



# RHD Rural Delivery

New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc.

April, 2004

## State Budget Once Again Late

New York State is starting its new fiscal year without a budget. When housing advocates visited Albany in February, there was much optimism that the Legislature and the Governor would agree on a timely spending plan for the first time in twenty years. It didn't happen. Legislators this week passed emergency spending bills that would keep the state running until they return from their April recess. Recent predictions that the budget would be resolved by early May could also turn out

to be overly optimistic.

Education spending was expected to be a difficult issue for State budget makers this year and is now viewed as the principle reason that the budget negotiations have been derailed. Earlier this week Governor Pataki's education reform panel issued their report suggesting that meeting the requirement of recent court decisions will cost the state between \$2.5 billion and \$5.6 billion dollars more annually than the State now spends. Legislative leaders and

the Governor will have to come to terms on how, when, and where these funds should come from, on top of the estimated \$5 billion dollar shortfall they were already trying to address.

Legislative leaders and their staff members are still generally hopeful that funding cuts to the Rural and Neighborhood Preservation Programs will be restored. However, housing advocates are concerned that delays in the budget and the pressure of education funding may put those restorations at risk.

## \$45 Million In Financial Assistance Available From CDFI Fund Under The CDFI Program

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) is inviting applications for approximately \$45 million of available funding from the CDFI Program.

The funds are part of the CDFI Program's financial assistance component, which the CDFI Fund calls "its flagship community and economic development finance program."

The announcement was published in the February 26, 2004, Federal Register, and it signals the beginning of fiscal year 2004 funding notices from CDFI Fund (which is a bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department). The CDFI Fund has not said when it will announce funding availability for the technical assistance component of the CDFI Program,

the Bank Enterprise Awards Program, and Native American Initiatives.

The CDFI Fund has certified over 650 CDFIs to date. CDFIs certified by the CDFI Fund are eligible to apply for the financial assistance component of the CDFI Program. CDFIs that are not yet certified but have applied for certification by March 31, 2004, may also apply. Awards will range from under \$300,000 to \$2 million, the CDFI Fund states in the Federal Register.

The CDFI Fund says it will target its awards to CDFIs that engage in affordable housing, economic development, financial services, and organizational support activities.

**The deadline for applications is April 28, 2004.**

Important changes have been made for fiscal year 2004 funding, including: a focus on small and emerging CDFIs; inclusion of criteria enabling rural areas to be eligible due to county population loss and net outmigration; launching an improved version of the CDFI Fund's electronic helpdesk, dubbed the CDFI Information and Mapping System; and an improved electronic application, which is available online.

For more information, see the Federal Register, Vol. 69, No. 38, February 26, 2004, pp. 9018-9026. On the Web: [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a040226c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040226c.html).

Information is also available on the website for the CDFI Program at [www.cdfifund.gov/programs/fa/](http://www.cdfifund.gov/programs/fa/).

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Rural Delivery is published by the New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc. a nonprofit membership organization. The Coalition is a statewide membership organization dedicated to strengthening and revitalizing rural New York by assisting housing and community development providers. Rural Delivery has a distribution of 255 copies per issue.

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## Bits and Pieces...

### DHCR Seminar Series In May

The Business of Joint Venturing is the topic for the third installment of the DHCR 2004 Housing Development Series. Presented by Monte Frank, the workshop is intended to provide guidance to nonprofits in structuring fair and solid "business deals" when partnering with for-profit developers to develop affordable housing. The seminars will help nonprofits decide when they should consider joint ventures. Attendees will also learn about the structure of joint ventures and develop skills needed to negotiate successful joint ventures. Seminars will be presented in Syracuse on May 3, Buffalo on May 4, Albany on May 10 and New York on May 11. For more information check the DHCR website at [www.dhcr.state.ny.us](http://www.dhcr.state.ny.us).

### April 13th Deadline For FannieMae Foundation Grants

In 2004, the Fannie Mae Foundation will offer a limited number of grants to nonprofit organizations for general operating support. The intent of the grants is to help build their capacity and increase their impact. Applications are due on April 13th. This is the only opportunity to submit an unsolicited funding request to the foundation in 2004. For more information, visit [www.fanniemae.foundation.org/grants/grants\\_for\\_organizations.shtml](http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/grants/grants_for_organizations.shtml).

### New Markets Tax Credit Conference This Month

The deadline for registration for the April 22nd New Markets Tax Credit Conference in Washington, DC is fast approaching. "Financing Change: New Markets Tax Credits in 2004" is a one-day conference will focus on how NMTCs can help lower interest rates and deliver financial flexibility for a variety of projects. Expert, experienced speakers will illustrate how the credit can unite commercial and economic development efforts with private capital markets to yield 'win-win' outcomes for all. Special attention will be paid to innovative structures that deserve a closer look, including 'leveraged' NMTC models and projects that use the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit. For more information and to register online, visit [www.ipedinc.net/content/2004\\_04\\_22.asp](http://www.ipedinc.net/content/2004_04_22.asp).

*Register now for the October Conference!*  
*Binghamton Regency Hotel (800) 723-7676*

## EEA Offers Mold Training

Environmental Education Associates will hold training courses on mold during April, May, June, and July. Mold courses meet national insurance underwritten approval and manufacturers' requirements for fungicide use.

*Mold Awareness* will be held in Buffalo on May 11th and June 8th, in Syracuse on April 13th and July 29th.

Mold Investigation will be held in Buffalo on June 8-10th, and in Syracuse on April 13-15th.

*Mold Abatement* will be held in Buffalo on May 11-13th, and Syracuse on July 27-29th.

For more information on courses, and to register online, visit [www.environmentaleducation.com](http://www.environmentaleducation.com), or call (888)4 ENV EDU (436-8338).

## Coalition Welcomes New Staff

The Rural Housing Coalition is pleased to welcome John Grover to the staff in Albany. John will be overseeing the administration of the Coalition's Supportive Housing and Continuum of Care development efforts. He retired from the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program of NYS OTDA last year, and brings a wealth of knowledge on homelessness issues to the Coalition. John can be reached at (518) 458-8696, ext 12, or by email at [john@ruralhousing.org](mailto:john@ruralhousing.org).

## HOME Limits Published

The 2004 HOME rent and income limits (effective March 15th) have been posted. You can access them from the main HUD page under the green box labeled "HOME Reports and Limits" at: [www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/programs/home/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/programs/home/index.cfm).

## RFP Issued for Service Learning Partnership

State Farm Insurance Companies® and the National Service-Learning Partnership are seeking proposals for a three-year initiative to grow the practice of service-learning in K-12 school districts nationally.

The Good Neighbor Service-Learning Initiative will fund six school districts a total of \$90,000 (\$15,000 each) over three years to integrate and sustain service-learning in their schools, school districts and surrounding community.

Service-learning is a form of instruction in which students design projects to address community needs as part of their academic studies.

Using service-learning, elementary

## Local Initiative Proposals Due June 1

June 1st is the deadline for completing the online brief proposal for funding under the Local Initiative Funding Partners program, which provides grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 for multi-year support to nonprofits as matching grants for projects that provide community based services that are new/innovative or significantly expand programs into new regions or to new populations. This program is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Securing matching funds from local corporations, private foundations, religious organizations, fundraising activities, or individual benefactors are key to having a competitive application for this program.

For more information on applying for this funding, visit [www.lifp.org/html.local.initiatives.funding.partners.how.to.apply.html](http://www.lifp.org/html.local.initiatives.funding.partners.how.to.apply.html).

## HAC Offers Non-Profit Resource

The Housing Assistance Council has updated it's "Guide to Fundraising for Rural Housing Nonprofits: Strategies for Raising Operating Funds". The guide can be downloaded for free from HAC's website, or purchased for

school students tutor younger students, and both improve their mastery of essential literacy skills. Similarly, math students make calculations that persuade the local authorities to install a traffic light near their school to reduce accidents at a dangerous intersection. History students research the local heroes identified on plaques in their community and share what they have learned at the annual Memorial Day ceremony. Language arts students hone their writing skills by organizing a campaign to reduce bullying on their school buses. For more information, visit: [www.service-learningpartnership.org/service\\_learning/SF\\_GoodNeighborInitiative.cfm](http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/service_learning/SF_GoodNeighborInitiative.cfm).

## MetLife Foundation Award Nominations Due

The 2004 nominations for the MetLife Foundation's Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing are due on April 30th. The MetLife Foundation partners with the Enterprise Foundation each year to recognize community-based not-for-profit agencies or tribal entities in the categories of property and asset management, and supportive housing. Winners in each category will receive unrestricted grants of up to \$25,000.

The nomination application is available online at [www.enterprisefoundation.org/metlife](http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/metlife). Applications and award program information are also available by calling Sabina Cardenas at (410) 772-2738.

\$3.50 in hard copy. Order hard copies from Luz Rosas by email at [luz@ruralhome.org](mailto:luz@ruralhome.org). The publication can be downloaded at [www.ruralhome.org/pubs/nonprofit/fundraisingGuide2004update.pdf](http://www.ruralhome.org/pubs/nonprofit/fundraisingGuide2004update.pdf).

## NOFA Issued For Single Room Occupancy Support Services Program (SRO)

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Single Room Occupancy Support Services Program (SRO) in the Spring of 2004. Funds available under this program are subject to the passage of the SFY 2004-2005 Aid to Localities Budget.

The Single Room Occupancy Support Services Program (SRO) was enacted by the legislature in August 1987, pursuant to Title 2, Article 2-A of the Social Services Law in order to provide appropriate support services to single adults living in SRO's and to assist them in living independently. The support services provided under this program include a range of social services, daily living skills assistance, and informational services which foster independent living and which cannot be funded by other existing state and local funding streams. Eligible applicants for funding are social services districts or not-for-profit corporations including charitable and faith based organizations incorporated or organized under the

laws of the State of New York.

Social services districts that receive funds under this program will be required to match them on a dollar-for-dollar basis through direct grants to the non-profit recipients. However, where the Commissioner of OTDA determines that direct local district participation is not possible, districts may substitute actual or in-kind expenditures by eligible not-for-profit/charitable organizations. Eligible not-for-profit/charitable organizations receiving grants directly from the state must match State funds with actual or in-kind expenditures financed from other sources.

For more information, or to obtain a copy of the RFP, contact Edward McCarthy via e-mail at: [LA0088@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:LA0088@dfa.state.ny.us), or write to him in care of: New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Division of Transitional Supports and Policy, Bureau of Housing Services 40 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12243.

Telephone (518) 486-6102, Fax: (518) 486-7068.

## Southern Tier Group Learns Grantwriting Skills

Nearly 60 members of staff and community volunteers gathered in Owego, New York on March 27th to learn about the process of writing competitive grant applications. The group gathered on a brisk Saturday morning for a day long training on researching funding opportunities and developing concise funding proposals for a variety of social service and community development projects and programs.

The training was given to benefit the staff of Tioga Opportunities, Inc. and was co-hosted by the Tioga REAP program. The training program was supported by the Department of Housing

and Urban Development. The trainers were Anne Patnode and Colin McKnight of the Rural Housing Coalition.



*The Owego Trainees Discuss How To Succinctly Describe Their Program To A Funding Agency*

## Welcome New Members!

The Rural Housing Coalition is pleased to welcome two new members this month:

Tioga REAP LDC, attention Larissa Gryczko Avellaneda, 56 Main Street, Owego, NY 13827; and Scott Shaw, The DiMarco Group, 1950 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Road, Rochester NY 14623.

Membership in the Coalition is open to anyone with an interest in improving the quality of life in New York's rural communities. For information on becoming a member, contact David Rustin at (518) 458-8696, ext. 10, or by email at [david@ruralhousing.org](mailto:david@ruralhousing.org).

## Save The Date

LIFE, the Low-Income Forum on Energy, is planning a series of regional meetings across the state during April and May. LIFE Regional Meetings are a great way to learn about the issues that impact low-income energy consumers and to become familiar with the people and the programs that help low-income households to address their energy needs.

Sponsored by the NYS Public Service Commission and NYSERDA, the regional meetings will feature sessions on housing and energy, consumer protection issues, regional profiles and the changing resource picture.

LIFE Regional Meetings are scheduled starting April 20th. The registration fee is \$35 which covers lunch, materials and breaks. A detailed schedule and agenda along with a registration form is available at <http://www.lifenynews.org>. If you would like to receive information about the regional meeting series by mail, please contact the LIFE Registrar, Sandra Dwyer at [lifenynews@capital.net](mailto:lifenynews@capital.net) or by calling call the Community Power Network of NY at (518) 251-2525.

## Smart Growth Guide Published

*Getting To Growth: 100 More Policies for Implementation* presents a variety of smart growth tools, policies and approaches that emphasize private sector action to create more livable communities. This is the second guide in a series published by the Smart Growth Network. The guide can be downloaded at [www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org).

## Gould Named Woman of the Year

Jennifer Gould, Executive Director of the M-Ark Project in Margaretville, (and the Membership Committee Chair of the Rural Housing Coalition's Board of Directors) was recently named Woman of the Year by the Fleischmann's Chamber of Commerce. Jennifer was recognized for her expansive vision and active support resulting in countless benefits to the Village of Fleischmanns. Over the past year, Jennifer has worked closely with the Chamber and Village officials to rejuvenate what she calls "one of the hidden architectural jewels of the Catskills."

In addition to her leadership of the M-Ark Project, Jennifer is the Second Vice Chair of the Margaretville Memorial Hospital and the Chair of the Margaretville Memorial Hospital Foundation. She was named woman of the year in 2000 by the YWCA of Ulster County. She has worked closely with the Catskill Watershed Commission on projects to address the impacts of development restrictions in the towns governed by New York City Department of Environmental Protection watershed regulations.

The M-Ark Project is a Rural Preservation Company serving the Delaware County towns of Middletown and Roxbury in the central Catskills. Fleischmann's is one of 3 villages located in Middletown.

## Lead Based Paint Training Scheduled

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS will sponsor a training update on Lead Based Paint Hazard Regulations in April and May. The workshop will be lead by Cliff Olin and Alan Wagner of EcoSpect, Inc.

The workshop is designed to help CHDO's and potential CHDO's to avoid hazard control compliance issues with the lead-based paint regulations; identify resource information to fund LBP activities; develop safe work practices and streamline paperwork; and provide information regarding insurance.

The workshops will be held in Poughkeepsie on April 13th, Brooklyn on April 19th, Manhattan on April 20th, and Rochester on May 6th. All workshops run from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

For more information, contact the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition at (518) 432-6757.

## AHC Workshops Slated For May

Watch your mailboxes for announcement of an upcoming series of trainings on utilizing AHC, HOME, and other program funding jointly in May. Workshops will be held in Poughkeepsie, Utica and Rochester, on May 18th, 19th, and 25th, respectively.

The New York State Rural Housing Coalition is happy to be able to provide help wanted advertising opportunities for our members and non-profit community development agencies. Ad copy must be provided in Microsoft Word format, and may be transmitted by email to [rhc@ruralhousing.org](mailto:rhc@ruralhousing.org). Ad copy must comply with federal and state equal opportunity requirements to be published, and must be received by the 25th of the month to ensure placement in the succeeding issue of *Rural Delivery*. Ads provided in this fashion will also be posted in the Career Opportunities page of the Coalition's website, unless a request is specifically made not to place the advertisement on-line.

## Career Opportunities

### Homeownership Counselor

The Affordable Housing Partnership seeks a Homeownership Counselor, specializing in mortgage default and post purchase counseling. The position will involve providing financial counseling to clients in default on their mortgage to develop a plan to prevent foreclosure, and assisting in the implementation of a new anti-predatory lending program. The position requires good written and oral skills, comfort in giving group presentations, knowledge of Windows and Microsoft Word/Excel, experience in budget counseling, and/or consumer/mortgage lending. Bi-lingual is a plus. Salary \$25,000-27,000 per year, DOE, plus benefits after 1 year.

Send resume to Susan Cotner, Executive Director, Affordable Housing Partnership, 175 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. EOE

### Housing Counselor (PT)

The Affordable Housing Partnership seeks a Housing Counselor, specializing in pre-purchase counseling, budgeting and credit repair on a part-time basis. The position will involve presentation of homebuyer education programs, providing financial counseling to clients interested in purchasing their first home, and providing post-purchase home ownership counseling. The position requires good written and oral skills, knowledge of Windows and Microsoft Word/Excel, experience in budget counseling, and/or consumer/mortgage lending. Bi-lingual is a plus.

Send resume to Susan Cotner, Executive Director, Affordable Housing Partnership, 175 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. EOE

## **\$7 Million Available for Nonprofits from the Compassion Capital Fund**

The Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is inviting nonprofits and faith-based organizations to compete for support from the Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Program, according to the March 19, 2004, Federal Register.

The Administration for Children and Families states in the Federal Register that it is looking to fund “intermediary organizations with demonstrated expertise and a proven track record in working with and providing technical assistance to faith-based and community organizations in a variety of areas.” Intermediaries funded by the demonstration program will provide technical assistance and subawards to faith-based and community groups.

The Compassion Capital Fund is a key element of the Government’s faith-

based initiative, according to the Fund’s website. The Fund administers two grant programs: the demonstration program mentioned above and the Targeted Capacity Building Program, which supports faith-based and community organizations with one-time, \$50,000 awards for capacity building.

The Administration for Children and Families says in the Federal Register it anticipates making 12 cooperative agreements for a total of \$7 million from the Demonstration Program. The average award will fall between \$400,000 and \$800,000, and no award will exceed \$1 million, the Administration for Children and Families adds. There is a 20 percent matching requirement. In 2002, the Fund’s first year of operation, a total of \$24.7 million was awarded to 21 intermediary organizations, the Web site says.

These intermediaries then gave over \$10 million in subawards to over 550 grassroots, faith-based and community organizations addressing the needs of the homeless, elderly, at-risk youth, families in transition from welfare to work, and those in need of intensive rehabilitation such as addicts or prisoners.

While many types of organizations may compete, ACF says it “encourages applications from applicants that propose to work with and have experience working with faith-based and community organizations that historically have not been well served or supported by governmental funds.”

The deadline for applications is May 18, 2004. For more information, contact [OCS@LCGNET.COM](mailto:OCS@LCGNET.COM), (800)281-9519, or visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccf/>.

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*Visit Our Website At [WWW.ruralhousing.org](http://WWW.ruralhousing.org)*

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