



## *Stand Up for Rural America*

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

August 15, 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 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*

**Congress is considering major reform of a program that subsidizes rural phone service.** The Universal Service Fund provides subsidies to telephone service carriers in that serve rural areas, but recent studies from the office of Rep. Harry Waxman (D – CA) have shown that the money does not always go to aid rural areas. For more information, go to

[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/washington/stories/072908dnbus\\_telecom.3fed511.html?npc](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/washington/stories/072908dnbus_telecom.3fed511.html?npc).

#### *Funding and Financing Opportunities*

**Applications for the Affordable Housing Program at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis are due on September 17.** The program awards housing opportunities to families whose incomes are 80% or less than the area median. The guidelines, implementation plan and application are all available for download at <http://www.fhlbi.com/housing/ahprog.asp>.

## *Training Events and Conferences*

**Save the date! The 2008 Homes within Reach Conference, presented by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, November 18-19 at the Hilton Harrisburg.**

The conference features 3 hour training institutes and peer-to-peer symposia over 2 full days. Conference brochure and registration materials will be available in the fall. For information about the Housing Alliance of PA, go to [www.housingalliancepa.org](http://www.housingalliancepa.org).

## *Information and Other Resources*

**The Carsey Institutes has released "Place Matters: Challenges and Opportunities in Four Rural Americas."** This report finds that rural America is divided into four very distinct types of places. They are; amenity rich vacation destinations, declining resource dependent areas, chronically poor regions and a transitional type of area that is moving away from resource dependence to amenity-driven growth. Because of these differences, the report concludes that global rural policy will not be effective and each region must have very targeted policy strategies to address its specific needs. For the full report, go to [http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report\\_PlaceMatters.pdf](http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report_PlaceMatters.pdf).

**The Rural School and Community Trust is sponsoring an effort to form a National Rural Education Policy Agenda.** This effort has grown out of a process to develop a national rural education policy that came out of Renewable Energy Working Group conference earlier in 2008. At the conference, five committees were organized to help in this effort. They are; Community Revitalization Committee, Curriculum Committee, Environment Committee, School Finance Committee, and Student Success Committee. For more information contact Kelly Brown at [Kelly.brown@ruraledu.org](mailto:Kelly.brown@ruraledu.org).

**The New West website has started publishing a quarterly magazine and is offering free subscriptions to those who fill out a survey on the site.** The magazine covers design, development and community in the Rocky Mountain West. For more information and a link to the survey, go to [http://www.newwest.net/magazine/article/the\\_new\\_west\\_magazine\\_premiere\\_issue/C555/L555/](http://www.newwest.net/magazine/article/the_new_west_magazine_premiere_issue/C555/L555/).

*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.*

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