

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 8, Number 19 October 15, 2006

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

REMEMBER TO FILL OUT AND RETURN THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY!!! Staff of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D, NV), are working with us to set up a bipartisan telephone conference call led by Senator Patty Murray (D, WA) on housing and rural economic development. You and your Network member colleagues are being asked to join us on this call, along with local and national press. Space on the call is limited so PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR SURVEY and make your voices heard! If you don't, the Senate has every right to think you don't care. THIS IS YOUR FINAL REMINDER. To find the survey, go to "Opportunity Alert" in your email or request one from info@ruralamerica.org or call Sam Gallant at 202-739-9265. THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR RURAL AMERICA!

POLICY UPDATE

Gov. Jim Douglas (R) of Vermont recently signed Act 183 into law. The new act is expected to help communities accommodate growth and development in downtown areas while maintaining localities' historic character. Under this law, an employer can qualify for historic rehabilitation, façade-improvement and code-compliance tax credits if located in a downtown or state designated "growth center." The specific definition of "growth center" and other incentives offered can be found in the text for the bill. To read it online, please visit <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/DOCS/2006/ACTS/ACT183.DOC>

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITES

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau has up to \$600,000 in grants to stimulate innovative community-based programs that employ prevention strategies to promote access to health care for children and their families nationwide. The funding supports direct service projects, not research projects. **The deadline is October 20.** For more information, contact Jose Belardo at 301-443-0757, email jbelardo@hrsa.gov or visit <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov>

The Do Something Organization is offering "BRICK" awards involving \$5,000 and \$10,000 grants. This program honors and funds the efforts of dynamic leaders age 25 and under. Each BRICK winner in the "18 and under" category receives a \$5,000 higher education scholarship and a \$5,000 grant for continued community work. Winners in the "19-25" category receive a \$10,000 grant for continued community work. **The deadline for the required letter of intent is November 1 and the deadline for the application is December 1.** For more information, contact brick@dosomething.org

or visit <http://www.dosomething.org/brick/judging.html>

Target has 800 grants of \$1,000 each for K-12 educators, teachers, principals, para-professionals, or classified staff to fund field trips for their students. Examples of eligible field trips include art, science, and cultural museum visits; civics projects; career enrichment opportunities, etc. Funds may be used to cover field trip-related costs such as transportation, tickets, fees, resource materials, and supplies. **The deadline to submit applications is November 1.** For more information, call 800-537-4180 or visit <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537>

The Development Corporation for Children has loans for family childcare providers ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 and loans for childcare centers and early education programs ranging from \$1,000 to \$75,000. The loans should be used to cover the costs of start-up, expansion, leasehold improvements, supplies and equipment and working capital needs. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.** For more information, contact Charissa Banov at charissa@dcc-corner.com, call 866-562-6801 or visit <http://www.dcc-corner.com/fcf.html>

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The 10th Annual Conference of the Rural Telecommunications Congress will be held on October 22-25 in Little Rock, AR. The theme is "Broadband & Emerging Rural Economies." The conference will feature: community success stories about places that have transformed themselves using enhanced telecommunications, best case practices, experts on development issues, and tools communities can use to demonstrate their capacity to support economic development. For more information, call 501-258-0595 or email bsessions@ciber.com

The North Carolina Community Action Association will hold its 2006 Annual Fall Conference "We Deliver More Than Promises" on November 14-17 in Charlotte, NC. Conference organizers promise a power-packed week of inspiring and innovative approaches to energize, empower and employ. Invited Keynote speakers include U.S. Congressman Melvin Watt and Lt. Governor Bev Perdue. For more information, call 919-790-5757 or visit <http://www.nccaa.net>

BB&T will hold a Faith Based Community Development Training Symposium on November 15-17 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This symposium is of church based organizations, CDCs, and other nonprofits engaged in affordable housing and commercial development, small business creation and expansion, and human/ health service delivery. The training sessions will focus on proven, useful information to help rural and urban communities achieve community revitalization, economic development,

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and wealth creation. For more information, call 704-954-1108 or visit <http://www.bbandttraining.com>

Information and other Resources

The U.S. Census Bureau has released data indicating a rise in rural child poverty rates. It shows that 22.5 percent of rural children live in households with incomes below the official national poverty level. To read more, visit <http://www.cfra.org/newsletter/current.htm> or contact Jon Bailey at 402-687-2103 (Ext. 1013)

The NAACP and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) have released a housing policy report "Building on a Dream." The report notes that despite an increase in minority homeownership, the African American rate is still 20 percent below the national average. It examines barriers to housing choice and affordability and includes a series of joint policy recommendations designed to improve minority housing opportunities. For more information, please visit <http://www.nahb.org/buildingonadream>

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently released a study "Multifamily Properties: Opting In, Opting Out and Remaining Affordable" prepared by Econometrica, Inc. and Abt Associates, Inc. It compares the characteristics, including affordability, of properties that have left the assisted stock, through prepayment or in opt out, and those that are still assisted. To order a copy of this study, visit http://www.huduser.org/publications/affhsg/opting_in.html

The Brookings Institution has released "From Poverty, Opportunity: Putting the Market to Work for Lower Income Families." According to this report, in 2004, 4.2 million lower-income homeowners paid higher than average prices for their mortgages and 4.5 million lower-income households paid higher than average rates for car loans. And at least 1.6 million pay excessive fees to finance furniture and appliances. Reducing the cost of living for lower income families by just one percent would give these families \$6.5 billion in added spending power. For a copy of the report, visit http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20060718_PovOp.htm

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.

