

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

More News from the Presidential Campaign:

Sen. Hillary Clinton has announced the formation of a "Rural Americans for Hillary" group.

Sen. John Edwards is spending this week touring the Mississippi Delta and Appalachia. Among other stops, he is visiting Quitman County Development Organization, a CDC and CDFI based in Marks, Mississippi. He stops in Whitesburg, Kentucky where he will meet with young people brought together by Appalshop.

POLICY UPDATE

House and Senate Agriculture subcommittees are working on drafts of the 2007 Farm Bill. The current law expires in September. The Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA) analyzed various draft provisions in its July newsletter <http://www.cfra.org/files/cfranewsletter072007.pdf>. One positive proposal is the Rural Entrepreneurs and Microenterprise Assistance Program. It would provide grants to make loans as well as training and technical assistance to small businesses. CFRA updates its analysis at www.cfra.org. For more information, check the House Agriculture Committee's website <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html>.

The House has passed a bill raising the Federal Housing Administration's loan limits for manufactured homes by 43 percent. To view HR 2139, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

A new proposal to create a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund has been introduced in the House. HR 2895 establishes a fund, financed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration, to construct, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million affordable homes over the next 10 years. Sixty percent of these funds, three-quarters of which would be earmarked for extremely low-income families, would go to local jurisdictions to award grants to organizations building and rehabilitating affordable housing. Of the 40 percent allocated to states, at least half would be targeted to rural areas. Go to the National Low Income Housing's website for more information, <http://www.nlihc.org/doc/NHTFSide-by-Side.pdf>.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The Wells Fargo Housing Foundation has grants available for: pre-development and development of homes for low- to moderate-income buyers; funding homebuyer education, including pre- and post-purchase counseling and foreclosure prevention; down payment and closing-cost assistance; and helping low- to moderate- income homeowners make small repairs. The average grant is \$10,000. **The deadline is August 1.** For more information, visit www.wellsfargo.com/about/wfhf_oview.

The Dollar General Back-to-School program offers grants up to \$5,000 to schools for programs, equipment, software, etc. Applicants must be located in Dollar General's 35-state operating territory and must be within 20 miles of a Dollar General Store. The application deadline is August 10. Go to www.dollargeneral.com/community/back-to-school%20grants%20application%202007.doc for the application.

HUD is offering grants up to \$1 million to small town governments to replace unused commercial space with affordable housing. The HOPE VI Main Street Program targets places with fewer than 50,000 residents and fewer than 100 units of public housing. The deadline is August 29. See Federal Register, 6/29/07, pp. 35849-68 or <http://www.grants.gov>, FR-5139-N-01, or contact Lawrence Gnessin, at 202-402-2676, lawrence.gnessin@hud.gov.

The Pathways Within Roads to Reading Initiative is bi-Annual Program which donates books to literacy programs in small and rural low-income communities. Deadlines are October 15 and March 15 annually. On average, recipients get 100-200 books appropriate for toddlers to young adults. For more information, visit <http://pwirtr.org/>.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The LISC Financial Management Professionals Conference will be held in San Francisco August 1-3. Sponsored by Citi and the National Equity Fund, it will feature interactive workshops, case studies, peer-to-peer sessions, and group discussions. Sessions are designed to help practitioners cultivate best practices, learn the latest industry trends, and share successful approaches enabling financial managers to build and maintain sound community development organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.lisc.org/content/calendar/detail/4891> or Contact Ginny Tranchik at 212 455-9594 or vtranchik@lisc.org.

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 9, Number 13 July 15, 2007

Coastal Enterprises and its Women's Business Center are offering Online Training Tools and Techniques Train-the-Trainer Program, August 8-10 in Wiscasset, Maine.

This training familiarizes participants with the tools and techniques for online training and counseling. Sessions are limited to 12 participants. **Payment required by July 25th.** For more information contact Marita L. Fairfield at mlf@ceimaine.org or (207) 882-7552 x158.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's Conference on Business Incubation will be held on August 19-21 in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Its focus is on how Appalachian communities can increase local job growth through sustainable business incubation and green energy practices and technologies. For more information, go to <http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=2770>.

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition's regional conference, Economic Fairness & Mobility: Promoting Opportunities for Building Wealth, will be held in Davenport, Iowa August 21-22. The conference will focus on rural capital and credit issues. For more information, visit www.ncrc.org/traningandassist/regionalConferences.php.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

888-995-HOPE is available to any homeowner in America having trouble paying their mortgage. It offers free foreclosure prevention counseling by expert counselors at HUD-approved agencies. In-person counseling is provided by a local NeighborWorks® affiliates or other counseling agencies. Email info@995HOPE.org for more information.

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition recently launched a new web-based resource free to anyone interested in housing, neighborhood revitalization and wealth-building. The site is www.communityinvestmentnetwork.org. Visit it now and let NCRC know what you think or contact Jonny, NCRC's Communication's Director, at jgoldstein@ncrc.org.

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.

