



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development

**RURAL GATEWAY PEER-TO-PEER CONFERENCE CALL**  
**Community Economic Development and Community Action Efforts in Rural America:**  
**A Discussion of Best Practices**  
**Date: March 28, 2013**  
**Time: 1:00 p.m. EST**

The Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) invites you to take part in our next Peer-to-Peer conference call. Scheduled for **March 28, 2013**, this call will provide information on opportunities for improving conditions in Rural America through partnerships with Community Economic Development (CED) program grantees and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)-funded Community Action Agencies (CAAs).

CED funds Community Development Corporations that address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of sustainable business development and employment opportunities.

CSBG supports a nationwide network of over 1000 local CAAs, covering 99% of U.S. counties, whose purpose is to reduce the causes of poverty in the low-income communities they serve.

Conference call participants will have the opportunity to discuss best practices and resource opportunities relating to community economic development activities in rural communities.

Join HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Community Services as we engage rural community leaders in this open forum. Speakers will include:

- Valerie G. Piper, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- Jackie L. Williams, Ph.D., Director, Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development, Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- Jeannie Chaffin, Director, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- Karen Harris, Community Development Program Specialist, Community Economic Development, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- Stacy Flowers, Director, Community Economic Development, Community Action Partnership; and
- Robert Goldsmith, President and CEO, People Incorporated of Virginia

**Topics to be discussed**

- Community Economic Development program and upcoming Funding Opportunity Announcements
- Community Services Block Grant-funded Community Action Agencies
- Community economic development resources
- Examples of community economic development activities
- Public and private sources of funding to carry out projects
- Best practices and lessons-learned

**Format of the call:**

Call-in instructions and additional materials will be emailed to participants on **March 27, 2013**. The call will consist of a 60 minute presentation by our speakers, followed by a Q&A session.

Please **RSVP** by email to [rhed@hud.gov](mailto:rhed@hud.gov) no later than close of business on **March 27, 2013**. Please include your name and organization.

**If you have any questions, please call 1-877-RURAL-26 (1-877-787-2526).**