

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 7, Number 19 October 15, 2005

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are still waiting for a final Fiscal Year '06 Agriculture Appropriations Bill including funding for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) program which we have championed. A Conference Committee meeting is in the works.

POLICY UPDATE

There is a brouhaha over Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE) regulatory reform. To get an Affordable Housing Fund in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, House members have reached a compromise with language prohibiting nonprofits from receiving these monies if they have engaged in voter registration or have an affiliate that has engaged in it. For more information got to <http://www.nlich.org> or call 202.662.1530.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) announced the availability of approximately \$4,000,000 in Challenge Grants for eligible non-profit organizations. It is thought that eight one-year Challenge Grants will be made, with a minimum grant level of \$500,000 and a maximum grant level of approximately \$4,000,000. The purpose of the 2005 Challenge Grant competition is to engage volunteers in disaster relief and recovery for the population affected by the recent hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region. The deadline is November 11, 2005. For more information contact Marci Hunn at 202. 606. 7507 or challengegrants@cns.gov and visit: http://www.nationalservice.org/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=15

The CNCS also announced the availability of approximately \$69,200,000 for new and re-competing AmeriCorps State and National grant programs. The grants are the AmeriCorps States and Territories Competitive Program, State Education Award Program, National Direct Program, National Education Award Program, National Planning Grants Program, National Professional Corps Program, Indian Tribes Program, and States and Territories without Commissions Program. Applicants for continuation grants will receive guidance in separate documentation. The deadline is February 2, 2006. For more information contact Amy Borgstrom at 202-606-6930 or aborgstrom@cns.gov

Scott's Give Back to Grow Program is an annual honor for individuals involved in community gardening projects. From several categories, winners will receive \$5,000 and finalists will receive \$2,500. The deadline for applications is December 2, 2005. For more information call 1.866.565.3554 and ask for a program representative or visit: <http://www.scotts.com/scotts-sites/about/index.cfm?poeSiteId=10926&partnerId=7&strSiteTest=false&fuseaction=aboutScotts.GiveBack>

Nickelodeon is currently running a giveaway program to encourage healthy play. The program will provide a total of \$ 1 Million in funding until May 31, 2006. Awards go to teams in after-school programs and K-9 classrooms. Teams will receive \$5,000 to help facilitate play and active lifestyles in their communities. Deadlines are rolling until May 31, 2006. For more information: http://www.nick.com/all_nick/everything_nick/ljp_home.jhtml

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced a dedication of \$9 million for long-term economic development recovery plans for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. These funds will be used by the governors to involve the most experienced experts and consultants in strengthening their respective revitalization and rebuilding efforts. A listing of EDA's more traditional funding opportunities can be found through the following link: <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/FFON.xml>

The Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) provides Disaster Relief Grants of up to \$1,000 for craft artists who have been seriously injured or whose homes/studios have been severely damaged by forces of nature or a terrorist attack. To be considered for this grant, applicants must complete the Quick Loan application. CERF will then determine whether a loan or a grant offer or combination is most appropriate. Priority for grants will be given to those most severely affected by the disaster. For more information: <http://www.craftemergency.org/>.

The Association for the Study and Development of Community intends to build the capacity and understanding of community diversity through grants up to \$20,000 made to organizations such as community groups, nonprofits, local governments, and local foundations. The deadline is Oct. 31st. For more information: <http://www.capacitybuilding.net> or contact_buildingcommunity@capablecommunity.com

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and the World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas will sponsor A Community Development Lending Conference November 4th in Dallas, Texas. For more information and to register online: www.dallasfed.org

The Healthy Teen Network will hold its annual conference November 16th - 19th in Chicago, IL. This year's topic will be Leading the Charge: Making a Difference in the Lives of Teens and Young Families. Contact: Loyola Law School, 213.736.1423; eotax@lls.edu: <http://events.lls.edu/eotax>

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) will hold the National Conference on Affordable Housing in High Cost Areas from November 29th through December 1st in Honolulu, HI. For information on registration, contact Mark Wiseman at 916.447.9832 x 279 and for information on conference content contact Gigi Cairel at 808.286.5035 or Bruce Newman at 541.332.0703.

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INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

FHLBank Atlanta is soliciting nominations from Alabama and Georgia for two representatives to serve on the Bank's Affordable Housing Advisory Council.

Nominations are to be made by October 24, 2005. If you have questions about the Advisory Council or nomination process call Lynn Brazen at 800.536.9650 or visit www.fhlbatl.com.

DataPlace™ is a new feature on KnowledgePlex that delivers statistical snapshots of a community in seconds. It provides fast access to data sets, maps, and charts. It allows users to create customized charts or data sets that contrast any location with another area. To learn more about this fast, easy online tool, visit <http://www.dataplace.org/>.

Sierra Club has released its Healthy Growth Calculator. Users can enter their personal auto gas mileage, the price of gas in their neighborhood, and their ideal neighborhood density, and instantly receive an estimation of their personal impact on their community. Use the calculator online through the following link:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/density/>

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis has issued its annual report on county income levels. Based on 2003 data (the latest data available), the new figures again show how pervasive rural poverty is in the United States. Of the 250 lowest income counties in the nation, 228 are non-metropolitan counties. To see the list, go to <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/pcpilow.cfm> or call Tui Chen Pomsouvan at 202-606-9739.

Green Housing is a new section of The Affordable Housing Design Advisor website. It features nine new case studies selected through the AIA Show Your Green program. Projects demonstrate the diverse ways in which green practices are used and integrated in excellent affordable housing design. To learn more, visit <http://www.designadvisor.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.

