



## *Stand Up for Rural America*

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

December 18, 2008

#### *Stand Up Update*

**THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR RURAL AMERICA IN 2008 AND BEST WISHES FOR 2009! PEACE, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO ALL!**

*Despite earlier denials from former Iowa Governor Vilsak, he is President-elect Obama's nominee for USDA Secretary.*

**What the *Washington Post* called a "lobbyist feeding frenzy" continues around who gets what in the new Administration's economic stimulus bill. The rural people and places you serve and represent don't have a lot of lobbyists, but their needs and your ongoing work to strengthen this country by meeting them should be built into this bill.**

Why not contact your Senators and Representatives while Congress is recessed and they are at home. Get them the latest information on local conditions. Ask them to make sure that the stimulus bill really addresses the people and places you both serve. Communicate what you think the best ideas are. Contact the Transition team too. **Anyone can post to [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov). Just click on "Tell us your story" under the American Moment tab near the top of the page.** Remember the incoming Administration is talking about a two year effort. It isn't all a done deal yet.

#### *Funding and Financing Opportunities*

**HUD HAS ANNOUNCED THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROXIMATELY \$9.5 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS** to make emergency capital repairs to eligible multifamily projects owned by private nonprofit entities that are designated for occupancy by elderly tenants. The capital repair needs must relate to items that present an immediate threat to the health, safety, and quality of life of the tenants. HUD will accept applications on a first-come, first-serve basis and will award emergency capital repair grants until available amounts are obligated or funds expire, whichever comes first. To get an application package go to [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply\\_for\\_grants.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp).

**RD TO FUND PILOT PROGRAMS REGARDING HEIR PROPERTY.** Nonprofit community-based organizations can **apply by January 5, 2009** for funding to develop pilot programs to address issues facing rural African Americans with clouded title to real estate due to unresolved interests of generations of heirs. See *Federal Register*, 12/5/08, pp. 74133-37 or <http://www.grants.gov>. Contact RD staff, 202-720-8460.

**ASSETS FOR INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM** will award \$19 million in grants to establish and administer Assets for Independence (AFI) projects. Grantees provide an array of supports and services to enable individuals and families with low incomes to become economically self-sufficient for the long-term. **Deadline for submission is January 15, 2009.** For an application package go to [afiprogram@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:afiprogram@acf.hhs.gov).

**FUND FOR TEACHERS GRANT APPLICATIONS -- 2009** The application process for grants from the Fund for Teachers is now open. Rural teachers who wish to receive support to study and/or travel are encouraged to apply. Application deadline is **January 30, 2009.** For more information, go to <http://www.fundforteachers.org/>.

**HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES CALL FOR PROPOSALS.** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has announced a new call for proposals (CFP) for *Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities*, a national program whose primary goal is to implement healthy eating and active living initiatives that support healthier communities. The program places special emphasis on reaching children at highest risk for obesity on the basis of race/ethnicity, income and/or geographic location. **The deadline for brief proposals is February 3, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.** Go to [www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org](http://www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org) to download a copy of the CFP, review frequently asked questions (FAQs), register for an applicant conference call, and access the RWJF Grantmaking Online system.

**RD OFFERS HOUSEHOLD WATER WELL GRANTS. Nonprofits must apply by May 31, 2009** for Household Water Well System Grants to establish lending programs. See *Federal Register*, 11/20/08, pp. 70315-21 or <http://www.grants.gov>.

### *Training Events and Conferences*

**USDA's Global Agriculture Outlook Forum 2009**, Global Agriculture & Rural America In Transition with the theme "Food & Energy: Expectations & Realities" will be held **February 26-27, 2009** at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, VA. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum>.

**Build It Green** offers Certified Green Building Professional (CGBP) Training at various locations in California. Training participants may attend two 8-hour courses based on practical application of a variety of green building practices. Expert instructors and guest speakers provide in-depth presentations on green building and business topics. To learn more, go to <http://www.builditgreen.org/bigevents>.

### *Information and Other Resources*

**The Green Development Center (GDC) at Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)**, in partnership with the EPA, has developed an online guide designed to assist non-profits in building ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes. The GDC invites you to the launch of the new website. For more information, go to [http://www.lisc.org/gdc/energy\\_star/](http://www.lisc.org/gdc/energy_star/).

**Compatible, Innovative, Sustainable, and Green: Responsible Site Development and Leed Neighborhood Design.** Rural Ulster Preservation Company discusses its participation in the LEED Neighborhood Development Pilot Program and its plans for Woodstock Commons, green affordable housing in upstate New York. The article can be found in Housing Assistance Council's *Rural Voices*, here <http://www.ruralhome.org/infoRural.php>.

**New on the Web:** Anita Brown-Graham and William Lambe, *Measures and Methods: Four Tenets for Rural Economic Development in the New Economy*, Carsey Institute, go to <http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/PB-Brown-Graham-Measures08.pdf>.

*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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NOTE: The next issue of the *Reporter* will be published in mid-January.