

NASCSP Newsletter

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The Art of the Possible

by David Bradley

For Democrats, the euphoria of last November's congressional electoral sweep has given way to the hard reality of governing. The difficult choices that inevitably face the party that controls Congress now await them. Governing, never easy, may prove especially challenging this year.

The twelve years of Republican control of Congress, the last six years coinciding with the presidency of George W. Bush, has left many traditional Democratic constituencies thirsting for legislative relief. In issues involving defense and foreign policy, but especially domestic policy, countless demands and expectations have been or are being placed on Democrats in Congress. On the domestic front many of these requests involve either the creation or expansion of new programs and more likely than not involve the expenditure of vast amounts of money. This makes for a very uncertain and in a real sense impossible legislative expectation.

Think of the legislative arena confronting today's Congressional Democrats as a large heavy three legged stool. It takes all three legs to hold up the stool today and all three legs to secure its stability and usefulness in the future. The loss of any one leg would render the stool useless. Now picture each leg as an important part of the governing equation. Each leg is balanced with the other two and in concert

together they provide just the right amount of support to perfectly balance the stool.

Congressional Democrats are trying to balance their three legs of the stool. One leg of the stool represents constituent demands, particularly on the spending side. In the last two months, I've talked to perhaps two hundred lobbyists, all representing domestic programs. Without exception, everyone of these "program representatives" is expecting the Democratic controlled Congress to increase funding for their programs. The sum total of demands for additional spending has to approach many billions of dollars.

The second leg of this stool is represented by the Democratic FY 2008 budget and the overall spending blueprint. I do not envy the challenge facing House Budget Committee Chairman Spratt and his Senate counterpart, Conrad in trying to balance conflicting priorities. How does one produce a passable budget that increases domestic spending enough to appease the appropriators and liberals yet controls spending enough to appeal to the moderates and steadily reduces the deficit to appeal to the voters? I've met literally two dozen House and Senate Democratic members who for various reasons are leaning against voting for their own parties FY 2008 budget resolution. Again conflicting priorities result in an uncertain legislative

outcome.

The third and final leg of the stool is symbolized by the House and Senate Democratic leadership itself. After all, it falls primarily to them to keep their party united and marching forward with the legislative agenda. In any year with either party in control of Congress this would be a difficult assignment. This year, especially given the division within the party over the war in Iraq, it could very well be impossible. If Democrats stumble it means a breakdown of party unity and perhaps ineffective party leadership. The close margin between the parties in both

the House and Senate leave the Democratic governing majority precious little room for error. The first stumble could likely lead to future problems.

With all the challenges and pressure facing the new Congressional Democratic majority, it is inevitable that various parts of the democratic coalition, both in and out of Congress are bound to experience disappointments. I expect that we too will experience highs and lows in pushing our own legislative agenda. That's acceptable, after all governing and legislating effectively is very much the art of the possible.



LEGISLATIVE CORNER

by Jovita A. Tolbert



CSBG LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APPROPRIATIONS:

Congress has begun working on a budget outline for fiscal year 2008. In fact, the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held hearings February 28th & 29th on health and human services programs. During the hearings, HHS Secretary Leavitt defended the administration's proposed budget for the department before House appropriators. Secretary Leavitt noted that cuts in the HHS budget were based on one-time funding activities that didn't need to be repeated, completed grant activities, underperforming programs, duplicate programs, those focused on building infrastructure, and areas where he believes savings can be achieved. Notably, as stated in the congressional transcript for the hearing on the 29th, Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID) challenged Secretary Leavitt about the cuts, in particular the zeroing out of CSBG. Below is the excerpt from that transcript.

***SIMPSON:** Well, let me ask you, on the program terminations, **community service block grants**, the CDC prevention health block grants, rural health, hospital flexibility grants, the advanced nursing education and training and primary care and medicine and dentistry, those programs are terminated.*

***LEAVITT:** There are a number of programs that we concluded because they were less efficient programs or things that we thought were duplicative. We have chosen*

to propose that they not continue or...

***SIMPSON:** Are they program terminations because of the ineffectiveness of the program or because of the budget?*

***LEAVITT:** We chose to terminate programs we thought that were less effective or because they were duplicative.*

***SIMPSON:** At the same time, we propose a new Latin American initiative that you mentioned in your testimony that we're going to expand offering health care or community health care workers in Latin America. So while we're doing some things to terminate programs here, whether they're effective or not would be a debate, yet we're expanding our presence in Latin America.*

The Budget Committees are expected to deliver an overall spending plan for FY 2008 by mid-March. The Senate has developed their 2008 budget resolution and the House began to mark their budget up on March 21st. In the Senate, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad's (D-ND) budget ([S Con Res 21](#)), which his committee approved (12-11) on March 15, assumes a \$948.8 billion discretionary spending cap for fiscal 2008, not counting war spending. The House budget resolution is expected to be very similar to that of the Senate in that it focuses on increasing funding for children's health, education, and veteran's care. Moreover, the House plan will aim to balance the budget in five years while boost-

ing domestic spending but not raising taxes. However, the House has yet to set a figure for fiscal 2008 discretionary spending.

Following the provision of an overall spending plan by the budget committees, the appropriations committees will then provide program allocations within the budget categories. It is expected that appropriators will ignore most of the proposed HHS cuts. In fact, Democratic budget staff and appropriators have stated that they

plan to add billions of dollars to the President’s fiscal 2008 budget proposal.

Currently, Senate Appropriations is preparing to mark up its version of the war supplemental which could cost about \$121 billion.

We will keep you informed as things progress.

CSBG Spotlight: HELP New Mexico Assists New Americans in Attaining Self-Sufficiency

Migrant and seasonal farm workers from Dona Ana and Luna counties must work long hours and in temperatures that often exceeded 100 degrees for minimal pay. A law, passed in 2005 by Congress, prohibits these farm workers from having their children work the fields. Even though the intent of this law was good, the hard reality is that older siblings are left with the responsibility of caring for their younger brothers and sisters because child day care centers are scarce and costly. Children stay in cars, in buses and in the trucks that transport farm workers to and from the fields. In these vehicles, children have no air conditioning, no restroom facilities and eat unrefrigerated food during the sweltering heat of summer in New Mexico.

These unhealthy and inhumane living conditions that farm workers’ children had to endure caught the attention of HELP New Mexico (HELP-NM). HELP-NM is the state’s sole provider of the National Farmworkers Job Program. For 40 years, HELP-NM has been a vocal advocate for New Mexico’s migrant and seasonal farm workers and in 2005 founded the innovative collaborative program now known as the Farm Worker Child Care Task Force.

HELP-NM convened the following agencies to recognize the need and better serve these families: New Mexico Department of Labor, New Mexico Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, Advocates for Children and

Families, Tierra Del Sol Housing Corporation, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department—Child Care Services Division. This group combined forces to give over 150 farm workers and their children access to health services and improved conditions including: affordable child care and placement information, emergency financial assistance, child safety training, as well as access to programs for affordable housing, educational programs, and employment and training opportunities.

For additional information, visit <http://www.helpnm.com/>.

Source: The above excerpt was taken from the forthcoming *Understanding Community Action’s Successes 2005 CSBG Narratives* by NASCSP and Economic Opportunity Studies.

**If there is anything we wish to change in
the child,
we should first examine it and see
whether it is not something that could
better be changed in ourselves.
—Carl Jung**

THE 2007 NASCSP MID-WINTER CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC CSBG TRACK HIGHLIGHTS

by Jovita Tolbert

From the first day of the conference, attendees were provided with timely information on issues pertaining to the administration of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program and CSBG's legislative standing. They heard from a number of experienced practitioners ranging from Government Accountability Office (GAO) auditors to their peers. Below are some conference highlights:

Day one, Wednesday, February 14th, participants heard from Josephine Bias Robinson, Director of the Office of Community Services (OCS), during the **Message from our Federal Partners** session. Mrs. Robinson acknowledged the President's zeroing out of CSBG, along with other OCS programs, in his budget and stressed the importance of the network's use of its Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system stating, "The most important thing is how you're moving individuals out of poverty." She believes some changes may be needed in the ROMA reporting system to ensure the network is doing its best to show the progress of individuals moving from poverty to self-sufficiency and requested suggestions for capturing this information. She has had increased contact with Head Start (HS) and is working to make HS PRISM reports available to state CSBG offices so that if there are findings or deficiencies, states may immediately begin to provide training and technical assistance to correct them. Also she has secured a commitment for the sharing of HS information with OCS at the federal level. Mrs. Robinson next recognized the work OCS's Monitoring Task Force (MTF) has been doing to create new tools for OCS monitoring. She reported that OCS has established a monitoring schedule based on indicators which take into account a state's need for monitoring as well as emerging issues. Notably, Mrs. Robinson confirmed that since she was appointed by the current administration, once the administration changes she may no longer be the Director of OCS.

Later that day during the joint session entitled, **The 110th Congress - What to Expect**, Racquel Russell, Senior Legislative Associate for the Health & Human Ser-

vices committee within the National Governors Association (NGA) spoke to NGA's support of CSBG. Ms. Russell referenced NGA's longstanding position on funding CSBG and Congress' continued support of the program despite CSBG's uphill battle the past several years. She then went on to state that it is important for the administration and Congress not to look at any human service program in a vacuum as they all work together to support each other and the low-income individuals and families they serve. Ms. Russell noted that NGA will continue to advocate for CSBG and that she foresees level funding for CSBG in fiscal year 2008.

The following day, conference participants had the opportunity to hear from GAO during a **Government Accountability Office (GAO) on Internal Controls** session. In their presentation, GAO senior auditors Bonnie Derby and Keith Kronin explained that solid internal controls enable agencies not only to meet regulatory compliance standards but also to make better business decisions, provide better services, and enhance organizational management. Ms. Derby and Mr. Kronin walked participants through GAO's Green Book on internal controls and then provided a real life example of how these internal controls could be used and the consequences that may arise when they are not.

On Friday, the final day of the conference, OCS provided detailed information on their new monitoring practices and procedures during the **Federal OCS on CSBG Issues** session. Program Specialist James Gray noted that OCS would be conducting a review of states that examines their financial, administrative, and program operations as per the statute. He also acknowledged that OCS had reviewed the comments received from states on the first draft of their review tool and would be revising the tool to respond to the comments and suggestions received. In fact, as a major concern from the states was the length of the tool, Mr. Gray asserted that OCS would be converting the tool to a checklist format and decreasing the duplication of questions. David Chappell, Auditor for OCS, then provided a detailed look at OCS' monitoring schedule and finan-

cial monitoring piece. He explained that OCS will use six criteria to determine their monitoring schedule – an internal agency status list, distance, poverty, client population, evidence of past problems as reflected by A-133 audit reports and the timeliness in which states turn in their state plans and CSBG-IS information. Concerning OCS' financial monitoring, Mr. Chappell noted that OCS would spend three days at the state office and then three days at selected agencies. To view these presentations in their entirety, please visit

<http://www.nascsp.org/Publications.htm>.

Undoubtedly, the 2007 NASCSP Mid-Winter Conference was a success as it provided valuable information to states on the issues of monitoring and fiscal controls as well as an opportunity to network and learn from peers. See you in Boise, Idaho for the 2007 NASCSP Fall Conference!

NASCSP Scores a Big Hit During the February Training Event

by Robert Adams

These are truly tumultuous times for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) management appears to be distancing itself from the Program's long history of success. As part of its five year Spend Plan, the DOE has made a public commitment to cut the WAP from \$242.5 million in 2006 to \$78 million by 2011. They have already made good on their commitment by requesting only \$164 million in funding for 2007 and \$144 million for 2008. And to make matters worse, the DOE had the opportunity and the money to fund WAP at 2006 levels through the Continuing Resolution and failed to do so – implementing a \$38 million cut in one of their most successful programs in the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) portfolio and the only program they operate that benefits low-income Americans.

Indeed these are tumultuous times. But in all crises, there is opportunity. And in all despair there is hope. So regardless of the impending bad news, the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCS) sponsored its 2007 Mid-Winter Training Conference in Washington, DC on February 14 to 16. These conferences brought together some of the best WAP minds in the country to discuss the issues facing the Program. State representatives from around the country participated in training workshops and open debate to closely examine the options available to WAP. Overviews of the current *politics* of WAP were pro-

vided by a number of informed sources. Program *politics* were discussed to measure impact and implementation strategies. Attendees were offered many opportunities to interact with their *peers* on matters common to one another. And the group made several *proposals for the future* of the WAP. Here are just a few highlights from this year's event:

POLITICS

There was plenty of politics to go around this time. Those in attendance got to hear a great deal about the Continuing Resolution; funding for 2007 and 2008; the intended move of the WAP from DOE to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and what can be done to help solidify the support for WAP in Congress.

During the Weatherization Committee meeting, Rob Sandoli from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) explained the Administration's position on the 2007 Continuing Resolution. He described the "mini budget session" being conducted between DOE and OMB and how the Spend Plan will be created and forwarded to Congress for information purposes. He was clear the move of WAP from DOE to HHS was not part of the 2008 budget process as rumored. Finally, he addressed the re-prioritization of DOE initiatives from deployment programs like WAP to research and development initiatives like hydrogen, solar technologies, and bio-diesel fuels.

Later in the week, we heard from Senate and House staff from their respective Northeast Midwest Energy Coalitions. Ari Strauss from the Senate coalition described the efforts taking place to encourage the DOE to fully fund the WAP at the House approved level of \$254.5 million for 2007. He also provided insight into the 2008 budget fight and what states need to do in order to help the cause of WAP funding in the Senate. Katie Waszkiewicz from the House coalition echoed both the actions and the sentiments of her Senate counterpart. She also encouraged states to contact their elected officials in Washington and make our case for higher funding needs in 2007 and 2008.

At lunch on Thursday, Jeff Genzer, Chief Counsel for the National Association for State Energy Officials and the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, provided a similar update on the actions in the House and Senate regarding WAP. He also described the efforts in Congress to support increased funding for the State Energy Program (SEP) and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - both vitally important to the WAP.

POLICIES

The WAP has many policies that are used by states to guide the Program's daily administration. These policies are entrenched in rules and regulations passed by Congress and sound management principles established by DOE management, states, and local agencies. Many of these policies were used in the workshops that addressed crew and local manager certification programs, the principles surrounding evaluations being conducted on the Program results in states, and in the open forum discussing local manager training. States were also given the opportunity to discuss these policies directly with federal staff at the **Federal Perspective** workshop on Friday. This year, the attendees were introduced to the new National Weatherization Director – Mark Bailey, Acting Program Manager, Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program. Mr. Bailey used his first opportunity to meet intimately with the states to discuss the DOE policies governing the Continuing Resolution and what steps the state and local agencies must take in order to raise the profile of WAP in the Department.

PEERS

Every training event serves as an opportunity to learn new and innovative ways to improve the Program and as an

opportunity to meet those who provide this valuable service in other parts of the country – our peers. The NASCS training in February was no exception. There were meal functions that allowed old friends and new friends to share a meal and their experiences in the WAP. There were social activities at night that provided additional opportunities to learn more about one another. And the interactive nature of the workshops allowed everyone to catch a glimpse of the other's experience, passion and dedication to the WAP. Hopefully some long-lasting and mutually supportive relationships were crafted from this robust peer exchange.

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

Training is usually a two-fold process – (1) a discussion about what is currently taking place and where pitfalls may exist that retard outcomes and (2) instructions about how to improve it, create more consistently higher results, and/or increase the effectiveness and outcome. The second process usually results in proposals for how to better operate in the future to achieve the higher goals now known to be possible. The training conducted in February by NASCS followed this same pattern.

During the **Administrative Program Curriculum** session, everyone participated in an open discussion of the skills and training required for good local program managers. The participants also rated the importance of skills and special talent as it related to performing these vital jobs within the network. A proposal was offered to continue this dialogue among state and local management and develop a curriculum that all states could use to train new and existing local management staff.

The national and state evaluation session described several methods for conducting a program evaluation of the WAP by states to determine effectiveness, energy savings, and areas needing improvement. The states were also provided an update for the National WAP Evaluation scheduled to begin later this year. It was proposed that all states undertake an evaluation of their own WAP and to participate fully in the National Evaluation where required.

Certification of local staff has been a long-standing debate in the WAP. Some states fully support these certifications and require them of all staff and contractors working in the WAP. Other states certify staff that

perform energy auditing and quality control, but don't require it of the installation crews. Other states still haven't decided whether to implement such a requirement or are somewhat unclear how to accomplish such a monumental task. State and local staff discussed many of the features of certification in the training session. Each state was asked to consider whether such action could improve their operations and what would be required to implement such a proposal.

Each year, state and local staff attend the NASCS SP Mid-Winter Training Conference and participate in workshops presented by experts with such diverse talents as results oriented management systems, federal program

policies, local agency management, staff certification, and program monitoring. Each year these workshops are better attended, more responsive to the needs of the network, and receive higher praise for their usefulness and quality than the year before. The 2007 event was no exception.

There is no doubt that NASCS SP has learned how to sponsor a successful training event. And throughout the week, everyone learned to turn the adversity facing the WAP into triumph – creating hope for this year and next. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this February training such a great success. Next year will be even better!

NASCS SP Annual Awards Breakfast

by Terry Joyner

The last morning of the conference opened with the NASCS SP Annual Awards Breakfast. It was a powerful culminating experience and tone setter for conference participants as they prepared to go back into the trenches to do the work and build bridges for a stronger community services network.

The first presentation was the *Ann Kagie CSBG Award*. This award is presented to an individual involved in CSBG activities at the national, state or local level, based on tenure with the program and on significant technological or programmatic contributions. Recipients have played key roles in the planning and design of new activities, and have displayed dedication and commitment to their constituencies as leaders and advocates for CSBG.

The 2007 *Ann Kagie CSBG Award* was presented to *Sollie Norwood*, Director of the Division of Human Services in Mississippi's Department of Community Services. *Sollie* has a strong presence at the state level. He created a very strong partnership and coalition with his agencies and state association to create a data collection system that includes service information and outcome information. The system, MS ROMA has received national recognition. He had prepared to retire a couple of years ago and decided to stay on because of the devastation wrought by Katrina. He has been working closely with his governor and his agencies to make certain the Gulf is rebuilt and that people have a decent place to live and work. *Sollie* also hosted a very successful NASCS SP

conference in Biloxi.

The *James Gardner Weatherization Award* presentation followed. This award is presented to someone involved in Weatherization Program activities at the national, state or local level. This award recognizes leadership achievements at the national, state or local level that show a positive impact on the Weatherization community through either policy, technological or programmatic contributions. Recipients have played key roles as leaders of and advocates for Weatherization.

The 2007 *James Gardner Weatherization Award* was presented to *Cal Steiner*, Weatherization Technician Specialist with the Division of Community Services in the North Dakota Department of Commerce. *Cal Steiner* moved up through the ranks in the North Dakota Weatherization Program, with experience totaling more than twenty-six years as a weatherization crew worker, estimator/auditor, coordinator and trainer. As a Weatherization Coordinator at a local agency, he always was looking for more efficient methods of delivering services to low-income persons. He has taken the lead in encouraging technology transfer between agencies with his "Tips and Tricks" conference sessions. *Cal* was involved in the SERI Mobile Home Comfort Project and Rolling Homes Training Show which significantly advanced mobile home weatherization technology and the ability of weatherization crews to deliver mobile home weatherization services. It is estimated that over the years, *Cal* has

trained over 6,000 individuals within the weatherization network on the finer points of mobile home weatherization.

Cal was also an integral part of the development and implementation of North Dakota's "Best Practices Project" which standardized the approach to weatherization services delivered within the State. He continues to train nationally on the topics of crew motivation, crew development, lead-safe weatherization, pressure diagnostics and mobile home weatherization.

The third and final presentation was the *Marjorie J. Witherspoon NASCSP Award*. This award is presented to a current or former NASCSP member for length of service and/or significant support to NASCSP. It recognizes the contributions of a current or former NASCSP member, who, through his or her leadership, has shown exceptional or significant support for NASCSP, positive vision, and continuing commitment to NASCSP activities for five years or more.

The 2007 *Marjorie J. Witherspoon NASCSP Award* was presented to *Lawrence Wilson*, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services in North Carolina's Office of Economic Opportunity. *Mr. Wilson* has been an active NASCSP member for more than two decades and has periodically served on the board, most recently as CSBG Vice Chair for the past four years. He has been an elder statesman, serving as an invaluable resource on a variety of controversial issues. He has been available for advice and consent, formally with various congressional committees or, on short notice, to meet with congressional staffers in support of CSBG, and informally with staff and board members, on national or state issues. *Lawrence* has been a strong advocate for the power, authority and responsibility of the state, winning litigation on behalf of the state's role in that regard.

Each recipient was extolled with unanimous and rousing applause and expressed heartfelt sentiments as they accepted acknowledgement from their peers for outstanding service to the community service network.



Left to right: Cal Steiner (ND), *James Gardner Weatherization Award* recipient; Lawrence Wilson (NC), *Marjorie J. Witherspoon NASCSP Award* recipient; and Sollie Norwood (MS), *Ann Kagie CSBG Award* recipient.



NASCSP executive director and chair, celebrating with the award recipients. Left to right: Cal Steiner; Tim Warfield, NASCSP ED; Lawrence Wilson; Sollie Norwood; and Vaugh Clark (OK), NASCSP Chair.

**2007 NASCSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2007—RED LION HOTEL—BOISE, IDAHO**

September 2007

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The 2007 NCAF Legislative Conference

by Jovita A. Tolbert

The 2007 National Community Action Foundation Legislative Conference provided participants with a wealth of information on the political climate surrounding the Community Services Block Grant. Held March 6 - 9, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the conference engaged approximately 600 Community Action professionals and multiple congressional members and national experts in discussions about low-income community programs. Here are a few highlights of what occurred during the conference:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

David Bradley, Executive Director of NCAF, kicked off Wednesday's session with a legislative update. He noted that while he has never been more excited and optimistic about CSBG's place on the legislative agenda, he is con-

cerned about Community Action's ability to maximize and attain all of the opportunities present with the new Congress. Additionally, Bradley stated that he felt Republicans and Democrats in the current Congress will reach out more to communities and, as they reach out, Community Action must be prepared to respond as they ask about our issues. He predicted that reauthorization will happen this year and charitable choice will be taken out of the CSBG statute language. Concerning reauthorization in particular, Bradley indicated that there will be:

- A clarification of what Community Action is all about and added emphasis on CSBG's role in revitalizing communities;
- Increased capacity for the CSBG network to monitor and hold itself accountable;

- Increased training and technical assistance resources including university-based training (*which Bradley emphasized would not take away from current CSBG funds but would be in addition to these funds*);
- Voter registration ability; and
- A revised Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP) piece that focuses on healthy communities and the fight against obesity.

Notably, Bradley stated that Community Action’s window of opportunity for the above will end on Labor Day. And, NCAF is requesting \$700 million in appropriation for CSBG for fiscal year 2008.

Next, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), who Bradley introduced as “Community Action’s best friend,” told the crowd that Community Action was the “torchbearer of the American dream.” And, “like a mother and father, I’m not supposed to have a favorite child, but I have no higher priority than having full funding for CSBG.”

Rep. John Tierney (D-MA) and Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-VT) also expressed their committed support to Community Action and its core funding.

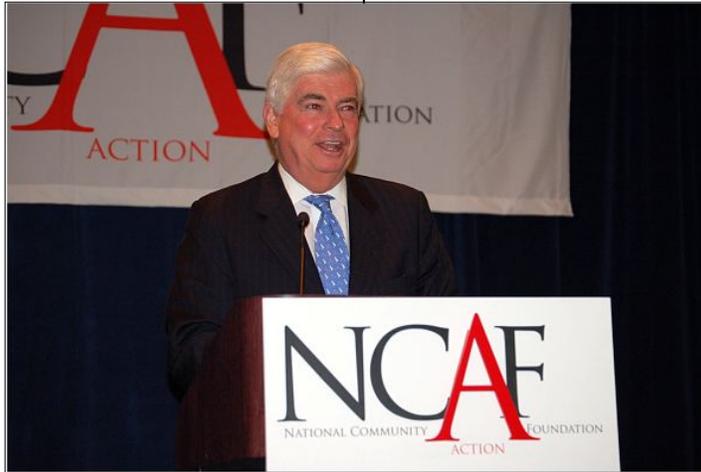
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

On Thursday, participants heard from long-time supporter of CSBG and presidential candidate, Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT). Dodd began his speech by thanking all present for the work they do in their communities. In addition, he stated that he would see to it that the Community Action agenda is a part of the national agenda for fiscal year 2008. Dodd showed not only his support for the program but also his knowledge of the CSBG program as he utilized CSBG-IS and ROMA data to emphasize the importance and effectiveness of CSBG.

Rep. James Clyburn, D-SC, stopped by to voice his support, followed by a panel of distinguished national jour-

nalists on the subject of poverty and the media. The reporters, representing television, radio and print, provided the following tips for gaining press coverage of our issues:

- Take the alien to the familiar and then make it intimate;
- Present stories as a gift package – include all pertinent information and sources with the story;
- Be proactive in approaching journalists to publish your stories;
- Know who you’re pitching to; and
- Hook your story to other hot issues or stories.



Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT), stated that he would see to it that the Community Action agenda is a part of the national agenda for fiscal year 2008.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2007

The conference came to a close with the encouraging speeches of Reps. Charles Dent (R-PA), Robert Goodlatte (R-VA), and Peter Visclosky (D-IN). Dent, who co-chairs the Republican Tuesday Group, said he wants CSBG to be its highest priority. Goodlatte began his speech by stating, “I have a strong belief in the impact Community Action Agencies have.” He then spoke to the grassroots nature of Community Action and noted that the effectiveness of Community Action comes from its local control. Importantly, he challenged Community Action to reach out to more conservative Republicans noting, “You have friends in more places than you think. Everyone cares about people in need.”

Visclosky reinforced this theme by calling on the Community Action network to look for support from members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, which he chairs, and talk with those in their districts encouraging them to support what is important to the network.

Per usual, this year’s National Community Action Foundation Legislative Conference was a success and showcased the strong support the Community Services Block Grant enjoys from Congress. To view the conference agenda, please visit NCAF’s “events” page at: <http://www.ncaf.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAL/NEVA AND REGION IX 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 11-13, 2007
 Doubletree Hotel San Francisco Airport
 Burlingame, California
 602.717.8636

THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCE FORUM

April 12-13, 2007
 The New York Helmsley Hotel
 New York, New York
www.frallc.com

2007 OKLAHOMA HOUSING CONFERENCE

The Art of Affordable Housing
 April 15-17, 2007
 Oklahoma City Cox Business Services Convention
 Center & Renaissance Hotel
janderson@aseproductionsinc.com

ACI HOME PERFORMANCE CONFERENCE 2007

April 23-27, 2007
 Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
 Cleveland, Ohio
www.affordablecomfort.org

THE LEAD AND HEALTHY HOMES GRANTEE CONFERENCE

April 24-27, 2007
 The Doubletree Hotel
 Orlando, Florida
www.leadmoldconferences.com

27TH ANNUAL FACA TRAINING CONFERENCE

May 8-11, 2007
 Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel
 Jacksonville, Florida
www.faca.org

NEW YORK STATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE

May 10, 2007
 Marriott Marquis Times Square
 New York, New York
www.nysafah.org

2007 JOINT LOW INCOME ENERGY CONFERENCES

"Building Bridges: Working in Harmony for Affordable Energy"
 June 3-7, 2007
 Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel
 Nashville, Tennessee
conference@nliec.org

4TH ANNUAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCE FORUM

June 20-21, 2007
 The Waldorf Astoria
 New York, New York
energyevents@euromoneyplc.com

2007 ACEEE SUMMER STUDY ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY

"Improving Industrial Competitiveness: Adapting to Volatile Energy Markets, Globalization and Environmental Constraints"
 July 24-27, 2007
 Renaissance Westchester Hotel
 White Plains, New York
 302-292-3966

SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR HEAD START MANAGEMENT

July 25-27, 2007
 Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf
 San Francisco, California
www.cencomfut.com

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP 2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

August 28-31, 2007
 Manchester Grant Hyatt Hotel
 San Diego, California
 202.265-7546

2007 NASCSP FALL CONFERENCE

September 18-21, 2007
 Red Lion Hotel Boise Downtowner
 Boise, Idaho
 For further questions, please email the Gove Group at:
chomol@gove.org

NASCSP IN BOISE, IDAHO



IT'S **TIME**...MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND
THE 2007 NASCSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
RED LION HOTEL BOISE DOWNTOWNER—BOISE, ID
SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2007
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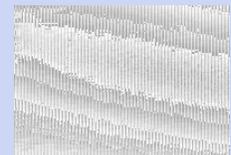
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NASCSP



NASCSP Mission:

to assist states in responding to poverty issues.