

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 8, Number 21 November 15, 2006

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We need to wrap up the survey on Rural Economic Development so we can get your views to the new Congress. So far the leading issues are the need for more federal recognition of and funding for you and your colleagues; a new federal Home Ownership Tax Credit; and for reversing changes in USDA Section 502 mortgage loan pay-back provisions. To see detailed results, go to www.ruralisc.org.

POLICY UPDATE

Thank You for Voting! You and others made a huge impact on Election Day! Dee Davis, President of the non-partisan Center for Rural Strategies says the rural vote was key to mid-term election results. "What you see in many of the districts, the rural margins made the difference just as it determined the presidential race the last two cycles."

With Democrats in control of the House and the Senate come January, the question becomes how the concerns of rural voters are dealt with in the new Congress. Diana Aviv, CEO of the Independent Sector, thinks Charles Rangel (D-NY), who is on the short list to take over the chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee, is a "friend of the nonprofit sector," and "we will have things to talk to him about."

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITES

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has \$2.5 million for 20 grants to advance methane recovery and use as a clean energy source. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$300,000. Proposals must focus on one or more of the four sources of methane emission: manure management systems, coal mines, landfills, and oil and gas systems. For more information, call Erin Birgfeld at 202 343-9079, birgfeld.erin@epa.gov or go to www.epa.gov/oar/grants/06-08.pdf. **The deadline is December 4.**

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has \$200,000 for a grant to encourage students to become involved in community improvement projects. For more information, contact Amy Borgstrom at 202 606-6930. For this and additional funding opportunities from CNCS, go to www.nationalservice.org/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp **A letter of interest is due December 15.**

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The Association of Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) is offering an online seminar series featuring a reprise of three workshops from its last conference. Effective Client Marketing will be held November 15 at 2:00 pm ET; Ten Powerful Profit Boosters will be December 13 at 2:00 pm ET; Building Wealth for Formerly Incarcerated Persons will be January 11 at 2:00 pm ET. Visit www.microenterpriseworks.org for more information or contact Mike Skinner at 206 933-5838 or miskinner@assoceo.org.

The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania will hold a conference on Housing and Homelessness, Policy and Programs on November 28-29 in Harrisburg. The theme of the conference is "Homes within Reach." Examples of sessions include "Housing Resources for Rural Communities," "New Ways to Address Predatory Lending," "Opportunities Created by New Market Tax Credits," and "A New Look at Rural Housing - Policy, Legislative and Demographic Trends." For more information, visit <http://www.housingalliancepa.org> and for more information contact the conference planners at 717-545-9991 or email Shermer.assoc@comcast.net.

The Housing Assistance Council will hold its Annual National Rural Housing Conference on December 6-8 in Washington D.C. The theme is "Building Communities, Celebrating Partnerships." For more information visit <http://www.ruralhome.org/Conf2006/index.htm>. Call 202-842-8600 ext 108 or email HACconference2006@ruralhome.org.

The Consortium for Housing and Asset Management will hold the 7th Annual Asset Management Professionals' Conference on December 7-9 in New Orleans. The theme of the conference is "Playing for Keeps." For more information check the CHAM website at <http://www.cham.org> or contact Judy Turnock at 212-455-9384 or email jturnock@lisc.org

SAVE THE DATE. Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 2- 3:30 p.m. ET. Mark your calendar for Treasury's Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) next telephone seminar on the SBA 504 loan program. Program details will be available in December on the OCC website, www.occ.treas.gov/up_event.htm.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The Federal Home Loan Banks have announced a change in the regulations governing the Affordable Housing Program. They will now allow Affordable Housing Program funds to be used to support revolving loan funds and loan pools. The amendments to the Affordable Housing Program regulations can be viewed by visiting www.fhfb.gov or see Federal Register, 10/6/06, pp.59261-99. Contact Charles McLean, Federal Housing Finance Board, mcleanc@fhfb.gov, 202 408-2537.

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The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has published an Early Registration Notice for potential applicants applying for funding under HUD's competitive grant programs. It is available on Grants.gov. It provides information to help applicants better understand the electronic submission process required for funding applications. To assist applicants, HUD has developed a brochure on how to register. Registration Brochure. It also has a brochure to assist in finding and applying for grant opportunities. Find and Apply Brochure. To download these or for more information, visit www.hud.gov.

Poverty rates have historically been greater in nonmetro than metro areas. USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) has studied the potential impact of adjusting the official poverty measure for cost-of-living differences. This adjustment reverses the rankings of metro and nonmetro poverty. So it would have important implications for the geographic and demographic distribution of Federal funding. See the current issue of Amber Waves for this and other reports from the ERS. www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/November06/Features/Adjusting.htm

HUD has released the 2005 American Housing Survey.

The book contains data on all types of occupied homes as well as vacant housing. It covers the age, sex and race of householders; income; housing and neighborhood quality and costs. It also includes data on mortgages, rent control, rent subsidies and reasons for moving. For more information or to view the report, go to www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs.html or order a copy from HUD User by calling 800-245-2691.

A new collection of post-Katrina essays is available.

There Is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class & Hurricane Katrina by Chester Hartman and Gregory Quires of the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, covers a range of topics, including housing, schools, health, women, the elderly, economic development and planning. To order, call 800 634-7064.

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.

