

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### **Join Stand Up for Rural America in endorsing the Rural Compact ([www.ruralcompact.org](http://www.ruralcompact.org)).**

The 2nd National Rural Assembly ([www.ruralassembly.org](http://www.ruralassembly.org)) began the process of putting flesh on the bones of the Rural Compact and communicating policy priorities to Presidential candidates and other elected officials. Please endorse the Compact and urge your elected officials and colleagues to do the same. Working together with the National Rural Assembly we can help shape the Rural Agenda for the 2008 election and beyond.

## POLICY UPDATE

### **The House Appropriations Subcommittee for Transportation-HUD approved an FY 2009 spending bill on June 20. Some of the details have been released and are available at [http://ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements\\_2009appropsHUD.php](http://ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_2009appropsHUD.php).**

The House Subcommittee increased CDBG by more than \$130 million over the 2008 appropriation level, but did not increase HOME or Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) levels. The Senate Subcommittee increased CDBG by nearly \$24 million, HOME by over \$260 million, and RHED by \$13 million over the 2008 appropriation level. In general, major HUD programs have received increases above both 2008 levels and the President's proposed budget. To view the subcommittee's press release, go to [http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub\\_tranurb.shtml](http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_tranurb.shtml).

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

### **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has made \$4 million in grants available through its Hope VI Grants for Smaller Communities/Main Street Grants Program.**

The grants are intended for revitalization, repair or rehabilitation of public housing developments in smaller communities throughout the country. The deadline for submitting an application is 8/15/08. For more information, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-14445.htm>.

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is offering grant opportunities for several counties in Arkansas to set up Head Start centers through the Administration of Children and Families.** The eligible counties are Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lee, Poinsett, St. Francis, and/or

Woodruff. The deadline for this grant application is 9/2/08. For the full grant announcement, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-OHS-CH-0611.html>.

### **The Center for Community Innovation at the University of California, Berkley is accepting nominations for The I. Donald Turner Prize for Innovation and Leadership in Affordable Housing.**

The prize, awarded biennially, is given to the affordable housing project and leadership team that best exemplifies Mr. Turner's work. The winner, chosen from the fields of planning, architecture, development, finance, government and media, receives a grand prize of \$25,000, and five finalists receive \$5,000 leadership stipends. Nominations will be accepted through August. For more information, go to <http://communityinnovation.berkeley.edu/turnerprize/index.html>.

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

### **The National Association of Area Agencies (n4a) on Aging is hosting its 33rd annual conference and tradeshow from July 20-23 in Nashville, TN.**

The event, which brings together the nation's n4a agencies, will be held at the Renaissance Hotel Nashville & the Nashville Convention Center. For more information, go to <http://www.n4a.org/2008conf/nashville2008.cfm>.

### **The Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference will be held from August 4-5 at the High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, AZ.**

The conference, which is the longest running rural health conference in the country, provides an environment for networking and disseminating information among professionals and community members for rural Arizona and the southwest. To learn more about the conference, go to <http://www.rho.arizona.edu/Events/2008rhc/default.aspx>.

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## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

### **The deadline for submitting your entries to the Lifecycle Building Challenge 2 is July 31st.**

This national, web-based competition invites engineers, designers, architects, planners, contractors, builders, educators and students in any field to submit innovative ideas related to deconstruction - creating buildings that can be easily taken apart so that you can reuse the building materials. Check out the website for more information! [www.lifecyclebuilding.org](http://www.lifecyclebuilding.org).

### **A new book, The Big Sort by Bill Bishop of The Daily Yonder (<http://www.dailyyonder.com/>) continues to draw national attention.**

The book reveals that while America as a whole is increasingly diverse, the nation's communities have separated into clusters of like-minded people. It explains how this effects America politically. About 4 minutes into this first clip on the site former President Bill Clinton recommends the book to an audience at the Aspen Ideas Festival. <http://www.aifestival.org/index2.php?menu=3&sub>

[=1&title=403&action=full\\_info](#). In this second clip, Bishop appears on NPR's Talk of the Nation to discuss America's political divide. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92292747>. For more information on The Big Sort, visit <http://www.thebigsort.com/home.php>.

### **SSTI has analyzed data on per capita increase in venture capital dollars since 2003 and published a list of each states' performance.**

California Washington and Massachusetts lead the way, while Pennsylvania, Oregon and North Dakota all saw a significant decrease in the amount of available capital. For the full analysis and a complete list, go to <http://www.ssti.org/Digest/2008/070208.htm#States>.

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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