

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours! As we give thanks, we will think of those who have fewer resources and redouble our efforts.

In Farm Bill news, Senate changes in the "rural" definition leave the definition pretty much as is. "Experts" wonder if a new Farm Bill will even happen this year. So many agendas, so little time. President Bush has threatened to veto any bill that looks like the Senate version. This version contains nearly a half a billion in authorized (not appropriated) spending in the Rural Development title.

POLICY UPDATE

Rural Housing Preservation Act of 2007, HR 4002, is a bill introduced in the U.S. House by Representatives Lincoln David (D-TN) and Geoff Davis (R-KY). This bill addresses the need to renovate Section 515 multi-family developments. Some of the nation's poorest rural families live in this housing. Nearly 60 percent of these homes are occupied by seniors or disabled persons. Average annual household income is about \$10,000. This bill provides voucher assistance for tenants displaced by renovations. Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> to see the full text and the Housing Assistance Council for a more detailed analysis at http://ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_2007RDPreservationBill.php.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) program has \$3.5 million available for grants and loans to qualified Native American groups. The funds may be used for capacity building, community development and technical assistance. **The deadline is Dec. 19.** For more information, go to www.cdfifund.gov/docs/2008/naca/FY2008NACANOFA.pdf or call 202 622-6355.

The USDA has \$17 million available for Technical Assistance and Training Grants, to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems in rural areas. **The deadline is Dec. 31.** For more information, go to www.grants.gov and search for RDUP-TAT-GRANT-100307-FY08.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration will make \$125 million in Community-Based Job Training Grants (CBJTGs) supporting workforce training for high-growth/high-demand industries through the national system of community and technical colleges. The purpose is building the capacity of community colleges to provide the training

to succeed in local or regional high-growth industries where demand for qualified workers is outstripping the supply. **The deadline is Dec. 31.** For more information, go to www.grants.gov and enter SGA-DFA-PY-07-01 or call 202 693-3346.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The annual Food Assistance Research Conference is scheduled for December 6 in the Frederick Waugh Auditorium at the Economic Research Service, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The theme is "Recent Findings and Emerging Issues." Attendance is free but registration is required due to limited space. Go to www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/FANRP/FANRPDecember2007/

Marketplace for Entrepreneurs will take place January 16 in Grand Forks, ND. Marketplace offers participants a variety of workshops and exhibits relating to starting a business, entrepreneurship, finding funding, inventions, etc. More information is available at <http://www.marketplaceforentrepreneurs.org/>.

The New Partners for Smart Growth conference will be held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 7-9. Presented by the Local Government Commission, sponsors include the Environmental Protection Agency, AARP and Smart Growth Network. Go to www.newpartners.org for more information.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition will hold its annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day, Feb. 25-26 in Washington, D.C., involving 25 workshops and three plenary sessions. For more information, visit www.nlihc.org.

The MarketPlace Small Business Conference will be held in Columbus, Nebraska, February 27. Presented by the Center for Rural Affairs and many partners focused on strengthening small businesses and rural communities, it offers training, networking and professional development opportunities for startup and existing small businesses, service providers, rural communities, and family farmers and ranchers. For information, go to <http://www.cfra.org/marketplace/home>.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

Relocation reimbursements up to \$4,000 for Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims are available from FEMA. Recipients must be registered for FEMA aid. They must have received less than \$26,200, the maximum FEMA assistance award in the past. For more information, visit www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=41323 or call 800 621-3362.

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

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The current issue of Rural Voices is devoted the problem of rural homelessness. In it, the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) announces a new initiative to address rural homelessness. It will be launched in January, 2008. For more information, email RHCBinfo@ruralhome.org. To download Rural Voices, go to www.ruralhome.org/manager/uploads/VoicesFall2007.pdf.

The Rural Families Speak project, funded by USDA, has released its report on rural communities and rural low-income families. The study followed 524 families in 17 states and 30 counties. Subjects include employment, health, food security and social support. To download, go to <http://fsos.cehd.umn.edu/img/assets/16501/NRICGP%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

The Economic Research Service (ERS) has published a new issue of Amber Waves with information on the future of biofuels, food labeling and conservation and commodity payments. You can download it at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/November07/>.

An article in the Rural Monitor from the Rural Assistance Center, reports suicide is the 11th ranking cause of death nationwide, it is the second leading cause of trauma-related deaths in states with primarily rural populations, especially states in the rural mountain west and Alaska. Where there are more guns, there are more suicides, according to the National Research Council report, Firearms and Violence, released in 2004. Of the 31,655 Americans in 2002 that took their lives, 17,108 used firearms. See the full article at www.raonline.org/newsletter/web/fall07.php#suicide.

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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