

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

It's official, Bill French is retired. Thank you Bill for all you have done and given to rural places and people and all your work to build the Rural Community Assistance Corporation into a tremendous asset.

POLICY UPDATE

The Senate version of the Farm Bill does not damage community development by subtracting significant territory from the areas currently defined as "rural." Basically, the current program population limits apply and the proposed definition makes a few other areas ineligible by eliminating certain defined groups of contiguous census blocks with high housing density which are adjacent to "urbanized" communities anchored by cities or towns of 50,000 or more. On the ground, the proposed definition is very similar to the definition USDA now employs for the Business and Industry (B and I) Loan Guaranty Program.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

Changemakers, an initiative of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public and Nike have opened a world wide search for projects that use the transformative power of sport to achieve social change. The Changemakers Collaborative Competition winners will each receive \$5,000. **The deadline in December 12.** For more information, visit <http://www.changemakers.net/en-us/node>.

U. S. HUD's Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) has \$32.9 million available for grants to assist local governments in redeveloping environmentally contaminated properties. For more information, contact William Seedyke at 202 402-4612 or go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=15566>. **The deadline is Dec. 24.**

The BRICK Awards honor those under 25 working to address problems in their local community. More than \$100,000 in cash and scholarships will be awarded in 2008. **Nominations are due by Dec. 31.** Go to <http://www.dosomething.org/brick> for more information.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

On Wednesday, November 7, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Consumer and Community Affairs division, is co-sponsoring a conference titled, "What Will Sustain Agriculture: Is the Answer Blowing in the Wind?" with The Land Institute and the Chicago Botanic Garden. For more information, go to http://www.chicagofed.org/news_and_conferences/conferences_and_events/2007_sustain_rural_development_announcement.cfm

BB&T, Freddie Mac and other sponsors are holding "Church-Based Community Development," a training symposium, will be held in Delray Beach, FL, Nov. 13-15. The training will educate participants on the development of affordable housing, growing small business and providing health and human services to benefit families in the church and the community. For more information, visit www.bbtraining.com or call 800 577-6207.

The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania is presenting "Homes Within Reach," Dec. 6-7 in Harrisburg. This is their annual conference on best practices in Housing and Homelessness. The agenda features 45 workshops presented by local, state and national housing experts. For more information, contact the conference planners at 717 545-9991 or email sshermer@shermer-assoc.com.

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is offering "Building Rural Communities Through CHDOs" January 16-18, in Seattle. The training involves two tracks: Building HOME for CHDOs; and Nonprofits and Single-Family Housing Development. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.ruralhome.org/servicesTraining.php> or contact Michael Spotts at 202-842-8600 ext. 105, michaels@ruralhome.org.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

A new Carsey Institute Fact Sheet shows that working Americans in rural areas are more likely to benefit from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to make ends meet than their neighbors in urban areas. To see the report, go to <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/092507eitc.htm>.

Also from Carsey, a study showing that **rural mothers with children under age 6 have higher employment rates than their urban counterparts**, but have higher poverty rates, lower wages, and lower family income. <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/092407ruralmoms.htm>.

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

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The national prevention awareness campaign sponsored by NeighborWorks America and the Ad Council is showing results. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline, answered 60,000 calls in the third quarter of this year. It involved the Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) and involving many of the country's largest mortgage market companies.

More than two-and-a-half years ago the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters set out to create a new vision for agriculture and rural life. The academy's report, "The Future of Farming and Rural Life in Wisconsin: Findings, Recommendations, Steps to a Healthy Future," is analyzed in the Daily Yonder, the new rural blog published by the Center for Rural Strategies (CRS). The Yonder says, "the study can be read broadly as a status report on rural America in general." To see the study, go to http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/idea/fof_report.html and the analysis is at <http://www.dailyyonder.com/wisconsin-takes-long-look-future-rural-communities>.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announces "Rural Lender Advantage." It is part of a broader SBA initiative to boost the economy in regions facing population loss or high unemployment rates. Part of the agency's 7(a) loan program, it enables smaller, rural lenders to require less paperwork and offer services online. Visit <http://www.sba.gov/> for more information.

The nation's first report on obesity and physical inactivity among rural youth shows that children living in rural areas are more likely to be overweight or obese than their urban peers, according to the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina. To see the report, go to <http://www.sph.sc.edu/news/ruralkids.htm>.

U.S. HUD has a new website for service providers to the homeless. The "Homelessness Resource Exchange" provides information and resources for providers who are assisting persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Go to www.hudhre.info for more information.

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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