



*Stand Up for Rural America –*

**Rural Community Developers Network Reporter**

*Pennsylvania Supplement*

**2006-2007 COMMONWEALTH BUDGET EDITION**

*News*

**The General Assembly and Governor Rendell Have Approved the 2006-2007**

**Commonwealth Budget.** On Sunday, July 2, 2006, Governor Edward Rendell signed the Commonwealth Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Highlights include:

- \$4.5 billion in Local Economic Development Assistance, the same as the 2005-2006 funding level. Budget proposals had incorporated a decrease in this funding. For more information on this as well as other community development line items, visit: [http://www.peda.org/news\\_latest\\_budget06.shtml](http://www.peda.org/news_latest_budget06.shtml).
- \$3 million each to supplement crop insurance premiums and fund research by the Department of Agriculture. For more agriculture related budget details, visit:

<http://www.pfb.com/media-center/news-releases/2006%20Releases/july-5-state-budget.htm>.

- \$297 million in business tax reductions.
- The Cover All Kids Program, which expands access to health insurance coverage to all uninsured children in the Commonwealth.
- A \$1.4 billion (5.8%) increase in spending, just over half of which is dedicated to education.

For budget highlights, please visit: [http://www.budget.state.pa.us/budget/lib/budget/2006-2007/2006\\_07enacted\\_budget\\_highlights.pdf](http://www.budget.state.pa.us/budget/lib/budget/2006-2007/2006_07enacted_budget_highlights.pdf). For the full text of the budget, please visit: <http://www.budget.state.pa.us/budget/lib/budget/2006-2007/hb2499p4513.pdf>.

### ***Funding and Financing***

**Relief Available for Flood Victims.** On July 7 Fannie Mae announced a mortgage relief plan for those homeowners affected by the flooding and mudslides that began on June 23, 2006 in Pennsylvania. With Fannie Mae's assistance, appropriate relief measures may include suspending the borrower's mortgage payments for up to three months, reducing the borrower's mortgage payments for up to 18 months, or in more severe cases, creating an extended loan payback plan for the borrower. For more information on mortgage relief, homeowners who have experienced disaster hardships should contact the lender to whom they send their monthly mortgage payment or visit <http://www.fanniemae.com/newsreleases/>.

## **Small Business Advantage Grant Program to Help Companies Become More**

**Environmentally Friendly.** On July 7, 2006, Governor Rendell announced the investment of \$1 million to aid small businesses in becoming more environmentally and energy efficient. The Small Business Advantage Grant Program allows qualifying businesses to receive matching grants of up to 50%, with a \$7,500 limit. For more information, visit:

<http://www.ahs.dep.state.pa.us/newsreleases/default.asp?ID=4034&varQueryType=Detail>

**Please visit the following websites for additional information on funding and financing opportunities:**

PA Department of Community and Economic Development Funding/Grant Resources:  
<http://www.newpa.com/programFinder.aspx>

PA Department of Agriculture Grant Program  
<http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=128593>  
[http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/lib/agriculture/legalreference/007\\_0105.pdf](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/lib/agriculture/legalreference/007_0105.pdf)

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Resource List  
[http://phfa.org/forms/newsletter/quick\\_connections/masterresourcelist.pdf](http://phfa.org/forms/newsletter/quick_connections/masterresourcelist.pdf)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh Front Door Program  
[http://www.fhfb-pgh.com/media-center/press-releases/2006/news\\_pr\\_060806ffd.htm](http://www.fhfb-pgh.com/media-center/press-releases/2006/news_pr_060806ffd.htm)

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission:  
<http://northerntier.org/newGrants.php>

North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission:  
<http://web2.ncentral.com/ncprpdc/>

Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance:  
<http://www.nepa-alliance.org/ncac.htm>

Susquehanna Economic Development Association – Council of Governments:  
[http://www.seda-cog.org/seda\\_cog/cwp/view.asp?a=610&Q=394754&seda\\_cogNav=|6271|](http://www.seda-cog.org/seda_cog/cwp/view.asp?a=610&Q=394754&seda_cogNav=|6271|)

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission:  
<http://sapdc.org/sapdc/cwp/view.asp?a=1345&Q=515448&sapdcNav=|33015|>

Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission:  
<http://www.nwcommission.org/>

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission:  
<http://www.spcregion.org/plan.shtml>

### ***Training Events and Conferences\****

#### **July 26, 2006**

Webcast on Rural Telecommunications Initiatives  
Pennsylvania Rural Development Council  
Capitol Media Center  
Harrisburg, PA  
Phone: (717) 705-0431  
Email: [ruralpa@state.pa.us](mailto:ruralpa@state.pa.us)  
<http://www.ruralpa.state.pa.us/>

#### **August 17, 2006**

PHFA Pre-Application Workshop  
Radisson Hotel  
Pittsburgh, PA  
To register, or for more information, call: (717) 780-3876

#### **August 21, 2006**

PHFA New Developer's Workshop  
Holliday Inn, Harrisburg East  
Harrisburg, PA  
To register, or for more information, call: (717) 780-3876

#### **August 22, 2006**

PHFA Pre-Application Workshop  
Holliday Inn, Harrisburg East  
Harrisburg, PA  
To register, or for more information, call: (717) 780-3876

#### **August 24, 2006**

PHFA Pre-Application Workshop  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
King of Prussia, PA  
To register, or for more information, call: (717) 780-3876

**September 11-13, 2006**

2006 Annual Conference  
Neighborhood Funders Group  
The Millennium Hotel  
Durham, NC  
Phone: (202) 833-4690  
<http://www.nfg.org/>

**October 20-21 , 2006**

Statewide Project Grass Conference  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Penn College  
Williamsport, PA  
Phone: (570) 784-4401  
Email: [kris.ribbon@pa.usda.gov](mailto:kris.ribbon@pa.usda.gov)  
<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/>

**October 23-27, 2006**

Show Me the Money: Grant Writing and Grant Search Workshop  
Community Partnerships RC&D  
Union County Government Center  
Lewisburg, PA  
Phone: (717) 248-4901  
Email: [midstatercd@yahoo.com](mailto:midstatercd@yahoo.com)

**\*Listings courtesy of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. For a comprehensive list of events and conferences check the Center's website at <http://www.ruralpa.org/events.html>.**