

## PUBLICATIONS

[State by State Economic Development Resource Guide](#) – From the Foundation for Rural Service.

[5 traps that will prevent you from making real change](#) - When you're in the early stages of planning dialogues, it can be easy to get stuck and not know what's stalling your progress. Here are five common traps that can prevent you from making real change, and ways to avoid them.

[Guide: Building Stronger, Safer Communities](#)

This guide, produced by Not In Our Town and the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office, offers leadership strategies and actionable tactics to help law enforcement agencies work with community partners. This guide also provides multiples lists of resources to promote action, engagement, and empowerment for the community and law enforcement.

**NASWA Publishes State Supplemental Funding Survey FY 2013** [Click here for full document.](#)

Over the last 20 years, the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) has surveyed state workforce agencies to determine the amount of state funds used to supplement federal grants to operate a variety of federal workforce and unemployment insurance programs. The NASWA State Supplemental Funding Survey is the Association's longest running survey, with NASWA collecting supplemental funding information from states since 1994.

The NASWA State Supplemental Funding Survey, overseen by the NASWA Administration and Finance Committee, helps gauge the actual expenditures for unemployment insurance (UI) administration, Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES), Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs, labor market information (LMI) activities, interest payments on Title XII Unemployment Trust Fund balances, and any other activities which are supported with state funds, but cannot be classified into one single category. The four categories of funding sources include: State Penalty and Interest, State General Fund, State Administrative Tax, and Other Funds. In addition, the Survey captures how states have spent funds allocated to them from Reed Act Distributions.

The results from the FY 2013 NASWA State Supplemental Funding Survey show state supplemental funding appears to have turned a corner, as state budgets have moved from reductions in state spending due to a decline in economic activity during and after the Great Recession resulting in lower tax revenues, to slight increases in spending because of improved economic activity.

The following are some highlights from the fiscal (FY) 2013 NASWA State Supplemental Funding Survey:

- All fifty states, the District of Columbia and Guam responded to the NASWA Survey, representing the first time the survey has captured data for all states in a fiscal year.
- State workforce agencies contributed slightly more than \$620 million dollars of state funds to the above mentioned programs and activities.
- Approximately 93 percent of all supplemental funds provided by states went to three primary programs: UI administration, ES and WIA, with UI receiving the most.
- Ninety-one percent of funds states used came from three sources in FY 2013: Other Sources, Administrative Taxes, and Penalty and Interest fees.
- States reported approximately \$40 million in Reed Act funds used to supplement UI and ES operations. After FY 2010, Reed Act expenditures dropped substantially, with the lowest amount expended in FY 2013 over a ten year span.
- For FY 2013, states reported payment of approximately \$755 million dollars in interest for Title XII UTF balances, with 50 percent coming from state general funds.

## TOOLS

Know Your Farmer Tools and Resources -

[http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF\\_RESOURCES](http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_RESOURCES)

## LEARNING

The [Foreign Direct Investment and Exporting Webinar](#) will be held on **March 13 at 2:00 pm ET** and will focus on [Best Practices in Foreign Direct Investment and Exporting Based on Regional Industry Clusters](#), a web-based resource designed to promote ways to more effectively attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and develop export potential. Click [here](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: [Community Broadband Networks](#), Thursday, March 13, 2014, 2-3 PM EDT [Register now!](#)**

Slow internet stinks. It kills business growth, hinders education, impedes health care services, and generally just makes life a little less enjoyable. But what can you do? Aren't we all just stuck with the service we've got? On the next CommunityMatters® conference call, Christopher Mitchell of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and Billy Ray of Glasgow Electric Power Board will join us to talk about Community Broadband Networks, publicly-owned providers of high-speed internet. You'll learn about the benefits of community broadband along with tips for getting started with a network in your city or town.

[Read more on our blog >](#)

**WEBINAR: Understanding WealthBuilders: How a Game can Teach Wealth Creation.** Join us on Thursday, March 20, 2014, 1-2 pm ET (noon - 1 pm CT) when Jovan Ellis and Adam Walker from the Emergent Media Center at Champlain College will share their insights into the potential power of this new media. To register, [click here](#).

**WEBINAR: The Role of Wholesale Grocers in Rural Food Distribution – Implications for Robust Local Food Systems, April 3, 2014 (Thursday) 1:00 PM – Eastern Time**

Kathryn Draeger, University of Minnesota. <http://connect.msu.edu/ncrcrd> There is no registration and no fee for attending this webinar.

This webinar takes a look into the existing wholesale grocer and wholesale produce distributions system found in the upper Midwest and the potential for collaboration with local foods growers and advocates. Wholesale grocers, such as Mason Brothers of Wadena, MN and Affiliated Foods Midwest a coop with office in Nebraska, Kansas and Wisconsin, are the backbone of keeping groceries stocked on the shelves of grocery stores, particularly rural groceries, throughout the North Central region. What are the opportunities for those of us working to build local food systems to partner with these existing distribution systems? Well, the first step is to understand how the current system works. This webinar will provide insight into the workings of this existing wholesale grocery system- from warehouse to rural customer.

**About the Speaker:** Kathy Draeger, PhD, is the statewide Director of the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, a program of U of M Extension. Kathy is the Minnesota lead on a joint research project with the Rural Grocery Initiative out of Kansas State. She served on the Minnesota Grocery Access Task Force and is currently on the Minnesota Food Charter Steering Committee. In addition, Kathy and her family live, farm, and buy groceries in rural Big Stone County, MN, a USDA designated rural food desert.

The webinar will be recorded and archived at [http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/chronological\\_archive](http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/chronological_archive).

**WEBINAR: Workforce Data: Census Bureau to Preview “Quarterly Workforce Indicator” Explorer Tool on April 16, [Register Now](#)**

On April 16 at 1:30 EST, **Heath Haywar**, a geographer in the Center for Economic Studies with the U.S. Census Bureau, will present the Explorer Tool via a webinar.

Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program is planning to release a Beta version of the new QWI Explorer tool this spring. QWI Explorer is a new, web-based analysis tool that enables comprehensive access to the full depth and breadth of the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) dataset. Through bar charts and interactive tables (line charts and thematic maps are in development), users can compare, rank and aggregate QWIs across time, geography, and/or firm and worker characteristics on the fly.

**VIDEO: Building Leadership for the Long Haul with Milan Wall of the Heartland Center for Leadership Development** - from [Orton Family Foundation](#)

Join Milan Wall from the Heartland Center for Leadership Development to learn about their research on keys to thriving communities and effective leadership. Milan will describe characteristics of effective local leaders, roles and responsibilities to guide community action, and tips for recruiting new leaders in a changing world.

**VIDEO: Leadership Lollipop Moments** - Much of community leadership is recognizing the big and small contributions of all people in making their city or town a better place. Drew Dudley shares the story of what he calls the “lollipop moment”, which speaks to how we can do a better job acknowledging how leadership shows up in everyday life. [WATCH VIDEO >](#)

**Recorded WEBINAR: Sharpen Your Pitch** webinar recording and a pdf of the slides on the [Webinars page](#).

## FUNDING

[Youth education grants from the American Honda Foundation](#)- The American Honda Foundation funds projects related to youth education, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the environment, job training and literacy

### AMS Grant Programs

- [Federal State Marketing Improvement Program](#) -- This matching grant program, also known as FSMIP, provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.
- [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#) - Specialty crop block grant funds can be requested to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).
- [The Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) -- This program, or FMPP for short, was created through a recent amendment of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976. The grants, authorized by the FMPP, are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.
- [Organic Cost Share Program](#) -- AMS administers two organic certification cost share programs. Each program provides cost share assistance, through participating States, to organic producers and/or organic handlers. Recipients must receive initial certification or continuation of certification from a USDA accredited certifying agent (ACA).

**Farm-to-School Grants**, Letters of Intent are due at 11:59 p.m. EST, Apr. 2.

To assist eligible entities in preparing proposals, USDA will host a series of webinars related to the application process:

- Mar, 11, 1 p.m. EST, Planning Grants
- Mar. 12, 1 p.m. EST, Implementation Grants
- Mar. 13, 1 p.m. EST, Support Service Grants
- Mar. 14, 1 p.m. EST, Training and Event Funding Track

[http://www.agriview.com/briefs/regional/usda-announces-fiscal-year-farm-to-school-grants-to-continue/article\\_0b36e4b4-2c8e-5626-9430-4a332727c763.html](http://www.agriview.com/briefs/regional/usda-announces-fiscal-year-farm-to-school-grants-to-continue/article_0b36e4b4-2c8e-5626-9430-4a332727c763.html)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/fy-2015-farm-school-grant-program-funds-available>

**THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY LAND TRUST NETWORK** has announced its 2014 HomeKeeper Adoption Grants program. The Network expects to award seven such grants to 2014/2015 Network members on a first come, first served basis. Learn more about the program [here](#).

**BUSH FOUNDATION** is offering Community Innovation Grants to support community organizations working to solve a community problem using processes that are inclusive, collaborative and resourceful. **Deadline: 3/13/2014.** Click [here](#) to learn more about these grants and how to apply.

**THE FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE** is offering grants for its Native American Food Security grant project under its Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI). The purpose of the Native American Food Security project is to support Native organizations working to eliminate food insecurity among tribal seniors and elders in rural and/or reservation-based Native American communities. **Deadline: 3/15/2014.** Click [here](#) to learn more about this program and to apply.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR** is offering funds to Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations to protect and promote their unique cultural heritage and traditions. **Deadline: 3/21/2014.** Click [here](#) for an application package.

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** is offering grants to community-based coalitions working to prevent youth substance abuse. **Deadline: 3/24/2014.** Click [here](#) to review application guidelines.

**THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION** is offering funding to nonprofit and public agencies to expand the availability of comprehensive, high quality residential treatment services for pregnant and postpartum women who suffer from alcohol and other drug use problems, and for their minor children impacted by maternal substance abuse. **Deadline: 3/31/2014.** Click [here](#) for an application package.

**WELLS FARGO** is offering Neighborhood Implementation Grants that support comprehensive community development projects that target specific neighborhoods. The community development project must be based on a current resident-driven neighborhood plan. **Deadline: proposals for Phase I of the application process are due by 4/1/2014.** Click [here](#) to review application guidelines and to apply.

**THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** announces an open competition for the American Youth Leadership Program for public and private nonprofits to implement an exchange program for American high school students that will enable the participants to gain firsthand knowledge of foreign cultures and to collaborate on solving global issues. **Deadline: 4/4/2014.** Click [here](#) to review application requirements.

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** is offering grants through the Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS) program to Indian Tribes, Native Alaskans, and nonprofit agencies serving Native Hawaiians, and others. **Deadline: 4/15/2014.** Click [here](#) for program guidelines and to apply.

**THE MARY KAY FOUNDATION** is offering grants to nonprofits that aid female victims of domestic violence. **Deadline: 4/30/2014.** Click [here](#) for application guidelines and to apply.

**CITIZENS' INSTITUTE ON RURAL DESIGN** is inviting nonprofits to submit proposals for the Rural Communities Facing Design Challenges initiative. **Deadline: 5/6/2014.** This initiative brings together local leaders, nonprofits, and design specialists to address how rural communities can strengthen their economies, enhance their rural character, and design efficient housing and transportation systems. To review application guidelines, click [here](#).

### **FY2014 TIGER Grant Funding Now Available Through USDOT**

The [U.S. Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#) has issued a [Notice of Funding Availability](#) for FY2014 discretionary grant funding under the [Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery \(TIGER\) grant program](#). The FY2014 omnibus appropriations act provided \$600 million for the program. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis to infrastructure projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Of the funds available, DOT may allocate up to \$35 million for planning grants. Click [here](#) to read the funding notice. Applications are due **April 28**.

### **Assistance Available from ARC for Trade Adjustment Grant Program**

[The Appalachian Regional Commission \(ARC\)](#) is offering assistance to organizations in the Appalachian Region to develop applications for the upcoming round of the [Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training \(TAACCCT\) grant program](#). This program, administered by the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) and the [U.S. Department of Education](#), focuses on expanding targeted training programs for unemployed workers, particularly those impacted by foreign trade. The program will provide funds to higher education institutions to expand and improve their career education programs that result in high-wage, high-skill occupations. Click [here](#) for more information on assistance available through ARC.

[OFRF Invites Proposals for Organic Farming and Food System Research](#) - DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2014. One-year grants of up to \$15,000 are available for research projects related to agricultural production or other social, economic, or policy-related topics of concern to organic farmers and/or ranchers....

[Amphion Foundation Accepting Applications From Performing Music Ensembles](#) - DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2014. Grants of up to \$7,500 will be awarded to nonprofit performing ensembles, presenters, and music service organizations for general operating support or support for special projects....

[Grant Foundation Launches Initiative on Understanding Inequality](#) - DEADLINE: MAY 6, 2014. Grants of up to \$600,000 will be awarded in support of research that focuses on ways to reduce disparities in academic, behavioral, social, and economic outcomes among youth....

[US Airways Education Foundation Accepting Applications for STEM-Based Education Programs](#) - DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2014

Grants will be awarded for educational programs that focus on economically disadvantaged or developmentally disabled children, or programs that increase student interest and academic achievement in STEM subjects....

[NERCHE Invites Nominations for 2014 Lynton Award for Early Career Faculty](#) - DEADLINE: MAY 16, 2014  
The annual award recognizes a full-time faculty member who connects his or her teaching, research, and service to community engagement....

[General Mills Foundation Seeks Applications for Champions for Healthy Kids Program](#) -DEADLINE: MARCH 14, 2014. Fifty grants of \$20,000 each will be awarded to nonprofit organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors among youth between the ages of 2 and 18....