

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**TIME BOMB IN HOUSE VERSION OF FARM BILL!**  
PLEASE HELP NOW! SENATE SCHEDULED TO ACT VERY SOON!

The House enacted "Section 368. Criteria To Be Applied In Considering Applications For Rural Development Projects." It instructs the USDA Secretary to "... review the income demographics, population, seasonal increases and other factors determined by the Secretary for each program authorized or modified by, or funded pursuant to ..." the Rural Development title of the Farm Bill, "... which proposes to serve a rural area (as defined by applicable law).

"This section also authorizes the Secretary to issue regulations establishing limits ... a rural area cannot exceed in order to remain eligible for a program..."

### WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

Because no one knows what the new criteria for "rural" will be and whether your community will qualify.

"Seasonality" is particularly problematic. This whole redefinition provision seems to be a Congressional reaction to a Washington Post "expose"

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/05/AR2007040502033\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/05/AR2007040502033_pf.html) on RD monies going to places with big seasonal increases in population - recreation destinations, e.g., ski resorts, beach towns, mountain retreats, lakeside communities, etc. There are 300 entire nonmetro counties in 47 states designated as recreation destinations, [www.ruralamerica.org/PDF%20Files/advocacy\\_letters/rec\\_counties.pdf](http://www.ruralamerica.org/PDF%20Files/advocacy_letters/rec_counties.pdf) not to mention individual places.

**SO THE THREAT IS THIS: Your community doesn't qualify as rural anymore but it isn't urban either. The bottom line? It doesn't qualify for federal assistance. Period. Raise your voice for Rural America.**

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO COMBAT THIS THREAT? Fill out the form at [www.ruralamerica.org/farm\\_bill/YesNo.htm](http://www.ruralamerica.org/farm_bill/YesNo.htm) or contact Senators serving on the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee directly. <http://agriculture.senate.gov/sen.htm>.

## POLICY UPDATE

Congress is back in Washington with less than a month to pass appropriations bills before the beginning of the new federal fiscal year. Senator Reid has announced an ambitious schedule for passage, but does not expect to complete action on all bills by October 1st, when the new fiscal year begins. It looks like an Omnibus bill combining all the appropriations will be avoided but it's still too early to tell.

The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 would establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the U.S. Treasury financing construction, rehabilitation and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families.

**H.R. 2895** was voted out of the House Financial Services Committee and is being worked on in the Senate. No bill has been filed yet.

**H.R. 2930**, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2007, A "reform" of the Section 202 legislation, this legislation is currently being considered by the House Financial Services Committee.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Domestic Hunger Program has grants for organizations** providing relief and development assistance to relieve hunger. Last year, 361 programs received a total of \$900,000. Visit [www.elca.org/grantinghope/](http://www.elca.org/grantinghope/) for more information. **The deadline is Oct. 1.**

**The Johnson & Johnson Community Health Care Program** 2008-2010 grant cycle will target community-based health care organizations in Arizona, Mississippi, New Mexico, and South Carolina serving rural populations and ethnic-minority populations with high rates of diabetes and obesity. Funded organizations will receive a \$150,000, two-year grant. Ten awards will be made. **The deadline is Oct. 1.** Visit [www.jhsph.edu/johnsonandjohnson/](http://www.jhsph.edu/johnsonandjohnson/) for more information.

**The USDA has \$21.9 million available in its High Energy Cost Grant Program for rural communities** with home energy costs over 275 percent of the national average. The program provides financial assistance to improve energy transmission and distribution facilities. **The deadline is Oct. 1.** Eligible applicants include federally recognized Indian tribes, entities owned by federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native Corporations. More information is at [www.usda.gov/rus/electric/hecgp/overview.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric/hecgp/overview.htm) or contact Karen Larsen at 202-720-8787. Information is also available through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) under CFDA No. 10.859, Assistance to High Energy Cost Rural Communities.

**The Mary Byron Foundation provides \$10,000 cash awards in recognition of organizations addressing the prevention of domestic violence. The deadline is Oct. 5.** Visit [www.marybyronfoundation.org/work\\_solutions.html](http://www.marybyronfoundation.org/work_solutions.html) for more information.

**The Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants program provides funding to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations** to help with the implementation or expansion of literacy programs for new readers, below grade-level readers, and those with learning disabilities. Applicants must be located in Dollar General's 35-state operating territory and must be within 20 miles of the nearest Store. **Deadlines: October 5, 2007 and February 5, 2008.** For more information, visit <http://www.dollargeneral.com>.

**The U.S. Department of the Treasury has announced the opening of the 2008 round of its Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Program.** The Fund anticipates \$26 million will be appropriated. The NOFA was published in the Federal Register on August 29. Go to [http://cdfifund.gov/docs/2008/cdfi/2008\\_FA\\_TA\\_NOFA\\_Final\\_082707.pdf](http://cdfifund.gov/docs/2008/cdfi/2008_FA_TA_NOFA_Final_082707.pdf). The CDFI Program application **deadline is October 31.** An Applicant seeking financial assistance that is not currently certified as a CDFI must first submit a **CDFI certification application by October 17.** For more information, go to [http://cdfifund.gov/what\\_we\\_do/programs\\_id.asp?programID=7](http://cdfifund.gov/what_we_do/programs_id.asp?programID=7).

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Those interested in learning more about how to apply for funding under the Fiscal Year 2008 round of the CDFI Program or the Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program, or on the application process to be certified by the

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Fund as a CDFI, can do so by attending one of several Application Workshops that will be held in select cities across the nation. CDFI Fund staff will travel to each of these cities to conduct the Application Workshop in-person. For more information, visit

[http://www.cdfifund.gov/news\\_events/SavetheDateWorkshopsOpen.pdf](http://www.cdfifund.gov/news_events/SavetheDateWorkshopsOpen.pdf).

**Reclaiming Vacant Properties: Strategies for Rebuilding America's Neighborhoods will be held Sept. 24-25 in Pittsburgh.** The conference is sponsored by the National Vacant Properties Campaign and supported by Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Smart Growth America and the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech. Attendees will learn about tools to prevent, acquire and reuse vacant properties to rebuild neighborhoods, improve public safety and health and spur economic growth. Go to

[www.vacantproperties.org/reclaimingconference.html](http://www.vacantproperties.org/reclaimingconference.html)

**The National Center on Nonprofit Enterprise will hold its conference, Your Money or your Mission? Sept. 26-29 in Arlington, VA.** Go to [www.nationalcne.org](http://www.nationalcne.org)

**The Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG) conference, People, Place and Policy: Reconnecting Communities will be held in Cleveland on Oct. 1-3.** John Colborn, The Ford Foundation will facilitate an institute, Connecting Communities to Capital: Using PRIs to Achieve Greater Impact, targeted to experienced grant makers. Visit

[http://www.nfg.org/2007/institute\\_full.htm](http://www.nfg.org/2007/institute_full.htm)

**The Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Program will host a conference in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 11-12.**

The program encourages new and innovative research on food assistance and nutrition issues. The annual conference is a forum for grant recipients and attendees to discuss results of recently funded grants on food assistance programs, food security, and nutrition. Attendance is free but registration is required due to limited space. See [www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/FANRP/FANRPOctober07/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/FANRP/FANRPOctober07/)

## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**The Rural Assistance Center (RAC) has teamed up with the Rural Policy Research Institute's (RUPRI's) Community Information Resource Center (CIRC) to simplify the definitions of rurality.** With the new Am I Rural? tool, users can enter an address or ZIP code and determine if their location can be characterized as "rural" using many common administrative definitions. Using the tool is very simple. From the RAC's Am I Rural? page, (<http://www.raconline.org/funding/rural.php>), click on the link for "Create a custom report for your location: Am I Rural?"

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).



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