

Notes from Weed & Seed Meeting

Assets Learning Conference

September 21, 2006

Phoenix, Arizona

List of Resources from the Assets Learning Conference

Weed and Seed participants in the Assets Learning Conference identified a number of resources, listed below, that could provide useful information and support for the design and implementation of IDA programs. Some of these resources are established programs with proven track records, while others represent innovative ideas and approaches that are still in the testing phase. The Weed and Seed IDA Technical Assistance Team invites feedback on any of these resources that individual sites may use. Comments on any of these resources can be sent to Terry Ratigan at trratigan@cdcu.coop or any other member of the technical assistance team.

Earned Income Tax Credit

- Brookings Institute, "Earned Income Tax Credit Series Home Page"; www.brookings.edu/metro/eitc.htm Research articles on EITC and Zip-code-level tax return information for states, metro areas, counties, cities and towns for tax years 1997 through 2003.
- Florida Prosperity Campaign, EITC outreach campaign www.prosperitycampaign.com
- Center for Budget and Policy, Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach Kit; www.cbpp.org/eic2006/index.html

Foreclosure Prevention

- NeighborWorks "Center for Foreclosure Solutions Hotline" 888-995-HOPE Receive free advice from nonprofit, HUD-certified organizations 24 hours a day
- Dan Kornelis delivered a presentation at the Assets Learning Conference that explained the approach of the Forsyth County North Carolina IDA Consortium towards preventing foreclosures. A copy of Dan's PowerPoint is available on the Weed and Seed IDA TA Resource page: <http://www.cdcu.coop/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=997>
- The Forsyth County guidelines for IDA program managers and participants to use in obtaining an affordable first mortgage loan is contained in a sample letter of agreement that is also available on the Weed and Seed IDA TA Resource page: <http://www.cdcu.coop/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=997>

Homeownership and Community Development Training

- NeighborWorks America www.nw.org A national nonprofit created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization efforts

Credit Counseling Software

- Community Empower www.communityempower.com This software package claims to "assist clients in increasing their credit score by learning what is being reported on their credit report, creating a budget, disputing inaccurate information on a credit report." It also provides a customized credit score implementation plan and incorporates products from partner lenders so clients are matched with appropriate loan products"

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Wealth Inequality

- “Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide” by Meizhu Lui, Barbara Robles, Betsy Leondar-Wright and Rebecca Anderson. Authors are all part of “United for a Fair Economy” www.faireconomy.org a national nonpartisan organization based in Boston that campaigns against growing income and wealth inequality and inspires action to reduce economic inequality.

Research on Innovative Ownership Strategies

- “Building Assets While Building Communities”, a report for the Walter and Elise Haas Fund by Heather McCulloch, explores several ways to expand opportunities to build home equity, build business equity and commercial real estate investment for low-income families. heathermcc@sbcglobal.net
- “Alternative Asset Building Strategies in African American Communities: Wealth Accumulation through Cooperative Ownership” by Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Ph.D. jnembhar@umd.edu

Community Development Externship Program

- Thomas Mitchell, University of Wisconsin Law School, directs the Community Development Externship program that places law students from several U.S. law schools into poor, urban, and rural communities in the United States and the Caribbean to do legal work that assists communities with asset-based community development initiatives. tmitchell@wisc.edu

IDA Listservs

- CFED moderates a listserv for exchanging ideas and information about IDA initiatives and policies. Subscribe to their listserv at www.cfed.org
- AFI Listserv is designed so that Office of Community Services (OCS) may share program-related information quickly and easily with AFI grantees. To subscribe send an email to AFIProgram-L-Join@lyris.acf.hhs.gov
- Weed and Seed IDA Demonstration Project Listserv is a listserv for the Weed and Seed Coordinators whose sites are part of the Weed and Seed IDA Demonstration Project. Weed&seedida@lists.natfed.org

Native IDA Initiative

- The “Expanding Native Opportunity: Native IDA Initiative” is a comprehensive training and technical assistance program to help Native communities design and implement IDAs. The next training is November 14-16 in Florida. Contact Emily Appel at eappel@cfed.org for more information.

Economic Independence for People with Disabilities

- Steven Mendelsohn, J.D., Law, Health Policy and Disability Center at the University of Iowa Law School; smendel@panix.com has identified top ten action steps that could contribute to increased asset accumulation for people with disabilities.
- “Access to Assets”, a project of the World Institute on Disability (WID), works to bridge the gap between the asset building and disability communities. Contact Megan O’Neil, Project Coordinator, at megan@wid.org

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Assets and Opportunity Scorecard

- The Assets and Opportunity Scorecard benchmarks the 50 states and the District of Columbia on 31 asset outcomes and 38 state asset policies that can help or hinder citizens' efforts to get ahead. www.cfed.org/go/scorecard

Credit Unions and Community Development

- The National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions represents a national network of credit unions that focus on building wealth in low-income communities. Information is available at www.cdcu.coop
- The National Credit Union Administration is the regulatory agency for all federally insured credit unions. Information is available at www.ncua.gov

Place-Based Asset Building through Homeownership

- The communities of Richmond, Virginia and Duluth, Minnesota are targeting specific neighborhoods with their asset building strategies. Contact Greta Harris, Southeast Regional Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Richmond, gharris@lisc.org to find out more about Richmond's program. Contact Angie Miller, Community Action Duluth, angie@communityactionduluth.org to find out more about Duluth's program.
- ***The Impacts of Targeted Public and Nonprofit Investment on Neighborhood Development***, based on Richmond's "Neighborhoods in Bloom Program" can be ordered from Dan Tatar, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, dan.tatar@rich.frb.org

Weed and Seed IDA Technical Assistance Team

For comments, questions or recommendations for the Weed and Seed IDA Technical Assistance Project, please contact Terry Ratigan, (212-809-1850 or tratigan@cdc.coop). Program questions may also be addressed to individual members of the technical assistance team:

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