



## *Stand Up for Rural America*

### Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

October 27, 2008

#### *Stand Up Update*

##### **Finally Reality, Newspaper Editorials, Columns, etc., Refute Critics Claiming CRA Responsible for Financial Meltdown.**

For some months, misinformed critics have claimed that CRA caused the current financial crisis by requiring banks, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to make or buy "bad" loans. Thank goodness the facts are finally making the pages and airwaves of the "mainstream media". Check out the *New York Times* editorial, "Misplaced Blame", October 15, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/15/opinion/15wed2.html?partner=permalink&expd=permalink>; the *New York Times* op-ed column, "Poor Homeowners, Good Loans", October 17, 2008, by Center for American Progress Fellows and former Treasury official Michael Barr and Clinton economic advisor Gene Sperling at [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/18/opinion/18barr.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/18/opinion/18barr.html?_r=1&oref=slogin);

and *Washington Post* column "Blame Gets Nasty When It Targets the Poor", October 12, 2008, by Michelle Singletary at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/11/AR2008101100173.html> and "Another Street Where Credit Needs to Keep Flowing", October 16, 2008 at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/15/AR2008101502857.html>

Or listen to the NPR story featuring John Taylor, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=95687791>.

**Please don't let the critics go unanswered in your home town.** Feel free to use the model letter posted at [ruralamerica.org](http://ruralamerica.org).

THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR RURAL AND THE REST OF AMERICA.

#### *Policy Update*

**Congress Passes H.R. 2786, Reauthorizing the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act.** On September 25 and 27, the Senate and House approved a compromise version of H.R. 2786, reauthorizing the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) through 2013, with important amendments. Originally enacted in 1996, NAHASDA consolidated several federal housing programs into a single, formula-based block grant program.

## *Funding and Financing Opportunities*

**Section 202 Demonstration Pre-Development Grant Program.** Grants up to \$400,000 are available to nonprofits that submitted for the FY2008 SuperNOFA 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program. **The deadline is 12/16/08.** For more information go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-24196.htm>.

**CDFI FUND NATIVE AMERICAN FUNDS OFFERED. The deadline to apply for financial assistance and/or technical assistance funds is December 19. CDFI certification applications are due November 3.** See *Federal Register*, 10/1/08, pp. 57196-205 or <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. Contact CDFI Fund, 202-622-6355, [cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov).

## *Training Events and Conferences*

**On November 6-7, 2008, in St. Louis, the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship will join several organizations in sponsoring "Entrepreneurship: Where Practice and Theory Meet".** Continuing an annual event started two years ago with the RUPRI Center and the USDA Economic Research Service, this year's conference is designed to bring researchers together with practitioners to discuss current research and lessons learned about effective entrepreneurship practices in rural regions. To learn more about the conference, please go to <http://mcquinn.missouri.edu/2008workshop/>.

**The HAC National Rural Housing Conference will take place December 3-5, 2008, in Washington, DC.** Held every other year, this year's conference with the theme "Working for Change, Building Our Future" will be held at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Workshops will include green building, affordable rental housing preservation, self-help housing and homeownership. For more information and to register, please go to <http://ruralhome.org/servicesTraining.php>.

**The Opportunity Finance Network's Rural Summit will be held as part of the upcoming Opportunity Finance Network annual conference in Albuquerque, December 9-12.** The conference offers professional development and networking opportunities for anyone in the opportunity finance field. For more information, go to [www.opportunityfinance.net/conference](http://www.opportunityfinance.net/conference).

**Innovation@cfed** was announced at the 2008 Assets Learning Conference in Washington, DC last month. **innovation@cfed** expands CFED's commitment to driving innovation that expands economic opportunities for low-income American families. **innovation@cfed** includes: **Innovators-in-Residence** -- Seeking creative innovators who can maximize the impact of their work through support and collaboration with CFED. **Innovative Ideas** -- Reaching widely across the nation and the globe to seek innovative ideas that can build economic opportunity for American families. For more information, please go to <http://www.innovation@cfed>.

## *Information and Other Resources*

**HUD'S GREEN BUILDING EFFORTS STUDIED.** A GAO report notes that HUD is encouraging green building but could do more, including in public housing and manufactured housing. *Green Affordable Housing: HUD Has Made Progress in Promoting Green Building, but Expanding Efforts Could Help Reduce Energy Costs and Benefit Tenants* (GAO-09-46) is free at <http://www.gao.gov> or in print for a charge from GAO, 866-801-7077.

**FY 2009 FAIR MARKET RENTS ANNOUNCED.** See *Federal Register*, 9/29/08, pp. 56637-98 or <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html>. Contact HUD program staff or Marie L. Lihn, HUD, 202-708-0590.

**CALVIN BEALE, groundbreaking rural researcher died recently of colon cancer at the age of 85.** Since 1946 he was a geographer and demographer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was also an author of several books, including ***A Taste of the Country***, published in 1990, a collection of writings about his travels around the U.S. To read more about Mr. Beale in the obituary published by *The New York Times*, please go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/03/us/03beale.html>.

*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) 739-9294, fax: (202) 785-8030, email: [info@ruralamerica.org](mailto:info@ruralamerica.org), website: [www.ruralamerica.org](http://www.ruralamerica.org)*