

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Presidential Candidates' Rural Development Plan

According to a spokesman for former Massachusetts Republican Governor Mitt Romney, currently leading polls in Iowa, he "has not begun to detail such a plan" to stimulate rural economic development. He is "a proponent of ethanol and biofuels to meet America's energy needs" and the spokesman said, "rural economies would undoubtedly benefit from such policies."

### BB&T Brings New Resources to S. Carolina

A new community economic development support corporation has been launched by Branch Banking and Trust Corporation (BB&T) and the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Called the South Carolina Community Development Intermediary (SC-CDI), it will provide capacity building, technical assistance and financing for community developers in South Carolina. For more information, contact Kara Borie at S. Carolina Department of Commerce, 803 737-1998.

## POLICY UPDATE

**The House Financial Services Committee has referred two rural housing bills to the full House. H.R. 1982 would authorize funding for HUD's Rural Housing and Economic Development program. H.R. 1980 would authorize HUD funding for the Housing Assistance Council.** Rep. Rubén Hinojosa (D-Tex.) is the lead sponsor on both bills. For more information, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**USDA's Rural Utilities Service has funds available for revolving loans to finance water and sewer projects. The deadline is June 21.** For more information, visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) or contact Anita O'Brien at 202 690-3789.

**The USDA has \$99 million for Section 515 Rural Rental Housing loan funds available in FY 2007, with more than \$25 million set aside for new construction. Applications are due June 29.** More information is available at [www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2007/April/Day-30/i8157.htm](http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2007/April/Day-30/i8157.htm).

### The KnowledgeWorks Foundation, in partnership with the American Architectural Foundation is seeking submissions for the Richard Riley Award.

The \$10,000 award recognizes design and educational excellence in "schools as centers of community." It will be given to a public or charter school that provides social, civic, recreational, and artistic opportunities to students and the broader community. **The deadline is July 9.** For more information visit <http://www.richardrileyaward.org/en/Index.asp>.

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**Community Development Policy Summit: Partnering for Success, sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) will be held on June 21-22 in Cleveland.** To register, go to [www.clevelandfed.org/Conference\\_Registrations/2007/CommAffairs/PolicySummit/registration.cfm?ic=100](http://www.clevelandfed.org/Conference_Registrations/2007/CommAffairs/PolicySummit/registration.cfm?ic=100).

**First Nations Oweesta Corporation and the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund** will offer Expanding Native Opportunity: Native Financial Skills Initiative, a financial education training and technical assistance program for Native communities. It is a three-day certification program to help Native CDFIs, tribes and other Native organizations establish and sustain financial education programs in their communities. Seven sessions will be offered in 2007 and 2008. The next one is July 17-19 in Anchorage, AK. The registration deadline is June 8. Applications will be accepted until all slots are filled. Other regional trainings are August 28-30, Minneapolis, MN; November 27-29, Hollywood, FL; January 22-24, 2008 Hawaii; and March 4-6, 2008 Southern California. For more information, contact Joanna Donohoe, at 561-626-9700 or [joanna@oweesta.org](mailto:joanna@oweesta.org) or [www.oweesta.org/nfsi](http://www.oweesta.org/nfsi).

**The Appalachian Regional Commission's 8th Conference on Business Incubation will be held on August 19-21 in Johnson City, Tennessee.** For more information, go to <http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=2770>.

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## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**A new report from the Skoll Foundation and SustainAbility, a social innovation consultancy, examines how social entrepreneurs can be more effective in building sustainable initiatives.** It concludes social entrepreneurship is developing rapidly but needs to develop diverse funding sources. Download the report, Growing Opportunity: Entrepreneurial Solutions to Insoluble Problems, from the Skoll Foundation, SustainAbility, Allianz and DuPont, by going to [http://www.sustainability.com/downloads\\_public/insight\\_reports/Growing\\_Opportunity.pdf](http://www.sustainability.com/downloads_public/insight_reports/Growing_Opportunity.pdf)

**The 8th Funders' Guide is now available from FIELD, The Emerging Immigrant Market and Microenterprise.** To download, go to <http://www.fieldus.org/Publications/FulfillingthePromise.pdf>.

**The updated website of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has information and resources and lots of maps.** Visit [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov).

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).

