

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

Volume 7, Number 23 December 15, 2005

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Please look out for our holiday card announcing our 2006 online calendar. It salutes 25 real American heroes representing the thousands of rural community developers like you who are *Standing Up for Rural America* every day.

**Thank you for your commitment and your efforts. We hope 2006 brings peace, health and prosperity to all.**

We will take some time off and resume publishing in mid-January.

New Ventures in Philanthropy, a project of the Forum of the Regional Association of Grantmakers, recently issued "The Power of Rural Philanthropy." It draws heavily on the research we commissioned in 2004 from the Southern Rural Development Initiative showing there are more than 7,500 endowed foundations in rural areas, but their \$15.1 billion in assets is only three percent of all foundation assets nationwide. Fifty-three percent of rural assets are located in just 50 counties. As evidence of increased rural giving, the report cites a recent Aspen Institute paper, "Growing Local Philanthropy: The Role and Reach of Community Foundations." Based on 2004 survey data, the Aspen authors conclude that: the number of geographic funds affiliated with community foundations amounts to more than 2,000, an increase of 132 percent since 1999; three-fourths of these funds are rural; and affiliate fund assets amount to \$1.5 billion.

## POLICY UPDATE

The FY 2006 Treasury, Transportation and HUD appropriations bill has been signed by the President. \$352 million was cut from CDBG which received \$3.748 billion. HOME grants were pegged at \$1.75 billion, about 2 percent less than last year; HOPE VI was \$100 million, down from FY 2005. Section 8 received \$15.6 billion, an increase over last year, but local funding levels may not reflect local needs because of the way the formula will be calculated. Rural Housing and Economic Development was cut to \$17 million from \$24 million; in Treasury, CDFI received \$55 million, the same amount as last year. To view the entire bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Pew Partnership for Civic Change is now accepting nominations for the Civic Change Award**, given to an individual, organization, or community that has demonstrated a commitment to improving civic life. The deadline is Dec. 31. For more information, visit <http://www.pew-partnership.org/>

**The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has launched its Rural People, Rural Policy initiative.** It will hold four information meetings to provide an overview of the initiative and information about applying for grants. Locations are: Charleston,

WV Jan. 9; Memphis, TN - Jan. 10; Denver, CO - Jan. 11; Albuquerque, NM - Jan. 12. Five organizations in four regions will receive grants to participate in a capacity-building networking and leadership development program that will simultaneously strengthen the capacity of the organizations, hone their policy development skills, and create alignment for policy impact. For more information, visit <http://www.wkcf.org/Programming/NewsList.aspx?CID=274>.

**The Department of Justice's Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program has \$900,000 available.** The program funds programs designed to enhance the safety of victims of domestic violence, dating violence and child abuse. **The deadline is Jan. 12.** Call 888-549-9901 for more information.

**The Jewish Funders Network is accepting nominations for its biennial J.J. Greenberg Memorial Award.** It honors foundation professionals who have demonstrated leadership in the field of Jewish philanthropy. Award recipients will receive a cash prize of \$5,000. **The deadline is Jan. 30.** Go to [www.jfunders.org](http://www.jfunders.org).

**The Foundation for Mid South is offering Bridge Grants for Hurricane Recovery Efforts.** It will provide \$1 million in critical temporary support to the nonprofit organizations of the Mid South region. **The deadline is January 31.** For more information, visit [www.fndmidsouth.org](http://www.fndmidsouth.org).

**HUD is making it possible to register early for electronic submission of FY 2006 grant applications at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).** It expects to post funding opportunities in early 2006. Prospective applicants are encouraged to register early since the registration can take 10 days or more. **Early registration is in effect until Jan. 31.** See Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 236, Dec. 9, p. 73332.

**The CDFI deadline for financial and technical assistance has been extended to February 13th** for existing CDFIs and March 1st for Native American CDFIs. For more information, contact [cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov) or call 202 622-6355.

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**The National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders will hold its policy conference with the Center for Community Lending in Washington, D.C. February 9-10.** Contact NAAHL at [www.naahl.org](http://www.naahl.org) or call 202 293-9855 or email [conference@naahl.org](mailto:conference@naahl.org) for more information.

**National Home Town Competitiveness Training will be held on February 21-23 in Lincoln, NE.** HTC is a "come-back/give-back approach to rural community building." For more information, go to <http://www.heartlandcenter.info/HTCRegistration2006.pdf>.

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## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The Kauffman Foundation has a new website for entrepreneurs on how to start, manage and expand their businesses. The site features original content - through exclusive articles authored by entrepreneurs - and the latest information on entrepreneurship. The information is categorized into six subject areas - finance, human resources, sales and marketing, products/services, operations, and the entrepreneur (e.g. strategy, culture, leadership). Visit the Kauffman eVenturing site at [www.eVenturing.org](http://www.eVenturing.org).

Summaries from Rural Entrepreneurship Listening Sessions are available. They were held by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development in Pennsylvania (July 2005) and Maryland (September 2005). Visit <http://www.ruraleship.org/index.html?page=content/EshipSummaries.html>.



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).

