders with choosing, planning and organizing co-op housing developments. This toolbox helps com-

munity leaders evaluate the co-op housing model as one possible solution to their affordable housing needs. You can purchase a copy of the guide for \$15 by contacting NCDF at 612-331-9103, or [info@ncdf.coop](mailto:info@ncdf.coop), or go to <http://www.ncdf.coop/documents/FinalCompleteToolbox.pdf>.

**The Smart Chart, sponsored by Spitfire Strategies, is a free interactive online tool to help nonprofit organizations** craft winning communications plans. To learn more visit <http://www.smartchart.org/>.

**Making Walls Work for You, Shaping Your Development by Design** illustrates three developments that have paid attention to their walls and have used small design elements to add significant character to their buildings. For more information, visit <http://www.designadvisor.org/>.

**The 28th Annual Mississippi Delta Blues and Heritage Festival, sponsored by Mississippi Action for Community Education, Inc. (MACE)** will be held September 17 in Greenville, MS. Featured artists include Bobby Bland, Tito Jackson, Shirley Brown and Bobby Rush. For more information on "**The Blues is Like Comin' Home**," visit <http://www.deltablues.org/MACE/home.htm>.

*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).*

