

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 7, Number 21 November 15, 2005

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

President Bush has signed the 2006 Agriculture Appropriations legislation, including the \$6.35 million for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI).

POLICY UPDATE

In addition to RCDI funds, the bill contains \$1.14 billion for Section 502 Direct Loans, \$100 million for Section 515 Rental Housing Loans, \$9 million for a new multifamily housing preservation program and \$16 million for displaced 515 tenants vouchers. Visit

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app06.html> for more information.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The Environmental Protection agency has grants available in the Strategic Agricultural Initiative Grant Program.

The program seeks to enable the agricultural community to transition away from high risk pesticides and towards sustainable practices in food production. Approximately \$220,000 is expected to be available for awards having a project period of up to two years. Proposals are due Nov. 30. More information is available at:

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/EPA/OGD/GAD/EPA-R3WCM-06-02/listing.html> or contact John Butler at 215 814-2127 or butler.john@epa.gov.

The Housing Assistance Council is accepting applications for the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP). The loans may be used by self-help organizations for land acquisition and site development. **The deadline is December 5.** For more information visit, www.rural-home.org/infoAnnouncements_SHOP2005Application.php or call HAC at 202 842-8600.

The Federal Communications Commission's Hurricane Katrina USF Order allows public and non-profit health care providers in the affected areas and in areas where Katrina evacuees have relocated, to apply for temporary support for Advanced Telecommunications and Information Services used for telemedicine. Sponsored by the Universal Service Administrative Company, www.universalservice.org/default.asp, the grants will cover 50 percent of the costs. **The deadline is December 13.** For more information, visit the USAC website or call 800 229-5476.

EPA is accepting proposals for brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund and cleanup grants. These grants are part of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize Brownfield sites. **Proposals by December 14.** For more information, visit www.epa.gov/brownfields/pg/fy06_arc_final.pdf or contact Becky Brooks at 202 566-2762 or brooks.becky@epa.gov.

U.S. HUD has \$10 billion in grants available to nonprofits serving the disabled under the Mainstream Program. It provides vouchers under the Housing Choice Voucher Program for persons with disabilities (elderly and non-elderly) to access affordable private housing. **The deadline is January 3.** For more information, visit www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/HUD/ODGMO/AT/FR-5002-N-01/listing.html or call Dorthera Yorkshire at 202-708-0667 ext 4336 or Dorthera_Yorkshire@hud.gov.

In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Disability Funders Network has launched a Rapid Response Fund to help nonprofit organizations meet the immediate and long-term needs of people with disabilities in the Gulf region as a result of hurricanes, storms, and other severe weather conditions. The Fund is offering grants up to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations to meet specific needs that include, but are not limited to, transportation, shelter, medication, medical equipment, and assistive technology. Grants will continue until funds are depleted. For more information, visit www.disabilityfunders.org or contact the Network at (703) 560-0099 or NJArgoff@aol.com.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The White House and the Departments of Justice, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, Veterans Affairs, Health & Human Services, Housing & Urban Development, and Education, the Agency for International Development, and the Small Business Administration will host a conference on December 8 in Nashville. It is designed to help faith-based and community organizations learn more about the Administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The conference is free, but **pre-registration is required by December 2.** Visit www.fbcj.gov or call 202 456-6718.

The New Markets Tax Credit Coalition Conference will be held December 7-8 in Washington, D.C. Topics include discussions on the effort to support the reauthorization of the credit. Visit www.newmarketstaxcreditcoalition.org or call 202-393-5225 for more information. View the agenda at www.newmarketstaxcreditcoalition.org/News/Annual05/NMTC_Agenda.pdf.

"Prospering in Rural America" is the theme of the Agricultural Outlook Forum on February 16-17 in Arlington, VA. Sponsored by the USDA, topics will include rural development, economic outlook for commodities, conservation, globalization and U.S. trade, animal health, biotech development and farm policy. To register, go to www.usda.gov/oce/forum or call 877 572-6043.

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INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The Association for Enterprise Opportunity has prepared a report combining the non-employer data for 2002 with the estimates of the number of employees working at establishments with fewer than 5 employees. They've published a series of 50 states spreadsheets with this data at:
www.microenterpriseworks.org/services/training/MEBSstatespreadsheets.htm.

"Regional Asset Indicators: The Wealth of Regions," a report in the September edition of the **Main Street Economist**, says using measures of wealth, not just income, "some rural regions are remarkably rich. Ironically, concentrations of wealth are often located in struggling regions." Download the report at
www.kansascityfed.org/RuralCenter/mainstreet/MainStMain.htm

2007 Farm Policy Reform: Creating Healthy Farms, Healthy Food and a Healthy World, by the

American Farmland Trust (AFT), outlines the AFT's vision for change: a transition to a system that links financial support to stewardship rather than the production of commodities. The report is available at www.farmland.org/policy2/2007FarmBill/index.htm

"Community Development: A Guide for Grantmakers on Fostering Better Outcomes Through Good Process" is a new report from the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**. It draws on the community development literature and evaluations of community development initiatives to spotlight the critical role of collaboration in this field. To download, visit www.hewlett.org.

In the newest report on Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) agreements, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) documents banks' commitments of \$4.2 trillion to minority and lower income neighborhoods. To download, visit www.ncrc.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.

