



## *Stand Up for Rural America*

### **Rural Community Developers Network Reporter**

August 1, 2008

#### *Stand Up Update*

##### **Join *Stand Up for Rural America* in endorsing the Rural Compact**

([www.ruralcompact.org](http://www.ruralcompact.org)). The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Rural Assembly

([www.ruralassembly.org](http://www.ruralassembly.org)) began expanding on the principles of the Rural Compact and communicating policy priorities to Presidential candidates and other elected officials.

These policy priorities, called Policy Opportunity Snapshots, focus on four issue areas of critical importance to rural America in the years to come. They are: Investment in our Communities; Quality in Education; Stewardship of our Natural Resources and Health of our People. It is vital that "real people" who know what is happening on the ground get involved. Please go to

([http://ruralcompact.org/index.php?option=com\\_comprofiler&task=registers](http://ruralcompact.org/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&task=registers)), preview

the Compact and react to the Policy Priorities. And please raise your voice by signing the Compact and urging your elected officials and colleagues to do the same. Thank you for Standing Up for Rural America!

#### *Policy Update*

##### **On Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, President Bush signed the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 into law.**

The act includes the Neighborhood Stabilization Fund, a \$4 billion fund for states and localities to purchase foreclosed properties in the neighborhoods that have been hardest hit by the subprime crisis. For a summary of the bill, please visit [http://financialservices.house.gov/detailed\\_summary\\_of\\_hr\\_3221.pdf](http://financialservices.house.gov/detailed_summary_of_hr_3221.pdf),

or visit the House Committee on Financial Services website at

<http://financialservices.house.gov/FHA.html>.

**USDA shifted \$13 million in FY 2008 budget authority, which adds up to more than \$20 million in program funds from Sections 502 direct, 514/516,**

**504/533 and processing worker housing in order to generate over \$1.2 billion for Section 502 guarantees.** Representatives Rubén Hinojosa and Lincoln Davis are leading the push to have the funds restored in a supplemental appropriations bill. For more information, go to <http://ruralhome.org/manager/uploads/073008.pdf>.

### *Funding and Financing Opportunities*

**U.S. HUD's HOPE VI Main Street Grant program is currently accepting proposals; the deadline is August 15.** This program provides grants for small communities to rejuvenate "Main Street" areas by replacing vacant commercial space with affordable housing units. For the full announcement, go to <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=42147>.

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is offering grant opportunities to help several counties in Arkansas develop Head Start centers.** The eligible counties are Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lee, Poinsett, St. Francis, and/or Woodruff. The deadline is **9/2/08**. For the entire announcement, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-OHS-CH-0611.html>.

**Disaster area owners in Louisiana who have not decided whether they will rebuild or sell their homes and have not returned necessary documents or provided proof of occupancy must do so by September 5, 2008.** A homeowner has three options under the *Road Home* Program, but grant awards will be larger for those who choose to stay in Louisiana.

- Option 1 - Stay and rebuild.
- Option 2 - Sell to the state and purchase a new home in Louisiana.
- Option 3 - Sell their home to the state and purchase a new home elsewhere.

For more information, go to [http://www.road2la.org/news\\_releases/sept5\\_deadline.htm](http://www.road2la.org/news_releases/sept5_deadline.htm).

**The Rural Health Network is accepting applications Planning Grants.** The deadline is **September 15, 2008**. Grants must be used to provide support to rural

entities developing formal health care networks, especially those involving groups with no history of collaboration. Awards will run from \$25,000 and \$85,000. For more information, go to

[http://www.raconline.org/funding/funding\\_details.php?funding\\_id=218](http://www.raconline.org/funding/funding_details.php?funding_id=218).

### *Training Events and Conferences*

**The National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference will be held from August 17-19 in Duluth, MN.** The conference will convene transportation industry representatives and rural stakeholders for three days of learning, networking and discussion on emerging issues and trends. For more information, go to

[http://www.nado.org/conferences/trans.php?con\\_id=82](http://www.nado.org/conferences/trans.php?con_id=82).

**Illinois ResourceNet\*, U.S. HUD and the U.S. HHS Administration for Children and Families is hosting "Introduction to Federal Grants," a one-day conference for nonprofits and community based organizations at the University of Illinois Student Center East in Chicago, IL.** The conference will cover: basic information on how to apply for federal grants; tips on grant writing to make your application more competitive; a panel discussion involving representatives from federal grant-making agencies; and opportunities for individual consultation with them. There is no fee, but participants must cover their own travel. For more information and a registration form, go to <http://www.illinoisresource.net>.

### *Information and Other Resources*

**The USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) has published "Defining the 'Rural' in Rural America."** It appears in the June 2008 issue of *Amber Waves*, ERS' quarterly magazine. The article discusses various ways to define urban and extrapolate what is rural. It does not propose a blanket definition for rural. It concludes that the rural definition should depend on the purpose of the activity. To read the article, go to <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](mailto:reporter@ruralamerica.org). Announcements will be published at our discretion based on space and applicability.*

*Compiled by Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation, 1825 K Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006, phone: (202) 739-9276, fax: (202) 785-8030, email: [info@ruralamerica.org](mailto:info@ruralamerica.org), website: [www.ruralamerica.org](http://www.ruralamerica.org)*