

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

BEWARE THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: WE'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT THE FARM BILL.

The House has passed a Farm Bill; The Senate clock is ticking down. If you act quickly, you still have time to Stand Up for Rural America. Please let Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss know that you oppose Section 6014 in the House passed Farm Bill, but favor Section 6001.

6014 directs the USDA Secretary to establish new limits on the areas eligible for various Rural Development Programs, e.g., water and sewer, community facilities, business guaranties, etc. It **specifically directs the Secretary to take "seasonal population increases"** into account, meaning that places like the 300 non-metro counties the Economic Research Service designates Recreation Destinations may no longer be eligible. The second section calls for a study of the current definitions and their impact. For more information and a model letter, go to www.ruralamerica.org.

POLICY UPDATE

The Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act (CPEHA), (S. 1518), was approved by the Senate Banking Committee last week. The bill would reauthorize and amend the housing titles of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. To consolidate the Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care and Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy programs into one called the Community Homeless Assistance Program. It is sponsored by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO). Rural communities will have more flexibility to address homelessness prevention and housing stabilization, in addition to transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services. A minimum of five percent of the funding will go to rural places. For more information, visit <http://reed.senate.gov/newsroom/details.cfm?id=283696>.

The High Performance Building Act of 2007, HR 1259, includes provisions that encourage communities to include sustainable development in their strategic housing plans and establishes HUD grants to non-profits to increase sustainable development in low-income neighborhoods. Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) and Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) are co-sponsors. Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:h.r.1259> for more information.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Labor has \$125 million for 75 Community Based Job Training Grants. These grants are designed to support workforce training for local/regional and global high-growth/high-demand industries through the national system of community and technical colleges. **The deadline is Oct. 10.** For more information, visit <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-15362.htm>.

The Maxwell Award from the Fannie Mae Foundation and the Partnership to End Long Term Homelessness will present four grants of \$75,000 each to organizations doing outstanding development of supportive and affordable housing for the homeless, to continue their work in the field. Visit www.endlongtermhomelessness.org/knowledge_center/funding_opportunities/2007_maxwell_awards.aspx or email 2007maxwellawards@tpi.org. **The deadline is Oct. 31.**

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation invites nominations for the Humanitarian Prize for organizations that have made extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering anywhere in the world. The \$1.5 million prize is not a grant based on future goals, but an award for recent and historic accomplishments. Nominated organizations must have an operating budget greater than \$500,000. For more information, visit <http://hiltonfoundation.org/>. **The deadline is Nov. 6.**

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Washington, Oregon and the City of Portland, Oregon are sponsoring The Competitiveness Institute (TCI) Global Competitiveness Conference October 8-12 in Portland. This year's theme is "Collaboration, Innovation and Sustainability." For more information, go to <http://www.clusters2007.com/>.

U.S. HUD and the IRS are sponsoring a webcast on October 11, from 2-4 pm EDT. A panel of IRS experts will discuss the \$11 billion package of tax incentives available to businesses in Renewal Communities (RCs) and Empowerment Zones (EZs) and provide updates on changes to these incentives. For more information, visit www.hud.gov/webcasts.

The University of Missouri-Columbia is sponsoring "Frameworks for Entrepreneurship Research in Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development," October 18-19. The workshop will bring together researchers and practitioners seeking a better understanding of the nature, causes, and consequences of entrepreneurial activity for food and agricultural production and the development of rural communities. For more information, visit

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<http://dass.missouri.edu/agecon/mccel/workshop/> or email Ken Schneeberger at schneebergerk@missouri.edu.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)'s 2007 National Conference and Exhibition -- Charting a New Course: Building America's Communities will be held October 28-30 in San Diego. An Affordable Housing Conference sponsored by LISC, NEF, NAHRO and Fannie Mae will precede NAHRO's conference. It begins on Oct. 26. To register for both, go to <http://www.nahro.org/conferences/natprogram1.cfm#overview>.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law surveyed declared presidential candidates on health coverage; budget and tax policies; unemploy-

ment and work supports; housing; poverty and asset building. Visit <http://www.povertylaw.org/news-and-events/events/presidential-candidate-survey.html>

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has issued a report on rural immigration trends and assessing the impact of a growing foreign-born population on housing conditions in rural communities. Immigration and Housing in Rural America is free at <http://www.ruralhome.org/manager/uploads/Immigration2007.pdf> or \$5.00 from Luz Rosas, HAC, 202-842-8600 ext. 137, luz@ruralhome.org.

How the Government Defines Rural has Implications for Education Policies and Practices. This report identifies and explains the uses of the six definitions and classification systems for "rural" that are commonly applied in different contexts through federal and state governments. The authors, Michael L. Arnold, et al, highlight the implications of these definitions for public policies and practices in education. It is available at http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southwest/pdf/REL_2007010.pdf.

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.



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