

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

Volume 8, Number 18 October 1, 2006

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Staff of Senator Harry Reid (D, NV), Senate Minority Leader, are working with us to set up a bipartisan telephone conference call led by Senator Patty Murray (D, WA) on rural economic development, including housing.** You and your Network member colleagues are being asked to join us on this 130 line call along with local and national press. To prepare, we've sent you a survey on issues that takes only minutes to complete. **PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR SURVEY! If you don't, the Senate has every right to think you don't care. Then where will we be.** To find the survey, go to "Opportunity Alert" in your email or request one from [info@ruralamerica.org](mailto:info@ruralamerica.org) or 202-785-8030 (fax). **THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR RURAL AMERICA!**

## POLICY UPDATE

**The House Financial Services Committee has approved H.R. 5393, the "Natural Disaster Housing Reform Act of 2006" which was sponsored by Rep. Richard Baker (R-LA).** This bill would designate HUD, not FEMA, as the lead federal agency in natural disasters where long-term housing needs exist. The bill would also make various other changes to facilitate the Gulf Coast's recovery from Hurricane Katrina. H.R. 5393 now awaits floor action. For more information search for H.R. 5393 on <http://thomas.loc.gov>

**Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) recently introduced the "Broadband for Rural America Act of 2006."** This Act encourages the rapid deployment of high quality and affordable high speed broadband service to every corner of the United States. For more information search for S.3820 on <http://thomas.loc.gov>

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Appalachian Community Fund has grants which average around \$6,000 for specific projects and for operational support and are given to community-based organizations that address underlying causes of economic and social distress in the region.** The General Fund was established to create a responsive and flexible fund for grassroots groups' work. **The deadline is November 1.** For more information, call 865-523-5783 or visit <http://www.appalachiancommunityfund.org/ACFgrantprocess.htm>

**The Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation is offering two 2006 grant programs; the Grand Slam Award which makes grants in the amount of \$100,000 or more and the Program Grants which consist of 60 to 80 grants of \$3,000 - \$5,000.** The grants should be used to help community organizations and those who assist the underserved. Priority will be given to organizations in Arizona

that focus on healthcare for the indigent, homelessness and youth education. **The deadline for the Grand Slam application is November 15 and the deadline for the Program Grant application is December 15.** For more information, contact Maxine Royer at 602-462-6573, email [mroyer@diamondbacks.com](mailto:mroyer@diamondbacks.com) or visit <http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/ari/community/grants.jsp>

**The Alston/Bannerman Fellowship Program has 10 awards in the amount of \$15,000 for community activists of color to take sabbaticals.** The award allows recipients time for reflection and renewal or to explore new interests, travel, relax or visit other activists. Activists must have at least 10 years of experience to apply and be committed to continuing to work for social change. **The deadline to apply is December 1.** For more information, call 410-327-6220 or visit <http://www.alstonbannerman.org/index.html>

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**LISC, it's National Equity Fund, NAHRO and Fannie Mae will hold the third annual affordable housing symposium on October 13-14 in Atlanta, GA.** The title of the symposium is "Building Capacity, Leveraging Change." The sessions will focus on the opportunities housing authorities have in their communities, and how to make the most of them. The symposium will give participants the opportunity to learn cutting edge techniques and explore capital resources to develop and revitalize housing. For more information, contact Stacie Birenbach at 202-739-9288, email [sbirenbach@lisc.org](mailto:sbirenbach@lisc.org) or visit <http://nahro.org/conferences/natsymposium.cfm>

**LISC Mid South Delta will hold their 9th Annual Delta Conference "Under One Roof: Building Communities in the Delta and Beyond" on October 17-20 in Biloxi, MS.** Conference participants will be asked to volunteer their time and efforts towards a local community development in progress. For more information, contact Cathy Wilson at 662-335-3318, email [cwilson@lisc.org](mailto:cwilson@lisc.org) or visit <http://www.lisc.org/docs/events/2006-delta-conference-brochure.pdf>

**The RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and the Economic Research Service of USDA will hold a joint conference "Exploring Rural Entrepreneurship: Imperatives and Opportunities for Research" on October 26-27 in Washington, DC.** Topics such as understanding unique sources of competitive advantage in Rural America will be discussed in the sessions. For more information, contact Tim Wojan at [twojan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:twojan@ers.usda.gov) or visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Emphases/Rural/RuralEntrepreneurs/hip/>

**The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) is offering a**

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course "From Recipes to Reality" on October 30 in Lincoln, NE. Participants will acquire knowledge on starting a food business. For more information contact Jill Gifford at 402-472-2819, email [jgifford1@unl.edu](mailto:jgifford1@unl.edu) or visit <http://fpc.unl.edu/Entrepreneur/recipe.shtml>

## Information and other Resources

Kaplan publishing has released a new book "Publicity for Nonprofits: Generating Media Exposure That Leads to Awareness, Growth & Contributions" by Sandra Beckwith. The author describes successful publicity strategies with examples of press releases, op-ed articles, pitch letters, public service announcements and other important outreach tools. To purchase a copy of the book, please visit <http://www.kaplanpublishing.com>

Maine's Coastal Enterprises, Inc. and the Western Mountains Alliance has released a new booklet "Telling Their Stories: Women Business Owners in Western

Maine." In this report, fourteen female entrepreneurs who run a diverse mix of businesses talk about their businesses in their own words. The report presents a fascinating look at the challenges and opportunities of building a business in rural America. To access the report, please visit <http://www.western-mountainsalliance.org/PDFTellTheirStories.pdf>

The Fieldstone Alliance released "The Creative Community Builder's Handbook: How to Transform Communities Using Local Assets, Arts and Culture." This guide is designed to show how culturally-based projects can play a role in creating change in communities. The guide includes 6 distinct steps for assessing, planning and implementing creative community building projects. To purchase the guide, please visit <http://www.fieldstonealliance.org>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Rural Family Economic Success (RuFES) recently launched a website geared towards rural issues. The website highlights rural strategies, reports, data and other resources. To access the website, please visit <http://www.aecf.org/initiatives/ruralfes/>

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).

