

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 8, Number 20 November 1, 2006

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Rural America Emerges As a Key Election Battleground.

The Center for Rural Strategies has just released a poll of rural voters in six states with tight Senate races and 41 hotly contested Congressional districts. The poll, done by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner between October 22nd and 24th shows a shift toward Democrats. For more information please go to <http://www.greenbergresearch.com> and <http://www.ruralstrategies.org>

WHATEVER YOUR PARTY LEANINGS, PLEASE VOTE AND ENCOURAGE YOUR COLLEAGUES AND CLIENTS TO VOTE!!! MAKE RURAL VOTES COUNT IN THIS ELECTION. WE NEED TO MAKE BOTH PARTIES COMPETE FOR THEM. THAT'S THE WAY YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES WILL GET THE ATTENTION AND RESOURCES THEY DESERVE. THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR RURAL AMERICA.

POLICY UPDATE

Good News on CRA

Remember all the work we did last year to make sure that revised Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) regulations apply to rural areas? It's still paying off. John Reich, Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) has announced that OTS intends to conform its regulations with those adopted by the other federal financial regulatory agencies. Bottom line this means that 849 thrift institutions will get CRA credit for investments in both low income and underserved rural areas.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITES

Project for Public Spaces is accepting proposals for \$400,000 in funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support individual farmers markets. This is part of its Diversifying Public Markets and Farmers Markets program. **The deadline for application is November 13.** For more information, visit http://www.pps.org/markets/info/regranting/rfp_2007

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development has ten \$10,000 grants to offer through its Healthy School Communities program. The grants are for the 2007 calendar year for K-12 public and independent school communities. The program is part of a multiyear plan to shift public dialogue about education from an academic focus to a whole child approach that encompasses all factors required for successful learning. **The deadline is November 15.** For more information, visit <http://www.ascd.org/portal/site/ascd/menuitem.187f5eeabf5d4a29a62c2d69e3108a0c/>

AEO in partnership with eBay Foundation is offering the eBay Foundation Techquity Program. The program provides funds to microentrepreneurs for the purchase of tech-

nology equipment and to microenterprise organizations for operating the project and providing technology training to their clients. **The deadline is November 17.** Please visit <http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=27> to confirm your state and county eligibility. For more information, contact Zulma Bianca at zbianca@assoceo.org or visit <http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/index.asp?bid=128>

J. Jill Compassion Fund is accepting proposals for its 2007 grant cycle for funds to support programs for poor and homeless women. Grant funds should be used to help poor and homeless women become self-sufficient. Priority will be given to programs and organizations that directly affect the people served. **The deadline for proposals to be post-marked is between October 15 and December 1.** For more information and additional requirements, visit <http://www.jjill.com/about/cfgrant.asp?AreaID=OL>

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Meredith Institute will hold its Resident Owned Community Practitioner Training on November 8-10 in Manchester, NH. The training will offer an introductory and an intermediate track. The introductory track will explore resident-ownership first-hand on site visits with practitioners and community leaders and explore key elements of Resident Owned Community Development. The intermediate track will offer in-depth training and peer-to-peer interaction covering Emerging and Demonstrated Community Financing Techniques & Products, Legal Framework for Organizing & Maintaining Resident Owned Communities and Program Planning & Design. For more information, contact Deb Wyman at 603-224-6669 ext. (251), email dwyman@nhclf.org or visit <http://www.TheMeredithInstitute.org>

Freddie Mac is hosting a symposium on Financial Education on November 9 in Washington, DC. The theme of the symposium is "Financial Education for Maximum Results" and features its award-winning CreditSmart® Curriculum. The symposium will explore winning strategies, uncover the latest research and examine trends in the homebuyer education arena. For more information, visit <http://freddiemac.com/creditsmart/symposium/>

The Manufactured Home Owners Association of America, Inc. will hold a National Convention on November 10-12 in Manchester, NH. The agenda aims to deepen the dialogue between nonprofit community development practitioners, lenders and association leaders in the areas of public policy and market-based change strategies (e.g. resident-ownership and home lending terms and conditions). Topics include New Approaches to Consumer Protection Legislation, Options for Financing Resident Owned Communities, Organizing Successful Legislative Strategies and Building and Leading a Strong Homeowners' Association. A detailed agenda is available at <http://www.TheMeredithInstitute.org> or by contacting Deb Wyman at 603-224-6669 ext. (251) or email dwyman@nhclf.org

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The Home Depot Foundation and U.S. Green Building Council in Denver will hold a Greening Affordable Housing seminar on November 13-14 in Denver, CO. The seminar will include an educational session with case study presentations and discussion on the costs and benefits of green affordable housing, an option between a tour of a redevelopment project and a training workshop on the LEED for homes program. For more information, contact Emily Mitchell at 202-587-7187, email emitchell@usgbc.org or visit http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_homeDepotConference_Nov06.php

Information and other Resources

OMB Watch launched a website that tracks where federal money goes and who gets it. The online database is free and searchable by grants and contracts. To access the site, visit <http://www.fedspending.org>

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently launched a one-stop online resource for businesses. The site provides compliance information, federal forms and government compliance contracts. More information, including Fact Sheets, Frequently Asked Questions, and a short pre-written article for publications and websites can also be found in the Press Room on the site. To access the site, visit <http://www.business.gov>

The National Housing Institute has released the latest issue of Shelterforce, the journal of affordable housing and community building. NHI's newest report - Shared Equity Homeownership is also available. For more information, visit <http://www.nhi.org/>

A new website has been launched to provide quick tips, in-depth articles, helpful links, and real examples of non-profit marketing and public relations projects. To access the site, visit <http://www.NonprofitPR.com>

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.

