



Stand Up for Rural America

Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

March 17, 2009

Stand Up Update

GOOD NEWS IN FY 2009 BUDGET. Important programs with rural impact secured significant funding increases, including the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG, \$50 million), HOME (\$125 million), Section 8 project based vouchers (\$670 million) and tenant based vouchers (\$630 million), Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED, \$9 million or 50+ percent), Section 521 rental assistance (\$416 million) and CDFI (\$13 million or 10+ percent).

Also, RCDI, one of our goals, was funded again at \$6.2 million.

Policy Update

For a terrific comprehensive summary of the stimulus bill, other informative resources, and how to access these monies, visit <http://www.councilofnonprofits.org/stimulus>. A word to the wise, contact your Representative(s) and Senators for help.

Funding and Financing Opportunities

FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM offers funding up to \$100,000 to increase domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Examples of direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities include new farmers' markets, roadside stands, community supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer infrastructures. **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 27, 2009.** For more information go to [http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&navID=Home&topNav=Home&page=FMPP&description=Farmers%20Market%20Promotion%20Program%20\(FMPP\)&acct=fmpp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&navID=Home&topNav=Home&page=FMPP&description=Farmers%20Market%20Promotion%20Program%20(FMPP)&acct=fmpp).

ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT GRANTS are available to nonprofits and public agencies for up to \$300,000 for the provision of substance abuse treatment services to adolescents and their families/primary caregivers using previously proven effective practices that are family centered. **THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 24, 2009.** For more information on these grants go to http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2009/ti_09_002.aspx.

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. The Office of Community Services (OCS) recently issued the FY '09 Community Economic Development Projects

RFP. Grants to \$800,000/year for up to three years will be made to fund all kinds of community development and economic development projects to nonprofits and Community Development Corporations (CDCs). **THE DEADLINE IS MAY 28, BUT AN OPTIONAL LETTER OF INTENT IS DUE APRIL 28.** To learn more about this opportunity, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2009-ACF-OCS-EE-0034.html>.

Training Events and Conferences

The Central California Rural Roundtable will be held Apr 2 - 3, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, CA. The meeting is an informal gathering of rural stakeholders to share resources and gain insight into rural health issues affecting Central California's rural areas. For more information, go to http://www.csrha.org/outreach2/centralrr_april09.html.

The Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership is offering a conference entitled “Boards in Uncertain Times: Exploring the Implications of Financial, Technological and Generational Change for Nonprofit Governance.” The event will be held **April 23-24, 2009** at the Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. Topics will address the complex and changing nature of nonprofit governance and the boards that engage in it. For more information, see <http://bsbpa.umkc.edu/mwcnl/Conferences/GovernanceConf2009/Introduction.htm>.

Reclaiming Vacant Properties: Building Leadership to Restore Communities is a conference that will be offered by the National Vacant Properties Campaign on **June 1-3** in Louisville, KY. The event offers opportunities to share successful initiatives taking place across the country and discuss the new opportunities to change the federal and state policies that affect our cities and towns. To view the program and to register, go to <http://reclaimingvacantproperties.org/registration/>.

CFED's 2009 National Conference on Children and Youth Savings will be held **June 15-16** at the New York Marriot Hotel at the Brooklyn Bridge. The theme for this year's event is “Rebuilding Wealth...One Child at a Time.” The conference brings together a mix of 250 practitioners, policymakers, bankers, researchers and advocates from every region of the country, along with international leaders, who will report and learn about the possibilities and promise of children and youth savings programs. For more information, go to <http://www.cdaconference.org/>.

Information and Other Resources

FIRST WAVE OF USDA ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING has been announced by USDA. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will be delivering its first actions implementing the \$28 billion provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Funding includes: USDA Rural Development Agency will initially provide nearly 10,000 rural families with \$14.9 million for homeownership financing. The agency will also release funding for more than \$400 million in pending applications for Water and Waste grants and \$140 million in pending applications for Water and Waste Direct Loans. To read more, go to <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/03/0051.xml>.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FY 2010: WHAT'S IN IT FOR RURAL AMERICA? The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) offers a brief on the President's Budget and summarizes the main rural-specific proposals as well as some of those that could have important spatial implications, and organizes these proposals into eight broad categories. To read the brief, go to <http://www.rupri.org/leftsidemore.php?selectedid=18>.

SENATE DEMOCRATS' RURAL AGENDA. A Delta Farm Press, (TN) article reports that Senate Democrats have unveiled a "rural agenda" for the 111th Congress and a Web site highlighting issues important to rural communities and promoting policies that will benefit rural areas. To read the article, go to <http://deltafarmpress.com/legislative/rural-agenda-0313/>. To access the web site for the rural agenda, go to <http://www.democrats.senate.gov/rural/>.

Experts Online Archive: What's inside the Stimulus Package - An overview for CDCs and their partners. An archived webcast from March 6, 2009 featured an overview of the Economic Recovery legislation and how it affects funding opportunities in community development. Now that Congress has reached a compromise and the President has signed Economic Recovery legislation, CDCs are looking for "breadcrumbs" that help community developers find a path through funding opportunities. NACEDA and LISC gives an overview of what is inside the stimulus package and how CDCs can engage in the places where they work. This fact-filled hour will provide a framework of information to help nonprofits consider potential action opportunities and strategies for Economic Recovery money and policy. To register and view the recording, go to <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/playback/Playback.do?id=sxg1sy9x>. The presentation packet of materials can be downloaded from the LISC website, <http://www.lisc.org/content/publications/detail/8096>.

Energy Star Qualified Homes Guide. An internet resource designed to help you get projects on the road to green by meeting ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes standards. A link to rehab guidelines is also available. Resource guides are customized to your local office. Go to: http://www.lisc.org/section/goals/healthy/green_dev/energy_star/.

States and the Recession. The Pew Center on the States' Stateline.org features a snapshot of how the recession is hitting all 50 states. To find the most recent unemployment and foreclosure figures for your state go to <http://www.stateline.org/live/issues/Economy+&+Business>.

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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