

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Presidential Candidates' Rural Development Plans (Another candidate in Series)

Democrat John Edwards proposes the "Rural Recovery Act," to infuse capital and expertise into rural areas. The Rural Economic Advancement Challenge (REACH) Fund would connect investors with rural entrepreneurs and organize similar small businesses into networks. It would establish the New Energy Economy Fund, create new requirements for ethanol additives in gasoline and mandate that 25 percent of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2025. Edwards would seek investment in broadband networks for rural areas and prohibit telephone and cable company discrimination against rural communities when expanding networks. Edwards is committed to strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and proposes legislation establishing a federal law against predatory lending. He favors cutting taxes for low-wage workers with the goal of eliminating childhood poverty in the U.S. The Edwards' universal health care program would cover more than nine million rural Americans lacking insurance and establish a network of clinics and public hospitals. Read more about Edwards' plans for rural America at <http://johnedwards.com/about/issues/rural/index.html>

**The Council on Foundations (COF) has invited all its members to participate in "Creating the 21st Century Agenda for Philanthropy and Rural America," August 7-9 in Missoula, Montana.** Sen. Max Baucus challenged foundations to double their rural giving in five years and add rural people to their board and staff. This even is one of the results. Sen. Baucus will participate. For more information, visit [www.cof.org/files/Documents/Conferences/07Rural/brochure.pdf](http://www.cof.org/files/Documents/Conferences/07Rural/brochure.pdf)

**Republicans have not yet made up the ground they lost among rural voters in the 2006 election, according to a poll commissioned by the Center for Rural Strategies.** Negative views of the Bush administration, the war in Iraq and the economy are eroding their rural base. However, since rural voters are more conservative than the nation as a whole, Republicans have an opportunity to make up their losses. "The rural vote determines presidential elections," said Dee Davis, president of the nonpartisan CRS. "Democrats don't win unless they make rural competitive, and Republicans don't win without a large rural victory, so you'd think that would mean the candidates would have a spirited debate on the things that matter to rural Americans, but we haven't heard it yet."

## POLICY UPDATE

Former Senators Tom Daschle and Bob Dole have proposed eliminating direct subsidy payments to farmers in the Farm Bill, due for reauthorization this year. The report was published by the Bipartisan Policy Center, a new group dedicated to finding answers to the nation's most pressing issues. The senators said their proposal could mean a net

savings of \$4.7 billion. Also included is a proposed cap and trade program designed to reduce greenhouse gases. To read the full report, go to <http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/>.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Home Depot Foundation has grants available for nonprofits building affordable housing while preserving and restoring trees in the community.** The grants are made three times a year with the next **letters of inquiry due July 1.** Preference is given to organizations which engage the community and build homes that incorporate resource efficiency in design, construction and operation with mitigation of the depletion of natural resources. For more information, visit [foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=180100019](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=180100019).

**The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS) has grants to support small-scale projects and pilot studies that address prevention of childhood agricultural disease and injury.** The program is designed to support short-term projects with a maximum duration of 12 months and maximum funding of \$15,000. **The application deadline is July 14.** For more information, contact Marlene Stueland at 800-662-6900 or [stueland.marlene@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:stueland.marlene@mcrf.mfldclin.edu).

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**The National Summit on the Methamphetamine Epidemic will be held in Arlington, VA on June 25-26.** This conference integrates the concerns of law enforcement and social services in tackling this drug problem. For more information, visit [register.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L198/L198.pdf](http://register.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L198/L198.pdf) or call The Performance Institute at 703-894-0481.

**The Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development at HUD will hold the Rural Gateway's quarterly peer-to-peer conference call on Thursday, June 28, from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.** To participate, you must **R.S.V.P. to [rhed@hud.gov](mailto:rhed@hud.gov) by June 25.** The call will focus on Green Building and include speakers from the Housing Assistance Council and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Contact James Hedrick for more information at 877-RURAL26 or visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/contact.htm>.

**The LISC Financial Management Professionals' Conference will be held August 1-3 in San Francisco.** The only conference in the industry designed exclusively for CDC financial management professionals, this annual event combines stimulating plenary presentations with interactive workshops and peer to peer networking. Participants will examine current industry trends, explore best business practices, and explain ways managers can maintain financially

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<http://www.lisc.org/section/areas/sec5/odi/conferences> for more information.

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

## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**The USDA has released data making it easier to see who benefits from Farm Subsidies by assigning a dollar amount to the individuals behind the businesses claiming the money.** Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said the new data could affect farm bill negotiations this year as Congress considers reducing direct payments to farmers. To see the database, go to <http://www.ewg.org/farm/>.

**"Good Green News" is a newsletter containing information on "green" homebuilding, kitchens, events, books and much more.** Go to <http://jenniferroberts.com/id24.html> to see issues and to subscribe.

**A new issue of DatelineERS Newsletter is available from the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS).** Among the articles in the June issue are "The Importance of Farm Program Payments to Farm Households" and "Struggling To Feed the Family: What Does It Mean To Be Food Insecure," among others. Visit [http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/DatelineERS/07/DatelineERS\\_June07.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/DatelineERS/07/DatelineERS_June07.pdf) to download.

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).

