

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Research Fellowship in Rural Community Development Honoring Nancy Nye, Activist and Professional Researcher and Evaluator

The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire and the national rural program of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Rural LISC, announce the first annual Nancy Nye Fellowship providing \$7,500 for research in rural community development. The competition is open to practitioners, graduate students and professional researchers. **The deadline for submissions is February 1.** For more information, go to [www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/](http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/) or [www.ruralamerica.org](http://www.ruralamerica.org).

## POLICY UPDATE

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) has introduced S. 2391, a bill to strengthen the affordable housing mission of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It would provide substantial capitalization for CDFIs and other nonprofits to leverage private capital for housing and community development. Like the bill recently passed by the House, the bill would require Fannie and Freddie to contribute an estimated \$500-900 million annually. To see the full text of the bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

### The FY 08 appropriation for HUD isn't final yet!

It looks like Congress may combine HUD funding with appropriations bills for other agencies in what they call an "omnibus" or "bus" bill. If a bus happens, changes can and often do occur. We are asking you to consider calling on Congress to protect the HUD funding levels in the conference committee version of the bill. The toll free switchboard number is 877 210-5351. For more information on S. 1789, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**The National Association of Counties has grants available for rural counties to receive intensive technical assistance on the Rural Health Works model.** A selected county would receive \$18,000 and participate in a process that assists counties to evaluate their healthcare system and to generate county-specific data on the importance of the healthcare sector to the local economy. **The deadline is December 15.** Go to [www.naco.org/cfiles/surveys/rural\\_health/RuralHealth.pdf](http://www.naco.org/cfiles/surveys/rural_health/RuralHealth.pdf) or contact Christina Rowland at [crowland@naco.org](mailto:crowland@naco.org) or 202-942-4267.

**U.S. HUD has \$137 million in loan guarantees to help communities redevelop brownfields. The deadline is December 28.** Visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and enter # FR-5142-N-01 for more information.

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has \$5 million available in its State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Program.** The purpose of the program is to build on the foundation of prior suicide prevention efforts. **The deadline for applications is January 11, 2008.** Contact Gwendolyn Simpson at 240 276-1408 or visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and search for number SM-08-001.

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**The Rural Healthcare Leadership Conference will be held in San Diego, January 27-30.** This conference is designed to meet the needs of rural leaders and front-line health care providers. Go to <http://archives.subscribermail.com/msg/9284ec8ec5914ee9be8af53c33025f7a.htm> for more information.

**The New Partners for Smart Growth will hold its annual conference February 7-9 in Washington, D.C.** It includes more than 100 sessions and 300 speakers. Some topics include "Maintaining Rural Character in Communities and the Landscape" and "Opening the Farm Gate of Local Food Systems." Go to [www.newpartners.org](http://www.newpartners.org) or call 916 448-1198 X327.

**The U. S. Department of Agriculture will hold its annual Agricultural Outlook Forum February 21-22 in Arlington, VA.** It will feature more than 100 speakers discussing the future of American agriculture. More information is available at [www.usda.gov/oce/forum](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum).

**The Federal Communications Commission announced \$417 million in grants will be available to help rural health-care providers build high-speed Internet networks** to connect isolated communities to medical resources in urban centers. About 6,000 hospitals, research centers, universities and clinics will get broadband access in the three-year pilot program. Go to [www.fcc.gov/cgb/rural/rhcp.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/rural/rhcp.html) for more information.

## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**Rural communities are being transformed thanks to smart investments in broadband technology, according to a new study from Alliance for Public Technology (APT).** The study highlights a number of efforts by state and local groups to fill in the holes left by federal programs. ConnectKentucky ([www.connectkentucky.org](http://www.connectkentucky.org)) has succeeded in wiring most of the Bluegrass State so that 90% of Kentucky residents and businesses now have access to

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broadband. Broadband programs of this type have helped create local jobs and stimulate local economic development. The report recommends that Washington establish clear national goals for broadband deployment and also offer tax incentives and other subsidies to help spur these efforts. To download "Broadband Initiatives: Enhancing Lives and Transforming Communities," go to [http://www.apr.org/publications/reports-studies/broadband\\_initiatives.pdf](http://www.apr.org/publications/reports-studies/broadband_initiatives.pdf).

**The Rural School Community Trust has issued the fourth in a series of biennial reports titled "Why Rural Matters."** analyzing the importance of rural education in each of the 50 states and calling attention to the urgency with which policymakers in each state should address rural education issues. It finds enrollment in rural schools up 15 percent with the increase in minority student enrollment up 55 percent and 100 percent in some states. These increases are particularly challenging for districts already short of resources. The report is available at <http://www.ruraledu.org/site/apps/s/link.asp?c=beJMIZOCrH&b=3508815>.

**The USDA's Economic Research Service reports 89 percent of American households were food secure in 2006**, meaning that they had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining households (10.9 percent) were food insecure at least some time during the year. About one-third of food insecure households (4.0 percent of all U.S. households) had very low food security-meaning that the food intake of one or more adults was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food. Read the full report at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR49/>

**The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) reminds consumers to read the terms and conditions when you receive or purchase gift cards this holiday season.** Gift cards can have expiration dates, fees, and other terms that can reduce their value. Other terms may limit where cards can be used or explain handling complaints and lost or stolen cards. To read the consumer alert issued by the OCC, go to [www.occ.gov/ftp/bulletin/2006-34.doc](http://www.occ.gov/ftp/bulletin/2006-34.doc).

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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