

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Center for Rural Strategies president Dee Davis writes, "As this political tempest runs its course, the challenge is to see if the country can get beyond a debate about whether small town voters are bitter. The real challenge is to follow up on Senator Obama's earlier candid moment. Rural life is threatened by economic policy that perpetually fails rural communities." His column in the online journal, The Daily yonder points out, "There are sixty million of us in rural America. The poverty rates are substantially higher, as are rates of unemployment, substance abuse, diagnosed clinical depression, and deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan. The way we have come to address these specific issues is that every four years presidential candidates come to Iowa and take a stand on ethanol subsidies. As if it mattered. That so many small-town voters are not embittered by a national political process that ignores them may be a more unflattering testament than the annotated list of Senator Obama's stereotypes." See the full text at www.dailyyonder.com/speak-your-piece-bitterness-tricky-business.

POLICY UPDATE

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee has approved legislation to modernize and temporarily expand Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The provisions are part of H.R. 5720, the Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008. The full House could consider the legislation later this month. This week, the Senate is expected to wrap up its own housing stimulus bill, which currently does not have any Housing Credit provisions. Differences between the two bills will be worked out in a conference committee. For more details, go to <http://ruralamerica.org/pdf%20files/hwmc.pdf>.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has funds available for services to the homeless linked to housing, but not for housing costs. The deadline is May 29. See

http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2008/ti_08_013.aspx.

Contact Joanne Gampel at 240-276-2895, joanne.gampel@samhsa.hhs.gov.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation Neighborhood Excellence Initiative is designed to recognize, nurture, and reward community organizations, local heroes, and student leaders who are helping their neighborhoods achieve excellence. The Initiative is accepting applications/nominations for the following programs:
Neighborhood Builders: Provides \$200,000 in core operating support and leadership training over two years to two nonprofit organizations working in each identified community to promote vibrant neighborhoods. **Local Heroes:** Recognizes and honors five heroes per year in each of the selected communities whose achievements and leadership on local issues contribute significantly to neighborhood vitality. Recipients will each be able to direct a \$5,000 award to an eligible nonprofit of their choice. **The deadline**

is June 27. For more information, visit <http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation>.

Archer Daniels Midland Company is accepting applications for its 2008 Community Partnership Grant Program.

The program will award up to four grants of \$10,000 each for community-improvement projects in cities and towns where ADM operates. **The deadline is June 30.** For more information, visit <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15012266/admworld>.

HUD is accepting applications for the 2008 HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence, a part of the annual Best in American Living Awards competition.

The award recognizes superior design created through cooperative public/private efforts that expand homeownership opportunities for American families whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the area median income. **The deadline is July 1.** The registration form and award criteria can be downloaded at www.huduser.org/Research/bala_awardapp2008.pdf or contact Andrea Vrankar in 216-522-4058, ext. 7128, or andrea_vrankar@hud.gov.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International's Community Investment Program supports efforts to improve the quality of life in the communities where the company's customers and employees live and work. The company focuses its grantmaking in the following areas: education, with an emphasis on science; agriculture; and farm safety. Priority is given to nonprofit organizations located in Pioneer facility communities or rural agricultural regions. **Applications are accepted throughout the year.** Visit the website <http://www.pioneer.com/web/site/portal/menuitem.bb020a6d93d9d318bc0c0a03d10093a0/>

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Community Development Institute East will be held April 27-May 2 in Morgantown, WV. The conference is designed to meet the increasing challenges facing community developers. For more information, visit www.ext.wvu.edu/cdi-east.

The ePhilanthropy Foundation estimates that total online giving in the United States in 2007 exceeded \$6.87 billion. The eTour teaches you how to use the Internet to raise funds. The half-day training offers an interactive setting for participants to discuss their experiences and to apply new concepts to their online/offline fundraising strategies. Trainings are being held in Portland, Oregon, Indianapolis, Detroit, Bakersfield, Sacramento, Eastport, Maine and Denver this spring. Grants are available the trainings. For more information, go to www.ephilanthropy.org/verizon.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

The on-line search engine, www.goodsearch.com, powered by yahoo, donates 50 percent of its revenue to a charity or school of your choice. Just 500 people searching at least four times a day will yield over \$7,000 in funding to the charity per year.

The DatelinERS newsletter offers concise summaries of ERS reports and events with links to areas within their website. Go to www.ers.usda.gov/News/ or see

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<http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/DatelinERSNewsletter.htm>

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's Out of Reach 2007- 2008 reports a full-time minimum wage worker still cannot afford even a one-bedroom apartment in any metro area or nonmetro county at HUD's Fair Market Rent. Out of Reach 2007-2008: The Wait for a Home Grows Longer, includes data for each state, county, and metro area, and nonmetro areas in each state, is at <http://nlihc.org/oor2008/>, or call NLIHC, 202-662-1530 ext. 235.

The Northeast region lost population in both rural and urban areas from 2000-2005. This finding is reported in a new Issues Brief from the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. It uses data from the American Community Survey which has replaced the U.S. decennial national Census. To see the full report, go to <http://nercrd.psu.edu/publications/rdppapers/rdp39.pdf>.

The National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention has a new web portal for rural communities. Its mission is to help communities to enhance social and emotional outcomes for children and families in rural and frontier areas. Go to <https://learn.aero.und.edu/pages.asp?PageID=101055>.

Amber Waves presents the broad scope of ERS's research and analysis. The magazine covers the economics of agriculture, food and nutrition, the food industry, trade, rural America, and farm-related environmental topics. Available on the internet and in print, Amber Waves is issued in print five times a year (February, April, June, September and November). The internet edition, or "eZine," includes links to web -only resources, such as podcasts and additional articles. Released Tuesday, April 1, 2008. See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/April08/>

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.



Compiled by Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation 1825 K Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20006
202.739.9276 (phone), 202.785.8030 (fax), info@ruralamerica.org (email) website: www.ruralamerica.org

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