

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Countdown is On to National Stand Up for Rural America Day June 17, 2008! Registration is free.

Please Join us for a Policy Forum. Get the lowdown on the latest thinking. Hear about the new National Rural Assembly and The Rural Compact. Learn about interviews and policy recommendations from leaders in rural education, health, natural resources and building community assets, including philanthropy and investments. From 8:30 AM to 1:45 PM, The Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Join us for a Reception! Mix and mingle with 500 rural leaders from across the nation, 5:30-7:30 PM, JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. To RSVP, email rsvp@ruralamerica.org or call Debby Ross at 202 739-9276.

Final Farm Bill Makes the Case for Rural Compact

There's some good news and some bad news in the Farm Bill. The good news includes a much larger authorization for food and nutrition and a boost for conservation. Bad news? Jason Gray in the Daily Yonder said rural development supporters "have not been able to speak with a loud and insistent enough voice to become anything more than mice jumping up and down squeaking, 'Me, too, me too,' as the farm bill elephants dance." The net result? No mandatory funding for Rural Development. Changing this situation requires mobilizing a broader network of allies and speaking up for rural communities, not just for your narrow interests. Please sign The Rural Compact. It's a real start in the right direction. Go to http://ruralcompact.org/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&task=registers.

POLICY UPDATE

Congress has finally completed action on the 2007 Farm Bill. The package, (H.R. 2419, H. Rpt. 110-627) contains a new \$15 million Rural Entrepreneur program that will provide low cost loans to establish small businesses in rural areas. It also authorizes a new Rural Collaborative Investment Program (the old Rural Strategic Investment Program or RSIP) to aid rural regions developing new collaborative economic development strategies. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative will provide competitive grants to universities and other organizations doing research in high-priority areas. Research spending for bio-fuels and renewable energy is funded at \$1 billion. The largest increase in authorized funding is for the food and nutrition programs, some \$10.3 billion.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration has \$249 million available to assist economically distressed communities. The funds are designed to promote comprehensive, entrepreneurial and innovation-based economic development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regions experiencing

substantial and persistent economic distress. Proposals are evaluated as submitted and funds will be awarded until exhausted. The full announcement is available at http://www.eda.gov/ImageCache/EDAPublic/documents/pdf-docs2008/fy08edapffofinal_2epdf/v1/fy08edapffofinal.pdf or contact Jamie Lipsey, 202-482-3467 jlipsey@eda.doc.gov.

Home Depot has funding available in its Housing Impact Grants Program. Grants range between \$500 and \$3,000 each. The program supports affordable housing projects built or preserved with environmentally friendly, efficient, and durable materials that increase energy and water efficiency, improve indoor air quality, and reduce maintenance costs. **The deadlines are June 15, September 15 and December 15.** For more information, visit <http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal>.

The Drucker Institute is accepting applications for the 2008 Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation. The organization must have specific and measurable outcomes; exemplify innovation by demonstrating a new dimension or standard of performance; have made a difference in the lives of the people it serves; and serve as a model that can be replicated or adopted by other organizations. The winner will receive the \$35,000 first prize, with \$7,500 awarded for second place and \$5,000 for third place. **The deadline is July 15.** For more information, visit <http://www.druckerinstitute.com/>

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials is accepting nominations for the M. Justin Herman Memorial Award honoring an exceptionally qualified person who has made outstanding contributions to the quality of life through service in the field of housing or community development. **The deadline is July 16.** For more information, visit <http://www.nahro.org/> or contact Sylvia Moore Bowen 877-866-2476, ext. 7201 sbowen@nahro.org.

The Kresge Foundation accepts letters of intent year-round in the Capital Challenge Grant Program. The Foundation's six major areas of interest are health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development. Through, the Foundation supports organizations' immediate capital needs, such as building construction or renovation, the purchase of real estate, and the purchase of major equipment. Grants are awarded on a challenge basis, usually one-third to one-fifth of the amount an organization has to raise to complete its campaign goal. There are no deadlines for online letters of intent. Visit <http://www.kresge.org/> for more information.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

U.S. HUD is offering 60 free Grant Writing Training workshops in 2008 from now through September. The sessions are free and open to the public. In June the trainings will be held in Norfolk, VA on the 9 & 10, South Bend, IN on 12 & 13, Warwick, RI on 18 & 19, Culpepper, VA on 24-26, Erie, PA and Chicago on June 30-July 1. Go to <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fbci/grantwriting08.cfm> for more information.

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will hold a conference on June 26-27 in Washington, D.C. For more information, go to <http://www.dtiassociates.com/FBCCI/logisticsDC2.cfm?location=DC2> or contact 202.456.6708 or fbci@dtihq.com.

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 11, Number 9 June 1, 2008

Green Homes and Sustainable Communities 2008 is the annual National Symposium on Green Affordable Housing and Community Development. It will be held August 7-8 in Chicago. Sponsored by Enterprise Community Partners and The Institute for Professional and Executive Development (IPED), it brings together experts in community development, financiers, technical experts and advocates who are redefining affordable housing and community development. For more information, visit http://www.ipedinc.net/conferences/Green_Homes_And_Sustainable_Communities_2008.asp.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

In 1997, the Appalachian Regional Commission launched an initiative making entrepreneurship a key strategy for economic development in rural areas. After 10 years and more than \$40 million of investments, RUPRI's Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (CRE) and its partners did a comprehensive evaluation of the Entrepreneurship Initiative. ARC invested \$43 million in 340 projects scattered throughout 13 states. The average investment per state was \$3.3 million. And ARC investments leveraged an additional \$72.8 million in private funds for completed projects. The Entrepreneurship Initiative led to the creation of at least 9,156 jobs, the retention of 3,022 jobs, the formation of

1,787 new businesses, and the provision of services to 8,242 businesses. The April 2008 report summary, Creating an Entrepreneurial Appalachian Region, is available at <http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/content/cr.php?id=6&sel=1>. The full report will be available soon at the CRE website: <http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/>. Questions on the report can be directed to Markley at dmarkley@nc.rr.com.

One rural development strategy offered to enhance farm and ranch income and entrepreneurial opportunities in rural areas is farm-based recreation or agri-tourism.

Latest data (2004) estimates that over 50,000 farms and ranches in the United States obtain some income from farm-based recreation activities. The report is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err53/>.

The Center for American Progress has published a report, Additional Learning Opportunities in Rural Communities: Needs, Successes, and Challenges. It points out that rural schools get less than their fair share of public resources and need more funding to compete on a level playing field and offers suggestions for making funding available for after-school programs to rural low-income schools. To download, go to http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/04/peter-son_column.html.

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

Don't wait for snail mail-Get your Reporter by email and help us save postage and paper. Contact Debby Ross at dross@lisc.org, 202-739-9276 (phone), or 202-785-8030 (fax) with the name and address where you currently receive the Network Reporter and your email address.