

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

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STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (NY) delivered a major talk in upstate New York addressing rural development challenges. Stand Up Steering Committee member Lee Beaulac from Rural Opportunities, Inc. (ROI) was on hand, having been asked to submit ideas before the speech. Senator Clinton talked about her Farm to Fork initiative helping farmers sell direct to schools and hospitals, the rural credit, capital and philanthropy gaps, the importance of broadband to rural economies and the need to address and support rural community development in the upcoming Farm Bill. In these contexts, she mentioned three different aspects of ROI's work. Lee enthused: "Senator Clinton is continually focused on our most important challenges. She confronts the issues head on and joins with us and many others to work on them." To read the entire speech, go to <http://www.clinton.senate.gov/news>

POLICY UPDATE

On July 20th, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 07 Transportation, Treasury, HUD and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, HR 5576. It rejects proposals to cut and/or eliminate key community development tools including CDBG, Rural Housing Economic Development, Section 202 and 811 and Section 4. The bill includes \$31 million for Capacity Building and Section 4, \$4.2 billion for the Community Development Fund (CDF), \$4.1 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, \$1.9 billion for HOME, \$20 million for HUD's Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) program, \$55 million for the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) fund, \$15.9 billion for Section 8 tenant based assistance, \$1.5 billion for homeless assistance, \$295 million for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), \$750 million for Section 202 Elderly Housing, \$240 million for Section 811 Disabled Housing, \$2.5 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund, \$3.66 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund, \$100 million for Revitalization of Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI), \$625.7 million for Native American Housing Block Grant Program (NAHASDA), and \$152 million for the Office of Lead Hazard Control. The Brownfields program was not funded in the Senate bill. The bills and legislative reports are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app07.html>.

On July 11th, Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri signed the Home Loan Protection Act. The act will create consumer safeguards including the elimination of incentives for lenders to make predatory loans, the development of a rate and fee threshold for high-cost home loans, and access to counseling and education for borrowers.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company has \$500 to \$10,000 grants to be used for economic and community development programs in the utility's service area in northern and central California. The economic development grants should be used for business retention, business attraction and business development. The community development grants should be used for workforce training, access to jobs and access to capital. **The deadline is August 7.** For more information visit <http://www.pge.com/edgrant/>

The Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation is given to three nonprofit organizations in recognition of an innovative, existing program that has made a difference in the lives of the people it serves. Peter Drucker's definition of innovation, "change that creates a new dimension of performance," is key to consideration for the award. The award is accompanied by a first-place prize of \$25,000 and two prizes of \$5,000 and \$2,500. **The deadline is August 15.** The Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at Claremont (CA) University administer the award. For more information, visit <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/130.asp>

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta is offering its second Affordable Housing Program application of 2006. The AHP application is available in FHLBAccess, the Bank's Internet-based service portal. **The deadline for new registration requests is September 1. The application submission deadline is September 15.** For more information call 800-536-9650 (ext. 8385) or visit <http://www.fhlbatl.com>

The Kresge Foundation is accepting applications on an ongoing basis through the "Kresge Capital Challenge Grant Program." The challenge requires organizations to meet 100% of their fundraising goals. Funds should be used for the construction and renovation of facilities, purchase of major equipment or an integrated system costing at least \$300,000 or the purchase of real estate. For more information, contact the Kresge Foundation at 248-643-9630 or visit <http://www.kresge.org>

The Sunlight Foundation has mini grants available for a project that tends towards shifting the power from Washington to citizens. Most grants will be in the \$1000 to \$2000 range. Please submit a one page proposal of an idea of how to reclaim our representative democracy to Zephyr Teachout at zteachout@sunlightfoundation.com. The proposal should include a budget and a paragraph about the goals and who is involved. **Grants are available on a rolling basis starting July 15.** For more information contact Ellen Rice at 202-742-1520 or visit <http://www.sunlightfoundation.com>

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TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Great Plains Resource Conservation and Development is holding its third annual Women in Agriculture and Business conference August 10 - 11 in Oklahoma City, OK. The conference is entitled "Sowing the Seeds of Success III: Empowering the Women of Rural America." At this conference attendees will learn how to make their farm more productive, improve management skills and expertise and organize operations to accomplish goals. For more information please call 580-832-3661 or visit <http://www.greatplainsrcd.org>

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition is holding a training, "Small Business Loan Data and Bank Branching Data" on August 17 in Washington, D.C. This workshop will incorporate new 2005 small business data if released from the federal government. Trainees will also explore how to create powerful analyses with elements of small business loan data collected from the Internet and/or

provided by NCRC. Students will also learn how to obtain and use bank branch data. For more information contact Audrey Figueroa at 202-464-2727 or visit <http://www.ncrc.org/traningandassist/workshop.php>

Information and other Resources

A new HAC report "Designing and Implementing Rural Individual Account Programs" has recently been released.

It contains three case studies along with strategies and recommendations for rural IDA programs. For more information contact Luz Rosas at 202-842-8600 or luz@ruralhome.org. For a free copy of the report visit <http://www.ruralhome.org>

The Food Project has recently launched a new youth-driven magazine for the sustainable food movement. The website is a creative space for youthful thinkers and doers working to build a healthier, more sustainable food system. To read articles relating to art, songs, recipes, and farm techniques etc. please visit <http://www.reapsow.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.

