Rural LISC Annual Seminar XXVII
May 15-18, 2018
Washington Court Hotel ♦ 525 New Jersey Ave NW ♦ Washington, D.C.

AGENDA

Note: All the food served at the Seminar is Gluten Free.
Vegan/Vegetarians: please identify yourself to the server at meal times.

TUESDAY, May 15

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  Pre-Seminar Workshop: Fund Development “How To”  Executive Room

Investment in rural America significantly lags behind urban investment, resulting in fewer philanthropic dollars flowing into rural communities. However, rural community-based organizations are poised to attract local and private funds. Featuring experts in the field, this workshop will detail various ways to strengthen private and public fundraising efforts through board fundraising, storytelling and demographics, and will conclude with in-depth recommendations from Rural LISC’s committed funders.

9:00 - 10:00 AM
Speakers: Geraldine Baum, LISC
          Beth Marcus, LISC

10:00 - 11:00 AM
Moderator: Jessica Hanmer, LISC
Speakers: Julie Bornstein, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
          Lisa Byers, Opal Community Land Trust
          Beatrice Shelby, Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center
**TUESDAY, May 15 (Cont.)**

**Pre-Seminar Workshop: Fund Development “How To” (Cont.)**  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Moderator: Nadia Villagrán, Rural LISC  
Speakers: Andrew Ford, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation  
Lydia Jackson, Capital One  
Eileen Stenerson, Wells Fargo  
Sponsored by Housing Assistance Council and National Rural Housing Coalition

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
**Seminar Registration and Policy Registration**  
*Base of Stairs*

3:00 - 5:00 PM  
**Rural LISC Advisory Committee Meeting (Members Only)**  
*Springwood Room*

6:00 - 9:00 PM  
**Welcome Reception and Dinner**  
Keynote Address: Lisa Mensah, Opportunity Finance Network  
Sponsored by National Equity Fund

**WEDNESDAY, May 16**

6:30 - 8:00 AM  
**Breakfast Buffet**  
*Grand Ballroom*

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
**Seminar Registration**  
*Base of Stairs*

8:00 - 9:00 AM  
**BREAKFAST PLENARY: The Three R’s of Rural – Resilience, Recovery and Revitalization, with Disaster Recovery Updates**  
*Grand Ballroom*

As rural areas are increasingly threatened not only by hurricanes, but by smaller tornadoes and floods, learn how fellow Rural LISC partner organizations responded to their respective disasters and hear the latest updates on their recovery process.  
Moderator: Lee Beaulac, Beaulac Associates  
Speakers: Stephan Fairfield, Covenant Community Capital  
Steve Kirk, Rural Neighborhoods, Inc.  
Tommy Ricks, Communities Unlimited  
Javier Zapata, PathStone  
Sponsored by NeighborWorks America

9:00 - 9:15 AM  
**Break**
WEDNESDAY, May 16 (Cont.)

NOTE: Concurrent Workshops are organized into three tracks: 1. Organizational Resilience; 2. Disaster Resilience and Recovery; and 3. Community and Economic Resilience

9:15 - 10:45 AM  Concurrent Workshops

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE: Principles of Board Development and Governance: A Closer Look at What Works**
   - Executive Room
   - This session will present a series of facilitated conversations/role plays between a fictional Executive Director and his or her respective Board Chair. Participants from the audience will be asked to engage in a participatory process designed to highlight principles and best practices underlying successful Board of Director governance. The session will cover challenges and successes in fostering: successful working relationships, recruitment, roles, ongoing development and training, rotation and tenure, and fiduciary responsibility. This session will be geared to existing Board members and CDC senior staff.
   - Speakers:  Michael Levine, LISC (Retired)
                 Bob Reeder, Rural LISC

2. **DISASTER RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY: The Best Laid Plans … Or Not: HOW an Organization in the Midst of a Disaster Survives Either with a Plan Already in Place or a Plan Developed on the Fly**
   - Sagamore Hill Room
   - This session is a conversation with two Rural LISC partners that responded to recent disasters in their service areas. Both will review plans that existed prior to the disaster and plans being put in place for the future.
   - Moderator:  Greg Sparks, Rural LISC
   - Speakers:  Tom Collishaw, Self-Help Enterprises, Inc.
               Steve Kirk, Rural Neighborhoods, Inc.

3. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: Creating Community and Economic Resilience through Community-Based Economic and Leadership Development**
   - Springwood Room
   - In this session, three organizations will present their comprehensive economic development strategies. RCAC will discuss “Building Rural Economies,” which trains and supports local entrepreneurs and creates positive economic change with lasting impact. RCAC community-based partner Epicenter of Green River, Utah, will present on the ground resilience-developing strategies. And NeighborWorks Umpqua will discuss methods to improve the local economy and create an environment that supports the growth of local businesses. Come hear about their goals, experience and insights and learn about applying these strategies in your communities.
   - Speakers:  Merten Bangemann-Johnson, NeighborWorks Umpqua
               Stan Keasling, RCAC
               Maria Sykes, Epicenter

10:45 - 10:55 AM  Break
WEDNESDAY, May 16 (Cont.)

10:55 - 11:55 AM  
**Program Officer Town Halls**  
*Executive, Sagamore Hill & Springwood Rooms*  
Rural LISC Partner Organizations: Check the Rural LISC App to see which Town Hall you should attend; or find your Program Officer’s name below and go to that room.  
Executive Room: Katrin Kärk, Andy Saavedra  
Sagamore Hill Room: Justin Archer Burch, Bob Reeder  
Springwood Room: Kristin Blum, Greg Sparks, Murat Unal

11:55 AM - 12:05 PM  
**Break**

12:05 - 12:15 PM  
**Remarks:** Maurice Jones, LISC President and CEO

12:15 - 1:45 PM  
**LUNCH PLENARY: Federal Policy Update and Hill Visit Logistics**  
*Grand Ballroom*  
With the FY 2018 budget and tax reform finally complete, now is the time to focus on FY 2019 appropriations and what is ahead for Congress and the federal agencies. Panelists will provide key updates on issues critical to affordable housing and rural development, including HUD and USDA programs, the Farm Bill, financial capability, and the implementation of the tax overhaul law. Come hear the latest on what is happening in D.C. in preparation for your Hill visits!  
Moderator: Matt Josephs, LISC  
Speakers: Jeremie Greer, Prosperity Now  
Mark Kudlowitz, LISC  
David Lipsetz, Housing Assistance Council (HAC)  
Sponsored by CoBank

1:45 - 5:30 PM  
**Hill Visits**

5:00 - 7:00 PM  
**Hill Reception**  
*Dirksen Senate Building, Room 106*  
Sponsored by LISC

THURSDAY, May 17

6:00 - 7:45 AM  
**Breakfast Buffet**  
*Grand Ballroom*

7:45 - 8:00 AM  
**Break**

8:00 - 9:30 AM  
**BREAKFAST PLENARY: Disaster Recovery Funders – The Early Believers**  
*Grand Ballroom*  
Institutional funders play a key role in supporting communities after a disaster. Their support to community organizations helps with relief and repair on the front line but also with planning, community re-visioning and rebuilding. Learn how
funders’ grant making, mission investments, capacity building and convenings support disaster-affected communities.

Moderator: Suzanne Anarde, Rural LISC
Speakers: Luis Bernal, USDA Rural Development Innovation Center
Mary Ann Gabino, Puerto Rico Community Foundation
Anna Hurt, Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Sponsored by Fannie Mae

9:30 - 10:00 AM   Break

NOTE: Concurrent Workshops are organized into three tracks: 1. Organizational Resilience; 2. Disaster Resilience and Recovery; and 3. Community and Economic Resilience

10:00 - 11:30 AM   Concurrent Workshops

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE: Internal Leadership Training**    Executive Room
   Join a conversation about middle tier staff development opportunities. Resilient organizations have a deep bench of leadership, and growing your bench does not just happen; it takes purposeful effort. This session will examine this subject from three perspectives: the staff member given the opportunity, the organization designing and managing leadership cohorts, and the funder investing in the future of our industry.

   Moderator: Morgan Harper, LISC
   Speakers: Donna Fabiani, Opportunity Finance Network
             Steve Fitzgerald, Bank of America
             Zoraima Diaz-Pineda, Community Development Corporation of Brownsville

2. **DISASTER RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY: Implement or Improve ... Which Is It? Real Life Results and Real Lessons Learned**    Sagamore Hill Room
   This session will feature practitioners who in the aftermath of disasters have faced the critical questions of “Do we simply rebuild? Or do we rebuild better? What does ‘rebuilding better’ even mean?” And what are the critical questions that must be addressed in order to help the ultimate recovery strategy be an effective and sustainable one?

   Moderator: Katrin Kähr, Rural LISC
   Speakers: Lee Beaulac, Beaulac Associates
             Barbara Blackston, Wilson Community Improvement Association
             Stephan Fairfield, Covenant Community Capital

3. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: Resiliency Takes Many Forms: LGBT Housing – Challenges and Solutions**    Springwood Room
   This panel will discuss the unique challenges faced by LGBT populations in finding housing and accessing community services – without having to go back into the
THURSDAY, May 17 (Cont.)

The panel will highlight successful projects and programs, and also discuss how community-based organizations, intermediaries and technical assistance providers can use data supported programs and training to address those challenges.

Moderator: Michael Levine, LISC (Retired)
Speakers: Roberto Jiménez, Mutual Housing of California
Guy Kempe, RUPCO, Inc.
Kelly Kent, National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative

11:30 - 12:00
Break

12:00 - 1:45 PM
LUNCH KEYNOTE: Anne Hazlett, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development, USDA
Grand Ballroom
Sponsored by U.S. Bank

1:45 - 2:30 PM
Break

2:30 - 4:00 PM
Concurrent Workshops

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE: Growing Your Own Talent – for Now and the Future**

   Executive Room

   Rural America faces challenges and barriers to finding dedicated and high capacity staff to lead programmatic work. All too often, rural executive directors are faced with limited talent pools to tackle the multitude of issues that arise in the daily operations of a rural community organization. This session will focus on how rural agencies can grow and develop dedicated staff who are mission focused in-house. This session will highlight how to utilize Rural LISC AmeriCorps programming along with other proven models to develop the rural community development leadership pool of tomorrow.

   Moderator: Justin Archer Burch

   Speakers: Ivye Allen, Foundation for the Mid South
   Pam Johnson, Fahe
   Stacey Rapp, LISC AmeriCorps
   Angela Stephens, Fahe

2. **DISASTER RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY: Keeping the Doors Open in the Wake of Natural Disasters**

   Sagamore Hill Room

   This session will serve as a logical continuation of the morning’s resilience and recovery discussion. The session will focus on practical tools from practitioners who have experienced recent natural disasters, including tips on what to do when your organization’s staff and offices are impacted, as well as what steps you can take to ensure your organization can continue operations in the wake of a natural disaster.

   Moderator: Bob Reeder, Rural LISC

   Speakers: Jeff Gilbreath, Hawaiian Community Assets
   Jim Stark, Fayette County Community Action Agency
   Javier Zapata, PathStone
THURSDAY, May 17 (Cont.)

3. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE:** Successful Job Creators: How Do They Do It?

   *Springwood Room*

   Job Creators in Rural America – innovative strategies and new possibilities. In this session you will hear about on-the-ground workforce development, lending and investment, and tax increment financing strategies that are working to create jobs in Rural America, and learn about the new Opportunity Zone program and its potential to support economic development and job creation.

   Moderator: Dennis West, Northern Initiatives

   Speakers: Paul Anderson, Rapoza Associates

   Micah Gursky, Tamaqua Area Community Partnership

   Elizabeth Love, CEI

4:00 - 5:00 PM   Break

5:00 - 9:00 PM   Closing Reception and Dinner

   *Grand Ballroom*

   Remarks: Martin Sundquist, Wells Fargo

   Keynote: Matt Dunne, Center for Rural Innovation

   Sponsored by Wells Fargo

FRIDAY, May 18

Travel Day