

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

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STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Most of the time, we ask you to Stand Up for Rural America. Now we're suggesting you speak up for it and the communities you serve by filing with the FCC to get a license for a full power non-commercial radio station. For the first time in almost 20 years the FCC is planning to grant a limited number of licenses in 2007. There are almost no opportunities for new radio frequencies in the top 50 U.S. markets, so Rural America is slated to add more. Stations which preserve cultural heritage, develop youth and community programs, or program in Spanish or other native languages will earn extra points. To find out more and access free advice from an experienced technical assistance agency, go to www.prometheusradio.org, or call Sam Gallant at 202-739-9265.

POLICY UPDATE

The new committee line up for the 110th Congress includes these new faces. The powerful Senate Appropriations Committee will be chaired by Robert Byrd (D-WV) with Thad Cochran (R-MS) as the Ranking Member. The Senate Finance Committee leaders will also switch places as Max Baucus (D-MT) becomes Chairman and Charles Grassley (R-IA) becomes Ranking Member. In the House, the Ways and Means Committee will be chaired by Charles Rangel (D-NY) and Jim McCrery (R-LA) is likely to be the ranking Republican on the committee. The House Financial Services Committee will be chaired by Barney Frank (D-MA) with Maxine Waters (D-CA) expected to chair the Housing Subcommittee. The Republicans will be led in the House Financial Services Committee by either Spencer Bachus (R-AL) or Richard Baker (R-LA).

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITES

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Region X has announced the launch of a "fast track" Small Project Demonstration Program (SPP) for FHA insurance programs covering mortgages up to \$1.5 million dollars. The SPP is available to all FHA-approved lenders for multi-family housing located in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The SPP Demonstration, which will run through June 30, 2008, is a cornerstone program for making new inroads into rural and other smaller project markets, including urban in-fill development. For more information on the SPP "fast-track" demonstration program, contact Sean Gallagher with the HUD Region X - Northwest/Alaska Multifamily Hub at (206) 220-5208 or visit www.hud.gov.

The Brookdale Foundation Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) encourages the creation of services for grandparents and other relatives involved in surrogate parenting. The program awards seed grants of \$10,000 over a two-year period in two categories: local

agencies (including nonprofits) and state public agencies. **The deadline for the submission of proposals is January 11.** Visit <http://www.brookdalefoundation.org/relativesasparents.htm> for more information.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has \$3 million available for grants to reduce childhood lead poisoning. The maximum grant size is \$100,000 and the funding is available to nonprofits, public agencies, Indian tribes and local governments. **The deadline is January 12.** For more information, visit <http://epa.gov/lead/pubs/nofa2006.pdf>.

The Pay It Forward Foundation was established to inspire students to realize that they can change the world. Pay It Forward Mini-Grants are designed to fund service-oriented projects that are identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their school, neighborhood, or greater community. Schools, churches, and community youth groups may apply for mini-grants of up to \$500 Applications are reviewed three times per year. **The next application deadline is January 15.** For more information, visit <http://payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/grant.html>.

The James Irvine Foundation is accepting nominations for its 2007 Leadership Awards. The awards recognize Californians who are advancing innovative and effective solutions to significant issues for the state's future. Recipients will each receive \$125,000 of flexible support for their work. **Nominations are due by January 19.** Go to www.irvine.org/leadershipAwards for more information.

The ConAgra Foods Foundation is accepting grant proposals from nonprofits addressing child hunger, arts and culture, community development and health and human services. The application deadlines are the last working days of January, April, July and October, annually. Visit www.conagrafoods.com/company/corporate_responsibility/foundation/community_guidelines.jsp for more information.

Civic Ventures invites nominations of older social innovators for the Purpose Prize. The prize includes five \$100,000 investments and ten \$10,000 investments in entrepreneurs who are addressing issues of social significance. To be eligible, the nominee must be at least 60 years old and currently working in a leadership capacity in an organization or institution to address a major social problem. **The application deadline is February 1.** For more information, visit <http://www.purposeprize.org/prize/>.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Save the Date! Marketplace for Entrepreneurs will take place January 17, 2007 at the FargoDome in Fargo, ND. Marketplace offers participants a variety of workshops and exhibits relating to starting a business, entrepreneurship, finding funding, inventions, etc. For more information, go to <http://www.marketplaceforentrepreneurs.org/>.

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The annual Food Assistance Research Conference identifies emerging research issues related to domestic food assistance and nutrition programs administered by USDA. Recently completed research will also be discussed. This year's conference-Recent Findings and Emerging Issues-will be held on February 13, in Washington, D.C. A preliminary agenda is available. Attendance is free but registration is required due to limited space. Visit www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/FANRP/FANRPFeb2007/ for more information.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The Economic Research Service has released new information in the Food Security in the United States Briefing Room. It covers the most recent statistics, reports and data as well as information about how food security is measured and how the definitions have changed. This briefing is based on the December 2005 food security survey. It provides the most recent statistics on the food security of U.S. households. See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity/>

HealthBarn® USA recently launched a fun and educational website that includes practical healthy-lifestyle tools and information for children, parents and health professionals. The website provides parents with a ready-to-use shopping list and tasty, nutritious recipes by celebrity chefs. For more information, visit <http://www.healthbarnusa.com>.

The Rural Assistance Center's Transportation information guide provides a general overview of rural transportation, FAQs, links to tools, a list of active and inactive funding sources, a bibliography of related publications, forms and other documents, and contacts. Go to http://www.raconline.org/info_guides/transportation/. RAC also offers a list of transportation Success Stories at www.raconline.org/success/success_topic_details.php?topic=Transportation.

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.

