

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 7, Number 15 August 15, 2005

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

GOOD NEWS ON CRA! Give yourselves a big round of applause! You and thousands of your colleagues beat back a proposal to water down CRA so that anything an intermediate size bank financed in rural communities would count for CRA credit. The Federal Reserve, FDIC and OCC are adopting new uniform regulations evaluating these banks under two tests: a new one for community development; and one for lending. The community development test covers bank performance on revitalizing or stabilizing low and moderate income and distressed or underserved nonmetro census tracts. The rule uses CDFI criteria for market rate distress, i.e., 1) an unemployment rate 1.5 times the national average, 2) a poverty rate of 20 percent or more, or 3) out-migration equal to 10 percent between the most recent census or five percent over the five years preceding the most recent census. It also includes housing only when it is developed as part of an overall plan benefiting low and moderate income residents. See the Federal Register August 2, Vol. 70, Number 147, Page 44256-44270.
[http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAI\\$docID=14133915498+1+0+0&WAI\\$action=retrieve](http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAI$docID=14133915498+1+0+0&WAI$action=retrieve). Eligible census tracts will be listed at <http://www.ffiec.gov/cra/>.

POLICY UPDATE

USDA Secretary Johanns and Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner and others are continuing a nationwide Farm Bill listening tour. The public is invited to comment on Farm Bill policy. The next stops are: Penn State, 9 am-noon, Aug. 16; Jackson Hole, Wyo., 4-7 pm, Aug. 17; and Indianapolis, 4-8 pm, Aug. 18. For more information, go to www.usda.gov and

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

HUD has extended the deadline for Youthbuild and Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) applications to August 25. More than \$56 million is available for youth job training in the construction field and brownfield restoration projects may receive up to \$2 million per project. For more information, visit www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm and <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/bedi/index.cfm>.

The Healthy Start Initiative has \$4.8 million available for six grants to communities to improve the disparities among minorities in infant health. The grants are sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration. **The deadline is August 30.** Contact Beverly Wright at 301-443-8283 or BWright@hrsa.gov.

HUD is offering three grants, all with an application deadline of September 6th: Supportive Housing for the Elderly, **Section 202 grants** will provide housing to low-income seniors over 62. It includes new construction, rehabilitation, or the acquisition of housing:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/grpsec202.cfm>. **Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities, Section**

811, grants will be given for nonprofit organizations developing rental housing with supportive services for low-income or disabled people:
www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/grpsec811.cfm. **Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing grants** will enable independent living for people with disabilities and the elderly:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/grpscmmh.cfm>.

The Environmental Protection Agency has approximately \$2 million for 10 awards for job training projects that will facilitate assessment, remediation, or preparation of Brownfield sites. **The deadline is Sept. 16.** For more information:
<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/EPA/OGD/GAD/OSWER-OBCR-05-01/listing.html>.

The deadline for certified community development organizations interested in New Market Tax Credits is September 21st. For more information please reference the Federal Register, 7/15/05, pp. 41075-85, or visit <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. You can also access the staff of the CDFI Fund at 202-622-6355 or through cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov.

The Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program is offering a \$100,000 award for nonprofits to support staff development for caretakers and teachers in Head Start, Early Head Start and other child care programs to increase the understanding and skills necessary to carry out their jobs. **The deadline is Sept. 23.** Contact Jean Simpson at 202-205-8418 for more information.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites applications for funding under the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI). Approximately \$6 million is available for grants to intermediaries, which range from \$50,000 to \$1 million. Grants will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients for projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. **Applications are due Nov. 3.** For more information:
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-15528.htm>.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Community Action Partnership convention, "Community Action: Unity, Creativity, Vision" will be held August 30-Sept. 2nd in New Orleans. For more information: http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/pdfs/conference/2005/2005_Convention_Promo.pdf?bcsi_scan_69B1CF94562E7761=0&bcsi_scan_filename=2005_Convention_Promo.pdf.

The National Leaders Summit will be held September 8th in Washington, D.C. It is sponsored by the National Human Services Assembly, an association of the nation's leading national non-profits in the fields of health, human and community development, and human services. For registration

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information: www.nassembly.org/nassembly/nls.htm

The Center for Community Action and the University of North Carolina - Pembroke are hosting a national conference, "Sustaining Rural America: Defining Our Common Future" September 23rd -24th in Pembroke. For more information: www.uncp.edu/rc/rural, email: cca@carolina.net, or telephone: 910-739-7851.

The Foundation Center is offering: Proposal Budgeting Workshop for beginners and organizations with limited budgeting experience in seven cities, September through December. To register, go to <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/3539/proposal/budgeting>; Proposal Writing Seminar presented consecutively in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. For information: <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/3540/proposal/writing>.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently released a report, "Going Without: America's Uninsured Children." The release coincided with events for the Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign which

actively engages parents across the nation to get health care coverage for their children. Parents of uninsured children can call toll-free 1(877) KIDS-NOW to find out if their children are eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage. To read the full report and the press release respectively:

<http://www.rwjf.org/files/newsroom/ckfresearchreportfinal.pdf>
<http://www.rwjf.org/newsroom/newsreleasesdetail.jsp?id=10360>

The Government Accountability Office has released Elderly Housing: Federal Housing Programs and Supportive Services, a comprehensive look at federal programs for housing the elderly that also have a supportive service component. Information on rural programs is included: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05795t.pdf>

The National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services report, The 2005 Report to the Secretary: Rural Health and Human Service Issues explores and provides recommendations for HHS on four important issues related to rural health and human services: Collaboration among agencies, access to obstetrical care, the growing obesity issue and welfare reform. Download the report at <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/NAC2005.pdf>.

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.

