

STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The fifth national Stand Up Day held in Washington, D.C., was a resounding success. Better than 500 participants, including delegates to the second National Rural Assembly, heard summaries of interviews and surveys on education, health, natural resources and the environment, and community investments--the four pillars of the Assembly's "Rural Compact." Those presenting included a senior vice president from Bank of America announcing \$53 billion in rural community development investments, directors of the Carsey and Rural Policy Research Institutes, Rick Cohen, columnist for the Chronicle of Philanthropy and NonProfit Quarterly, Francisco Guajardo, founder of Llam Grande and two MacArthur "geniuses," Elouise Cobell from the Native American Community Development Corporation and Lorna Bourg from Southern Mutual Help Association. In addition, the crowd heard from surrogates for the presumptive presidential candidates. U.S. Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas spoke for John McCain and Tom Daschle, former U.S. Senate Minority Leader, for Barack Obama. Each addressed issues of special interest to rural people and places. The day concluded with a joint Stand Up and Assembly reception. For more information and to endorse the Rural Compact, go to www.ruralamerica.org.

POLICY UPDATE

The Office of Management and Budget has released its 2008 supplement to Circular A-133 regarding audits of nonprofits, states, and local governments. The Circular establishes principles for determining costs of grants, contracts and other agreements with non-profit organizations. **Comments will be accepted until October 31.** Go to http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a122/a122_2004.html for the full document.

The federal bank and thrift regulatory agencies have released the 2008 list of distressed or underserved non-metropolitan middle-income communities where bank revitalization or stabilization activities will receive Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) consideration as "community development." Read the press release at <http://www.occ.gov/ftp/release/2008-60.htm>. For the list, go to <http://www.ffiec.gov/cra>.

FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The USDA has \$4.6 million for its Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CSREES).

Community Food Projects should be designed to meet the food needs of low-income people; increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs; and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues. **Letters of Intent are due July 2.**

Application deadline is January 10, 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&oppld=16202>

The CHS Foundation funding focuses on the following program areas: Cooperative Education, Rural Youth and Leadership Development, Farm and Agricultural Safety, Returning Value to Rural Communities, and University Partnerships. **There are no deadlines except Cooperative Education applications, due in the fall of each year.** Visit <http://www.chsfoundation.org/>.

The F.B. Heron Foundation provides grants to and investments in organizations that promote five wealth-creation strategies for low-income families in urban and rural communities in the U.S., including: increasing access to capital, supporting enterprise development, advancing home ownership, reducing the barriers to full participation in the economy by providing quality childcare, and employing comprehensive community development approaches with a strong focus on wealth-creation strategies. **Letters of inquiry may be submitted at any time.** Visit <http://www.fbheron.org> for grant program details and application guidelines.

The Collaboration Prize, created by The Lodestar Foundation, will provide a \$250,000 award to a team of nonprofit organizations that have chosen cooperation over competition. To be eligible, collaboration must involve two or more nonprofit organizations that would otherwise provide similar programs and compete for clients, financial resources, and staff. **Nominations will be accepted until July 21.** For more information, go to www.thecollaborationprize.org/

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The CDFI Fund will hold a Research Conference June 24 in Washington, D.C. Presentations will include briefings from recipients of the CDFI Fund's Research initiative on the following topics: CDFIs and the subprime mortgage market; Reaching underserved markets through CDFIs; Institutional development and sustainability of CDFIs, including Native CDFIs; and CDFIs and rural markets. For more information, go to <https://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=5d16cf29-a4a9-4cee-887f-213a22038133>.

The Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) will hold a peer-to-peer conference call Friday, June 27. Participants the opportunity to learn about the rural housing data portal, the benefits of the data portal, and how the portal can be used. Leaders of nonprofit housing and economic development organizations serving rural communities will have an opportunity to discuss and share issues related to data collection and analysis, problems that commonly occur when gathering data, and other data needs and requirements. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about the structure of the rural housing data portal, the pros of using the portal versus other websites, and the areas that the portal covers. Topics will include: purpose,

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structure and benefits of the Rural Housing Data Portal. Call-in instructions and additional materials will be emailed to participants June 26. The call will consist of a 45 minute presentation by one of the Housing Assistance Council's representatives. A Q&A session will follow. RSVP by email to rhed@hud.gov no later than close of business on June 25. Include your name and organization. For more information, call 877-787-2526.

The Institute for Partner Education & Development will hold a conference, Affordable Housing Update: Opportunities in a Changing Economy, July 10-11 in Chicago. For more information, go to www.ipedinc.net.

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) Assets Learning Conference will be held September 11-13 in Washington, D.C. A diverse group of leaders will come together to discuss innovations, vision and strategies in assets practice, policy and research. Go to <http://www.assetsconference.org/> for more information.

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

A new issue of Amber Waves is available from the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). It covers the economics of agriculture, food and nutrition, the food industry, trade, rural America, and farm-related environmental topics. The internet edition, or "eZine," includes links to web-only resources, such as podcasts and additional articles. To download, go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June08/>

The share of the U.S. population considered rural ranges from 17 to 49 percent depending on the definition used. Rural definitions can be based on administrative, land-use, or economic concepts, exhibiting considerable variation in socioeconomic characteristics and well being of the measured population. For research projects and economic development programs alike, the appropriate definition of rural will be that which meets the goals of the endeavor. See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June08/Features/RuralAmerica.htm>

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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