

# NASCSP Newsletter

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## Closing Remarks From Outgoing Chair

*by Connie Greer*

Congratulations to Vaughn Clark of Oklahoma on becoming the next NASCSP Chair. Vaughn is a long time member of NASCSP and has been an active and effective board member. He has been a leader in his own state and has the respect of Community Action Agencies at home. Before his career in state government began, Vaughn worked in Washington DC as a congressional staffer. We are very lucky to have a Chair with such a wealth of knowledge and background who will help our organization in these very important times.

four years as your Chair are over so quickly. It has been a real honor and pleasure to serve on the NASCSP Board. The area of work that has been the most important to me as the chair has been in building partnerships and collaborations with other organizations. I remember the first article I prepared for the NASCSP newsletter. It was about the NASCSP work plan and the desire of the board of directors to work more effectively with other national partners. I know that I made a commitment to forward the wishes of the board in this regard.

It is difficult for me to believe that my

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## Expectations

*by Vaughn Clark*



A new year filled with optimism ....  
New NASCSP leadership filled with energy and enthusiasm ....  
A new Congress armed with a new agenda for the future ....  
A dedicated staff charged with ambitious goals ....  
Renewed encouragement from our NASCSP members and partners ....

From my vantage point, the prospects for a successful 2007 look bright. With the insightful leadership of our past Chair Connie Greer and the wisdom of many of our senior members, NASCSP has become the leading advocate for both the CSBG and WAP programs. We have come to expect only the best from our leaders, staff and membership.

Continued, page 2

*"Closing Remarks . . .," continued*

In the past few years we have seen our NASCSP staff, board, and members more engaged with national partners including the National Governors Association, the Community Action Partnership (CAP), state association Executive Directors, CAP Law, NCAF, NEADA, NASEO, Head Start, the office of Community Services at the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Department of Energy. We have had the pleasure of having these organizations write for our newsletter, provide training and wisdom for our conferences, and engage with us in dialogue on issues that affect low-income people across the nation. I believe that our efforts to end poverty and make America a better place to live have been enhanced by our powerful work together. I owe special thanks to Tim Donnellan the Chairman of CAP and to Barry Lamont the Chairman of NCAF, who have attended and contributed to many recent NASCSP conferences.

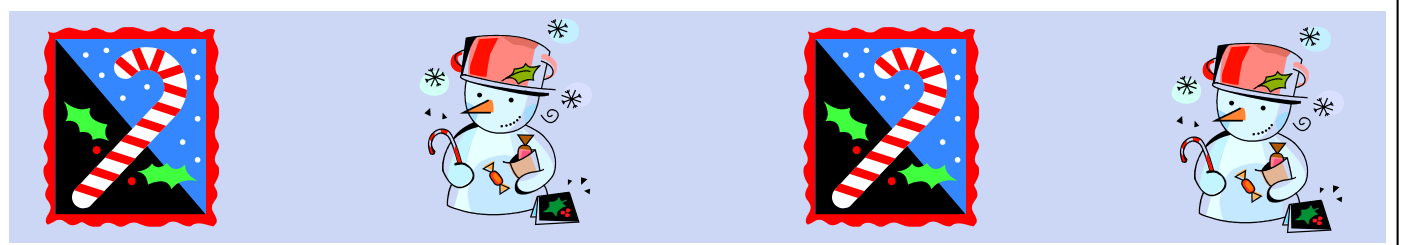
Of special note at this point is our continuing work with CAP towards a National Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security that is scheduled for May of 2007 in Washington, DC. Tunde Eboda of Washington, DC; Jeannie Chaffin of Missouri; and I have had the pleasure to serve as your representatives on the national steering committee for this effort. The planning for the National

Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security came out of a Unity Summit that was held among the national partners in Boston in the summer of 2005 and a desire from Community Action folks across the country to work more effectively together.

Leading up to the National Symposium we are hopeful that state CSBG offices and state associations will work together to advance the dialogue. There are many resources available to assist with these local efforts. I am proud to say that Minnesota will be holding a regional Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security on March 23, 2007 in Duluth, Minnesota. I recommend looking at the CAP website for further inspiration on this important effort.

I plan to continue to promote a Memorandum of Understanding among the national partners that will enhance and advance our continued efforts working together. Stay tuned for future work on that important topic.

Again, it has been a pleasure to serve on the board. Many thanks for the opportunities and support that I have had, especially to the NASCSP staff whom I have worked very closely with in recent years. I look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC in February for our winter conference.



*Expectations," continued*

NASCSP priorities are clear ... NASCSP staff are professional, articulate and recognized experts for both CSBG and WAP ... NASCSP members are prepared to respond to the needs of our network ... NASCSP officers and board are ready to face the challenges that may lie ahead ... success is definitely within our reach.

However, now is not the time to be complacent. Decide how you can contribute and participate to the fullest extent possible. Plan to attend our Mid-Winter Training

Conference in February as well as the Annual Conference this fall in Boise, Idaho. Publicize the successes of your programs through the media and on your website. Respond to NASCSP requests for information, input or assistance in a timely manner. Be positive about the future of CSBG and WAP. Take pride in what we do every day to reduce the causes of poverty and conserve energy across the country.

The stage is set ....  
 Opportunities abound ....  
 Have a joyous holiday season!



## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

by Jovita A. Tolbert



### CSBG APPROPRIATIONS:

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the final day of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, a continuing resolution (CR) for unfinished spending bills, which refers to most domestic programs whose fiscal year began October 1<sup>st</sup>, was passed. Once again, the resolution calls for agencies that have not yet had their fiscal 2007 appropriations measures enacted to get the lowest of the House-passed, Senate-passed, or previous year funding level. As such, CSBG will be funded at the FY 2006 level during the CR. The CR ensures funding until February 15, 2007.

And, per a recent press release (shown below) from Senator Robert Byrd (D - West Virginia) and Representative David Obey (D-Wisconsin), the incoming Democratic Appropriations Committee chairmen, Democrats are planning for a long-term continuing resolution (CR) until September 30<sup>th</sup> to address the nine unfinished fiscal 2007 appropriations bills.

Despite the administration's preference for clearing the fiscal 2007 bills individually before adjournment, De-

mocrats seem to have decided on the year long CR in an effort to allow more time to be spent on the fiscal 2008 bills as well as an expected Iraq war supplemental in the range of \$160 billion.

The year long CR is expected to make "limited adjustments" allowing appropriators to provide additional funding for priorities such as health, education and veterans' medical care. However, Representative Obey and Senator Byrd have stated that they still plan to appropriate within the confines of the GOP budget caps total discretionary spending for fiscal 2007 - \$873 billion. This would allow them \$7 billion more to allot to their priorities than would be spent if a continuing resolution was enacted.

Moreover, Representative Obey, former ranking Democrat on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, is likely to seek a boost in funding for programs covered by the Labor-HHS-Education bill.

We will keep you informed as things progress.

For Immediate Release  
December 11, 2006

Contact: Kirstin Brost (Obey), 202-225-3481  
Tom Gavin (Byrd), 202-224-3904

### Byrd, Obey Announce FY 2007 Plan

WASHINGTON, D.C.... On Saturday, President Bush signed the third continuing resolution to cover for the financial mess left by the outgoing Republican Congressional Leadership. However, that short-term measure only lasts until February 15, 2007. U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., and U.S. Representative Dave Obey, D-Wisc., will lead the Senate and House Appropriations Committees when the new Congress convenes. Today, they issued a joint statement outlining their plan to complete the unfinished federal funding bills for the current fiscal year.

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The Congressional Republican Leadership started the year with a budget so unrealistic that their own members rejected it. Despite the best efforts of the chairmen of the Appropriations Committees, the GOP has ended the year without so much as completing work on a single appropriations bill that invests in our communities, provides for the medical care of our veterans, helps to fight crime in our communities, or works to make college more affordable. It is a record of dismal failure for the American people. Now, the incoming 110<sup>th</sup> Congress will have to clean up the mess left behind.

The new Congress will face, as one of its first orders of business, the job of finishing the appropriations process for the current year. We also must prepare for February's arrival of the President's new budget and an expensive White House request for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The outgoing Republican Leadership's failure to govern has

denied the new Congress the opportunity to start with a fresh slate.

As incoming Chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, we are now responsible for finding a way out of this fiscal mayhem. It is important that we clear the decks quickly so that we can get to work on the American people's priorities, the President's anticipated war funding request, and a new budget.

Unfortunately, there are no good options available to us to complete the unfinished work of the Republican Congress. **After discussions with our colleagues, we have decided to dispose of the Republican budget leftovers by passing a year-long joint resolution. We will do our best to make whatever limited adjustments are possible within the confines of the Republican budget to address the nation's most important policy concerns. We intend to work with the leadership of both parties in both houses to do what we can to resolve last year's disputes and turn to the challenges facing us in the new fiscal year.**

While the results will be far from ideal, this path provides the best way to dispose of the unfinished business quickly, and allow governors, state and local officials, and families to finally plan for the coming year with some knowledge of what the federal government is funding.

**There will be no Congressional earmarks in the joint funding resolution that we will pass.** We will place a moratorium on all earmarks until a reformed process is put in place. Earmarks included in this year's House and Senate bills will be eligible for consideration in the 2008 process, subject to new standards for transparency and accountability. We will work to restore an accountable, above-board, transparent process for funding decisions and put an end to the abuses that have harmed the credibility of Congress.

There is no good way out of the fiscal chaos left behind by the outgoing Congress. Indeed, this joint resolution provides the Administration far too much latitude in spending the people's money. But that is a temporary price that we will pay in order to give the President's new budget the attention and oversight it deserves and requires, and so that we can begin work right away at putting the people's priorities front and center. We, in the new Congress, have a responsibility to build the foundation for a better future. We cannot begin that work until we fix the problems left behind by the Republican Congress. So, we must turn the page on the Republican failures and work together in the best interests of the American people.

The last time each of the appropriations bills were passed by Congress individually and signed into law on time was 1994 -- the last time we both chaired the Appropriations Committees. That is the best way to govern and we are committed to that effort.

###

#### **CSBG REAUTHORIZATION - GAO REPORT:**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) report regarding the oversight of CSBG released on July 11, 2006, entitled *Community Services Block Grant Program: HHS Should Improve Oversight by Focusing Monitoring and Assistance Efforts on Areas of High Risk*, can be found on the NASCSP website's "Publications" page (<http://www.nascsp.org/Publications.htm>).

Notably, the report found that states monitor and strive to provide additional oversight of their agencies. According to the GAO report, GAO analysts found that the states they visited "provided oversight in addition to on-site monitoring through such activities as reviewing reports, coordinating with other federal and state programs, and providing formal training and technical assistance."

For more insights on the report by the House Education & the Workforce Committee, please visit: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/109th/education/csbg/csbg.htm>.

# CSBG/IS Data Corner:

## Head Start and Community Action in FY 2005

*by Jenae Bjelland*

Each year NASCSP, with the help of Economic Opportunity Studies (EOS), uses the Head Start Bureau's (HSB) Program Information Reports (PIR) pertaining to Community Services Block Grant local agencies and compares them to CSBG reports on Head Start (HS) programs. This is an extract from an upcoming report on Head Start and Community Action in FY 2005.

For OCS, the federal agency with responsibilities for overseeing and supporting an entire category of HS agencies, it is useful to identify the local agencies which are also their CSBG grantees every year and which share common responsibilities, opportunities and challenges while managing Head Start programs, in order to offer them specialized support.

Head Start grantees self-report their category of organi-

zation in their PIR. In preparing this report, NASCSP checks the PIR against the national CSBG Report. The resulting list allows us to estimate the unduplicated number of CAAs that manage Head Start programs and to learn something about their scope. There is no source of data on the other agencies that would allow us to derive an unduplicated count of the organizations that fit in every category. Therefore, the analysis that follows pertains only to the Community Services Network agencies.

At least 583 CAAs collectively received 822 grants. Figure 1 compares the unduplicated counts of all Head Start and Early Head Start CAAs to all other Head Start and Early Head Start agencies. In FY 2005, there were 1,597 Head Start organizations in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the jurisdictions that report CSBG/IS data.

**Figure 1**

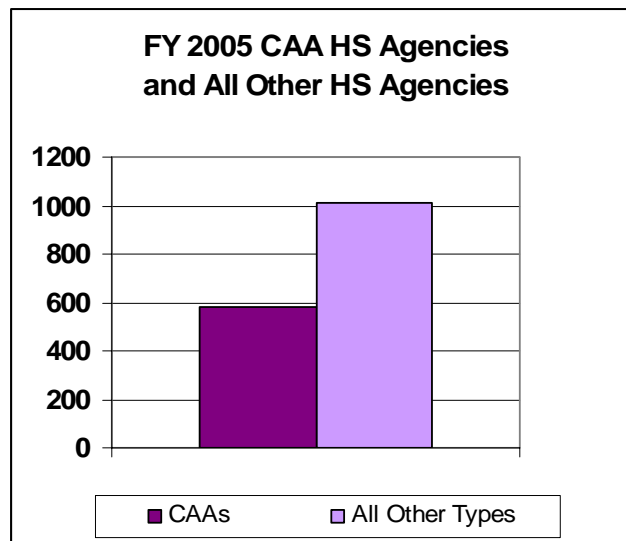


Table I summarizes the Head Start funds and total resources of nearly all the CAAs that had FY 2005 Head Start or Early Head Start programs. The 583 agencies represent a little over half of all CAAs; their Head Start

funding alone made up a quarter of all the CSBG network's 2005 resources. Appendix B is a list of all the CAAs that are included in any part of this analysis.



Table I FY 2005 Resources in CAAs with HS and EHS Programs	
	Total
Head Start Funding Reported in FY 2005 CSBG/IS (576 CAAs)	\$ 2,439,327,000
Early Head Start Funding Reported in FY 2005 CSBG/IS (204 CAAs)	\$177,580,900
Total Resources from All Sources	\$7,033,452,700
Note: May not include Louisiana CAAs' full reports because their records were compromised by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Does not include over \$7 million reported by eight tribal CSBG local agencies.	
All dollars rounded to nearest \$100	

<sup>1</sup>The short Head Start Fact Sheet at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/factsheets.htm> provides the figure for the unduplicated number of agencies. Seven programs in the US Territories are not included in this analysis.

<sup>2</sup>Each year's *Head Start and Community Action Report* has contained small differences (less than 1% of all those listed) in the list of Head Start CAAs in previous years. The two types of differences are: inconsistencies between the CSBG/IS report and the PIR, i.e., the PIR says that a CAA has Head Start and the CSBG/IS shows no funds or vice versa; or the two reports agree as whether the agency is a Head Start CAA, but their report is different from year to year. After observing the differences over six years' data, we have identified the following explanations: not every CAA reports their PIR on time each year; the CAA staff filling out and reviewing the PIR are not necessarily the ones completing the CSBG/IS reports and may not agree on whether the Head Start activity is related to the CSBG-CAA section of an organization. The latter problem is primarily found in government agencies. In some cases, the CSBG/IS report contains only CSBG funding, not leveraged funds at the agency level, but the agencies are identified as CAAs in the PIR. The ultimate effect is to understate slightly CAAs' Head Start role. Since there may be similar gaps in the PIR data from small agencies of other types, there is no reason to believe there is any significant error in the CAA share of programs, compared to all others. The 2005 data offer an example of the marginal significance of these variations. There were just seven CAAs reporting in the PIR that had no Head Start reported in the CSBG/IS. There were four reporting Head Start funds in the CSBG/IS that did not have PIR reports. Two reported such small grants (under \$100,000) that they must be assumed to have been delegate agencies. One was the New Orleans CAA with a substantial program whose records were temporarily unavailable when the PIR was due. Two were also public CAAs. All enrollment and program data are in the PIR, while funding is in the CSBG/IS.

**2007 NASCSP MID-WINTER ORIENTATION/TRAINING CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 12-16, 2006—WASHINGTON MARRIOTT HOTEL—WASHINGTON, DC**

February 2007						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

# CSBG Spotlight:

## Clinch Valley Community Action's Community Corrections Program

*by Jovita A. Tolbert*

With the primary service area of Virginia's Tazewell County and limited service provision in Russell and Buchanan counties, Clinch Valley Community Action (CVCA) operates nine major programs composed of 35 different projects. One of CVCA's unique major programs is their Community Corrections Program.

The goal of the Community Corrections Program is "To provide safety to the community while ensuring offender accountability and rehabilitation." As such, the Community Corrections Program offers an alternative to incarceration by providing probation supervision for non-violent General District Court offenders/defendants as well as adult non-violent offenders/defendants from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

In order to ensure offender accountability and rehabilitation, the Community Corrections Program

- Performs random drug screens on offenders;
- Monitors offenders court referred community service;
- Monitors offenders on work sites;
- Provides referrals for counseling (for substance abuse, mental health issues, drug education programs, anger management and batterer's interven-

tion groups, sex offender treatment, GED classes, and job referral/reference); and

- Monitors offenders overall progress.

Moreover, in the past, as a supplement to CVCA's Community Corrections Program, CVCA has administered a Community Sentencing Program and Drug Court Program. The Community Sentencing Program provided an alternative for offenders to perform community service in lieu of paying fines and costs. It also provided offenders the opportunity to perform court ordered sentences of community service. Community service consisted of a variety of services performed at approximately 100 non-profit work sites throughout the county. Contrastingly, the Drug Court Program offered monitored treatment to individuals whose criminal justice involvement stems from alcohol or drug use/abuse. This was a collaborative link between the courts, the Commonwealth Attorney, law enforcement, treatment providers, social services and community action.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding is used to support the Community Corrections Program. For more information on this program, please contact Debra Johnson, CVCA Corrections Program Director, by phone at (276) 988-5583 or visit the Clinch Valley Community Action website at [www.clinchvalleycaa.org](http://www.clinchvalleycaa.org).



HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
AND  
PROSPERITY IN THE  
NEW YEAR!



## WAP Corner:

### What A Day! Weatherization Day 2006

*by Robert Adams*

Since its inception, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has never seen anything like the outpouring of celebration and support experienced this past October when more than half the country reported some level of activity on or around Weatherization Day.

Throughout the nation, State and local agencies secured proclamations signed by Governors and other elected officials. They served host to site demonstrations, energy fairs and other press events to showcase the work of the WAP and its benefits to the communities it serves. Some even used the day as a launching point for pilot programs and innovative funding opportunities. And many agencies showed special recognition for the work performed everyday by the "real" heroes of the WAP – the men and women who work in the local agencies and for private contractors delivering these essential services to those families in need.

So what happened? What made this year special? The answer is a combination of motivation, means, and opportunity. 2006 proved a very eventful year for the WAP. It was a year where many changes, adjustments, concerns, and innovations cumulated to a passion felt throughout the Network. 2006 also heralded the launch of the "Weatherization Day Planning Kit" which many states used to organize events to promote the Program. When October rolled around, these factors combined to inspire a strong, organized voice and a powerful message about the WAP, its impact on the families we serve, the economy, and the country's energy independence and security.

Here is just a sample of the kinds of activities that occurred in those states that held Weatherization Day celebrations:

#### **WEATHERIZATION DAY PROCLAMATIONS**

Several governors and many other elected officials signed proclamations extolling the benefits of the WAP and acknowledging that October 30<sup>th</sup> be recognized as a special day for their states and local communities.

Governor Jennifer Granholm of Michigan noted during

her signing of the Weatherization Day 2006 Proclamation that, "this day draws attention to the impact of rising energy costs and the savings that can be realized by small investments in Weatherization programs." Other officials who provided leadership in celebrating Weatherization Day:

- Governor Mike Huckabee from Arkansas
- Governor Sonny Perdue from Georgia
- Governor Jennifer Granholm from Michigan
- Governor Mike Easley from North Carolina
- Governor Bob Taft from Ohio
- Governor Brad Henry from Oklahoma
- Governor Ted Kulongoski from Oregon
- Governor Donald Carcieri from Rhode Island
- Governor Mark Sanford from South Carolina
- Governor Phil Bredesen from Tennessee
- Governor Chris Gregoire from Washington
- Governor Joe Manchin III from West Virginia

Mayors, county commissioners and other local officials also declared Weatherization Day in their political subdivision in Florida, Georgia, and West Virginia.

#### **SITE DEMONSTRATIONS**

Showcasing the great work performed every day by crews across the country is one of the most effective methods of educating elected officials, policymakers, funding partners, and the general public about the WAP. These site demonstrations serve as a "show and tell" for the tools, protocols and technologies being used to make weatherized homes more energy efficient, safer, and healthier.

Such opportunities allow agency staff across the country to showcase efficiency measures, provide tips on lowering utility bills, and demonstrate the operation of tools and equipment to a varied and interested audience. States that conducted one or more site demonstrations this season include Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

In nearly every instance where state and local agencies conduct these demonstrations for elected officials and



community leaders, the two general remarks always overheard are, "I had no idea your program did all of this," and "How can I get this work done on my house?"

After visiting a home weatherized in Colorado, Senator Wayne Allard remarked about the excellent work being performed in the Program. Meanwhile, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman from Indiana spoke at a site demonstration in her state and encouraged everyone eligible to access this excellent service. Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri visited homes in their respective states to witness the WAP services being installed first hand, and Congressman Latham of Iowa remarked that, "This was an amazing display of what can be done and the kind of help that is really available and needs to be available," during his visit to a home being weatherized.

**WEATHERIZATION DAY EVENTS**

State and local agencies found a variety of ways to celebrate Weatherization Day beyond signing proclamations and conducting site visits. Each of these events was designed to help spread the word about the WAP. Here are a few examples of complementary activities conducted this year:

- Press conference with KATV's Good Morning Arkansas;
- Participation at events associated with energy fairs and mass distributions of WAP tee shirts in Florida;
- Presentations at local senior centers, home improvement stores and energy fairs in Georgia ;
- Governor Rod R. Blagojevich of Illinois launched the "Keep Warm Illinois" campaign to coincide with Weatherization Day;
- Massachusetts "Energy Bucks" campaign designed to

encourage Weatherization and other energy conservation measures;

- "Turning Down the Heat, Turn Up Savings" campaign in Tennessee;
- Displays at various events in Virginia;
- Recognition of local agencies in Washington State and West Virginia; and
- Energy Conservation Awareness Day in Wyoming

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

The examples reported this year show an amazing effort on the part of state and local WAP staff to celebrate Weatherization Day. Because of their efforts, elected officials, utility representatives, local community leaders, and the general public have a better understanding of what the Program does for the families we serve and the communities where we work. This was a "job well done" by all and we would like to thank the hundreds of men and women who took part in planning and executing these events across the country. And we extend that appreciation to those who worked as hard on events in your state but were not reported as of yet.

You told an excellent story about the WAP and the story must continue to be told over and over again. It is not enough to celebrate something once. After all, we don't celebrate Christmas, or birthdays, or Independence Day or Thanksgiving, or any other special day just once. We celebrate it every year. And we try to keep the spirit of the day alive all year long. That's what a strong, well organized, and effective Public Information Campaign can do for you and the WAP – keep the Program alive and on the minds of everyone all year long.

Weatherization Day 2006 was a great success. With your help, Weatherization Day 2007 will be even better.



**NASCSP NEWS**



*Tunde Eboda*, State CSBG Administrator for the District of Columbia has accepted a fellowship with the Brookings Institution, a research and policy organization (Think Tank) in Washington, DC. This full-time fellowship commences January 2, 2007 and promises to be both challenging and exciting. His commitment is for

one year and he will be taking a break from his CSBG responsibilities during that period.

We will miss *Tunde's* dedication and commitment to the CSBG program and the mission of NASCSP, but we wish him all the best in this endeavor.

# Welcome to the Blogosphere

by Allison Spector

Imagine the following scenario: a diverse group of businesses, organizations, and government entities join together to speak for a common cause. On the surface, they may have few similarities— perhaps even opposing ideologies, but on one issue they all agree. It is an issue they can all get behind, that they truly believe in, and that is beneficial for each of them to support. Knowing that such partnerships are not forged lightly, this coalition recognizes that they will collectively make a very powerful statement. Now they must decide how to share this statement with the rest of the nation.

Perhaps as recently as five years ago, such a group would center its campaign on the media staples of television and radio. But today, interest groups have a new tool in their outreach arsenal— the “Blogosphere”.

According to Wikipedia<sup>1</sup>, the “Blogosphere” is the:

“...collective term encompassing all blogs as a community or social network. Many weblogs are densely interconnected; bloggers read others' blogs, link to them, reference them in their own writing, and post comments on each others' blogs. Because of this, the interconnected blogs have grown their own culture.”

This phenomena is currently being experienced by the Alliance to Save Energy, a consortium of varying interests ranging from the American Chemistry Council and Dow Chemical Company to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and NASCSP. United in the goal of energy conservation, this group reaches the public every year through their annual “Power is in Your Hands Campaign,” an initiative designed to encourage and educate average Americans on measures they can take to save energy (and money) in their homes.

What makes this year's campaign, the “Six Degrees of Energy Efficiency Challenge,” distinctive is its roots in Internet culture. Based from an online headquarters ([www.sixdegreechallenge.com](http://www.sixdegreechallenge.com)) the website challenges the public to test their energy savings knowledge, pledge to engage in a series of energy savings activities, and spread

the word (via email) to six of their friends. The interactive nature of the website, and “viral” (in a good way) marketing approach (friend emails six friends who email six more, etc.) have proven exceptionally effective. To date, the site has drawn more than 28,000 visitors. Over two thousand have taken the Challenge and nearly ten thousand emails have been entered into the database.

While “conventional” media events have undoubtedly been an integral part of the Campaign, there is little denying the power of the Internet to build both the audience and interest necessary to spread a message across the nation— and the world. After all, it was no coincidence that the Alliance has been mentioned on some of the Web's most popular environmental Blogs.

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the Blogosphere is that a message is not simply accepted at face value. Instead there is a distinct effort to seek the larger context and “truth” behind a movement. In this new Web culture, a topic is thoroughly examined and a more complete picture sought by a multitude of interested parties, providing an opportunity to both challenge and strengthen a campaign.

Earlier this month, the “Six Degrees Challenge” found itself under the lens of online magazine, “Tree Hugger” ([www.treehugger.com](http://www.treehugger.com)) whose blog is listed as one of the 100 most popular in the world. Priding themselves on social responsibility, the site approached the Alliance with weary optimism. After assessing the funding and background of the partnership and its campaign and finding it to be legitimate, the duly impressed “Tree Huggers” shared the results of the “investigation” on their forum and invited the Alliance partners to engage in a dialogue about why they chose to participate in “Energy is in Your Hands”.

Below you will find NASCSP's thread in the dialogue. It is important to note that Bob Adams was thanked by the blog's author for keeping the less fortunate in his thoughts as he drafted his response. The entire discussion can be found on [www.treehugger.com/files/2006/12/alliance\\_to\\_sav.php](http://www.treehugger.com/files/2006/12/alliance_to_sav.php).

*My name is Robert Adams and I work for the National Association for State Community Services Programs, one of the partners in the Alliance to Save Energy's "Power in Your Hands" project. Simply stated, energy is used by everyone and conserving it is everyone's responsibility. Whether you are a single mother living on assistance in Detroit or the Dow Chemical Company, energy is vital to your survival and must be available and affordable.*

*Our organization, NASOSP, represents the state offices responsible for operating federal programs like the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The WAP helps low-income families save energy by installing an array of cost effective measures on each home, thereby reducing the family's energy use by an average of 21%. These savings translate into money not being spent to pay for wasted energy and can be redirected by the family to pay for food, clothing, medicine, better housing, or other related expenditures. And these savings recur each year. The WAP operates in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and on select Native American reservations. Over 900 local agencies serve every jurisdiction in the country.*

*We teamed up with the Alliance to Save Energy, DOW Chemical, insulation manufacturers, utility companies, federal departments, and national organizations for this project so we could add our voice and the collective voice of over 30 million low-income families in America to say that energy conservation and energy affordability is vital to the future of this country and our very existence. There was a time when energy was optional - perhaps 100 years ago. Today there is no option. Everyone needs energy. And affordable energy is something every family, every manufacturer, and every business needs.*

*Something to consider - when energy prices go up, businesses can pass that cost onto their consumers. When energy prices go up for a low-income family, their energy burden rises at a much faster rate than their middle and upper income counterparts. Their incomes aren't likely to increase to meet the need to pay higher energy*

*bills. To cover the cost of higher energy, you and I might skip going out to dinner one night this week or not take that trip to see our friend in the next town. For a low-income family on fixed income, that increase means they may miss a meal, or two, or three. Or that medicine dosage is cut because the prescription can't be refilled, or the house goes dark because the bill wasn't paid and the utility shut off the power. These low-income families are hit a second time when manufacturers and businesses pass on their energy cost increases to the consumers. That means bread, milk, cereal, gas to get to work, and all household costs rise.*

*If the Power in Your Hands Campaign can help even one family avoid shut-off, conserve energy to make life more affordable, or teach them how to access help from the utility company or the government, it is worth every effort being made. Please support this Campaign and encourage those you know to tune in and use the information to help all of us. Energy prices aren't likely to decrease anytime soon and the need for energy worldwide will drive prices even higher. Renewable sources are improving daily but not fast enough to keep pace with world demand. Conservation is the only viable solution we have right now and we can all find some way to participate. The "Power" to change things is really "In Your Hands".*

Beyond all doubt, the 21<sup>st</sup> century has heralded a powerful new form of mass communication; one that affords a level of global reach and interactivity previously unknown to the average citizen. Through general accessibility and near instant gratification, the landscape of public information has forever changed. As we witness the progress of the "Power is in Your Hands" campaign, it has become increasingly clear that one well placed message on the Internet can now take seed in the Blogosphere, creating an extended conversation with the potential to inspire dialogue, awareness, and action for the betterment of all.

<sup>1</sup>*This example was chosen deliberately since it is a publicly edited encyclopedia where the Internet community is charged with submitting and editing entries.*

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work. You don't give up.

—Anne Lamott



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE

### NASCSP Board Training Manual & DVD Now Available!

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## NASCSP RECOGNITION AWARDS



NASCSP members believe there are many persons who deserve to be recognized for their contributions to NASCSP and the programs they serve. Recognition of extraordinary contributions helps boost the morale of the organization and highlights the value of our supporters and allies. NASCSP has created the James Gardner Weatherization Award, the Ann Kagie Award for CSBG and the Marjorie J. Witherspoon Award for NASCSP. All awards will be presented at the NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Seminar at the Washington Marriott Hotel, 1221 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC, during the week of February 14-16, 2006.

### RECOGNITION AWARDS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

•**THE MARJORIE J. WITHERSPOON NASCSP AWARD**•

Goes to a current or former NASCSP member and is based on significant service or support of NASCSP and/or length of service to NASCSP.

•**THE ANN KAGIE CSBG AWARD**•

Goes to an individual involved in CSBG activities at the national, state or local level and is based on significant technological or program contributions and/or tenure with the program.

•**THE JAMES GARDNER WEATHERIZATION AWARD**•

Goes to an individual involved in the Weatherization Program at the national, state or local level and is based on significant technological or program contributions and/or tenure with the program.







# UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (CAP) FALL  
MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING CONFERENCE  
December 6-8, 2006

Hotel Contessa on the Riverwalk  
San Antonio, Texas

[www.communityactionpartnership.com/events/Fall-Training.pdf](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/events/Fall-Training.pdf)

HAC NATIONAL RURAL HOUSING CONFERENCE  
2006

December 6-8, 2006

Hyatt Regency Hotel - Washington, DC

[www.ruralhome.org/Conf2006/index.htm](http://www.ruralhome.org/Conf2006/index.htm)

CALIFORNIA WIND ENERGY COLLABORATIVE FORUM  
2006

December 12-13, 2006

Silverado Resort - Napa, California

[www.cwec.ucdavis.edu/forum](http://www.cwec.ucdavis.edu/forum)

NASCSP NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION AND MID-  
WINTER CONFERENCE

February 12-16, 2007

Washington Marriott Hotel - Washington, DC

For further questions, please email the Gove Group at:  
[chomol@gove.org](mailto:chomol@gove.org)

NARUC 2007 WINTER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 18-21, 2007

Renaissance Washington Hotel - Washington, DC

[mamalloy@naruc.org](mailto:mamalloy@naruc.org)

2007 NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE

February 26 - March 1, 2007

The Westin Long Beach (housing workshops)

[www.westin.com/longbeach](http://www.westin.com/longbeach)

Renaissance Long Beach Hotel (environmental work-  
shops)

[www.222.renaissancehotels.com](http://www.222.renaissancehotels.com)

2007 OKLAHOMA HOUSING CONFERENCE

THE ART OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

April 15-17, 2007

Oklahoma City Cox Business Services Convention Cen-  
ter & Renaissance Hotel

[janderson@aseproductionsinc.com](mailto:janderson@aseproductionsinc.com)

ACI HOME PERFORMANCE CONFERENCE 2007

April 23-27, 2007

Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

Cleveland, Ohio

[www.affordablecomfort.org](http://www.affordablecomfort.org)

2007 JOINT LOW INCOME ENERGY CONFERENCES

"Building Bridges: Working in Harmony for Affordable  
Energy"

June 3-7, 2007

Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel

Nashville, TN

[conference@nliec.org](mailto:conference@nliec.org)

2007 NASCSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 18-21, 2007

Red Lion Hotel—Boise, Idaho

For further questions, please email the Gove Group at  
[chomol@gove.org](mailto:chomol@gove.org)

Give me the money that has been spent in war  
and I will clothe every man, woman and child  
in an attire of which kings and queens would  
be proud.

I will build a schoolhouse in every valley  
over the whole earth.

I will crown every hillside  
with a place of worship consecrated to peace.

—Charles Sumner

# NASCSP IN WASHINGTON, DC



IT'S **TIME**...MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND  
THE 2007 NASCSP MID-WINTER ORIENTATION/TRAINING CONFERENCE  
WASHINGTON MARRIOTT HOTEL—WASHINGTON, DC  
FEBRUARY 12-16, 2007  
PLAN TO BE THERE!!!!

## Community Services Network News Now!

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12 ISSUES

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- Please send 12 issues of the NASCSP Newsletter to each of my \_\_\_\_\_ Community Action Agencies @\$100.00 each (address list of CAAs attached) and invoice me/check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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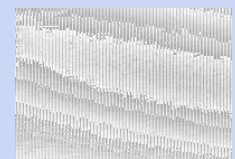
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Fax: 202/624-8472  
Email: [tjoyner@nascsp.org](mailto:tjoyner@nascsp.org)



NASCSP



### NASCSP Mission:

**to assist states in responding to poverty issues.**