



Stand Up for Rural America

Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

February 23, 2009

Stand Up + Policy Update

Rural Development didn't attract much attention, but, all things considered, it did very well in the Stimulus Bill. Here are some highlights.

✓ **Section 502**

\$1 billion in direct loans, \$10.472 billion in guaranteed loans.

✓ **Community Facilities**

\$130 million to support \$63 million in grants, \$13 million more than the Senate, and \$1.171 billion in direct loans only.

✓ **Business**

\$150 million to support \$20 million in Rural Business Enterprise Grants and \$2.99 billion in guaranteed loans.

✓ **Rural Water and Waste Disposal**

\$1.380 billion to support \$3.8 billion in grants and loans. (Split not confirmed.)

✓ **Broadband, Distance Learning and Telemedicine, etc.**

\$2.5 billion for grants, direct and guaranteed loans. (Split not confirmed.)

A CHALLENGE

Most of this funding expires September 30, 2010.

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS

There are many other items in the bill that bring, or could bring, important benefits to rural people and places, including:

→ \$2.25 billion to fill financing gaps in developments with Low Income Housing Tax Credits

→ \$1 billion in CDBG

→ \$5 billion to weatherize one million homes

- \$3.9 billion for job training
- \$1.1 billion for Early Head Start and \$1 billion for Head Start permitting another 124,000 infants and children to participate
- \$2 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant to provide child care serving 300,000 children whose parents are working, and
- Another \$13.2 billion for clean water and environmental clean-up.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO

http://us.gallerywatch.com/docs/news/us/agdocs/multipage/111_HR1_CR/index.html

Funding and Financing Opportunities

SECTION 538 GUARANTEES FOR RENTAL HOUSING LOANS OFFERED. USDA RD will review applications on a rolling basis. FY 2009 funding includes \$2 million for 2008 disaster areas. See *Federal Register*, 1/21/09, http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a090121c.html. Contact an RD state office listed in the FR notice or at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html.

GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ACCELERATING WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES to nonprofits, for-profits and public agencies. Grant application deadline is **3/3/09**. For more information go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&oppId=18714>.

AWARDS OFFERED BY HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION, AFFORDABLE HOUSING FINANCE MAGAZINE. Nonprofits are eligible for the Home Depot Foundation's Awards of Excellence for developing affordable homeownership or rental properties using green building techniques. Letters of inquiry must be submitted online by **March 31**. Visit <http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/awards.html>. AHF's Readers Choice Awards will go to Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects opening in 2008 or 2009; nominations are due **April 17**. General partner developers of LIHTC properties can be nominated for a top 50 list by February 13 and young leaders (under age 40) by **March 13**. Visit <http://www.housingfinance.com/newsletters/2009/ahfu011409.htm> (Events/Announcements heading) or contact Donna Kimura, dkimura@hanleywood.com, 415-315-1241 ext. 309.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDITS APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 8. Apply by March 3 for Community Development Entity status. By law, rural CDEs must receive a proportionate share of awards. See *Federal Register*, 1/22/09 or <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. Contact CDFI Fund staff, 202-622-6355, cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov.

Training Events and Conferences

NAAHL'S Washington, DC Summit will be held **March 3-4** at the St. Regis Hotel. "There's a new team in town...a whole new ball game..." is this year's theme. For more information, go to <http://www.naahl.org/Default.aspx?tabid=557&xmid=2031>.

Aging in America, the 2009 Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging takes place **March 15-19 in Las Vegas**. The ASA-NCOA Conference is recognized as a showcase for programs and projects that can be replicated, a forum for policy discussion and advocacy, and a prime source of information on new research findings in aging. For more information, please go to <http://www.agingconference.org/asav2/conf/jc/jc09/index2.cfm>.

National Farm to Cafeteria Conference "Going the Distance and Shortening It" will be held **March 19-21, 2009** at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. To register, go to <http://www.farmentoschool.org/events.php>.

GreenSense Beyond Buildings is a one-day event to be held **March 31, 2009** at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The conference features breakout sessions, an exhibit hall and a green tour. For more information go to <http://www.gbapgh.org/greenSense2009.asp>.

2009 National Low Income Housing Coalition's Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day will be **April 19-22** at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. The event includes more than 30 federal policy and research workshops. For more information and to register, go to <https://www2398.sslldomain.com/nlihc/conference/index.cfm>.

Information and Other Resources

Cornerstone Renter Equity Program started in 2002 in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati to enhance the financial security of low-income renters. Through participation in the program low-income renters build wealth, develop ownership skills and help stabilize their community. To learn more, go to <http://www.cornerstoneloanfund.org>.

The Grantseeker's Guide to Winning Proposals. This publication has 35 actual proposals printed in full. These proposals led to grants for general operating support, program development, staff salaries, program evaluation and more. The book is available through the Foundation Center's website for \$34.95 at http://foundationcenter.org/marketplace/catalog/product_monograph.jhtml?id=prod2010001&navContent=1&navAction=jump.

Housing and Child Health is a new study that reveals that children whose families move frequently or live in overcrowded conditions are almost twice as likely to suffer from hunger and poor health than those in stable housing. Read the full report at <http://www.c-snap.org/upload/resource/BringingChildrenFromtheCold.pdf>.

Release of New Housing Policy Research Briefs. As part of the National Housing Conference, on February 17 The Center for Housing Policy released the first of three research briefs in a new series entitled *Insights from Housing Policy Research*. The series highlights the findings and policy implications of housing policy research supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and other related research. For more information, go to <http://www.nhc.org/index/events-housingsolutionsweek-calendar>.

HUD Implements Upfront Tenant Income Verification Process. PHAs and owners and managers of other assisted housing will be required to use HUD's Enterprise Income Verification system, effective March 30. See *Federal Register*, 1/27/09. Contact Nicole Faison, HUD, 202-708-0744.

HUD Releases General NOFA Information, will issue separate program NOFAs this year. NOFAs for specific programs will be published between January and June. See *Federal Register*, 12/29/08. Contact HUD, 202-708-0667.

Population, Housing Data Updated For Midsized Places. For the first time since the 2000 Census these data are available for counties, cities, and towns with populations of 20,000-64,999, through the American Community Survey. Visit <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2004/NewsMediaKit.html>.

Self-Help Funding Falls Short For FY 09. Expecting demand to exceed resources for Section 523 funding again this year, RD will not fund new and predevelopment grants. Existing grantees will receive up to 75% of the amount requested, with the rest obligated later if funds are available. See Unnumbered Letter (January 5, 2009), available at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/ul_list.html or from RD offices.

South Carolina Rural Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina focuses on investigating persistent inequities in health status within the population of the rural US, with an emphasis on inequities stemming from socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity, and access to healthcare services. The Center strives to make research findings useful to organizations and individuals working to improve the quality of life for rural residents. You can read or download a number of useful reports like "'Health Disparities: A Rural – Urban Chartbook" at <http://rhr.sph.sc.edu/index.php>.

Send information on funding opportunities, events, publications, resources or rural related policy issues to reporter@ruralamerica.org. Announcements will be published at our discretion based on space and applicability.

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