



Hmong National Development, Inc.

1628 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Ph: 202-797-9105 | Fax: 202-797-9107 | info@hndinc.org

HND NEWS FLASH

May 2009
2nd edition

Legislative Updates

Senate Moves Closer to Health Care Reform

The Senate Finance Committee completed its three-part series of roundtable discussions on reforming the health delivery system, expanding health care coverage, and financing health care reform. The roundtable participants included a number of representatives from the health insurance industry who agreed during the coverage roundtable to eliminate the discriminatory practice of gender rating, a trend in the individual private insurance market that charges women higher premiums than men.

Congress Approves Budget Resolution

On April 29, the House approved the conference report for the FY2010 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 13). The Senate also passed the conference report on the same day. For the most part, the resolution endorsed the President's priorities, setting the stage for health care reform, climate change and a number of other legislative tasks including reauthorizing children's nutrition programs and limiting the role of private lenders in student loans. Notably, Congress demonstrated its commitment to pass health care reform by requiring the Senate to vote on health care by October 15. Under this instruction, floor debate would be limited and the legislation can pass with a simple majority, instead of the usual 60 filibuster-proof majority.

New Guidelines for DHS Workplace Enforcement

On April 30th, DHS announced **new guidelines** on worksite raids issued to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that target employers' unlawful hiring practices. Several provisions outlined in the DHS Worksite Enforcement Strategy Fact Sheet indicate a focus on targeting unscrupulous employers before detaining any workers. The new guidelines reduce the threshold from 150 to 25 employees to activate existing humanitarian guidelines to quickly identify persons arrested who are sole caregivers or who should be released for other humanitarian reasons.

Limiting identity theft law

In a 9-0 decision, the Supreme Court ruled on May 4, that only people who knowingly steal someone's Social Security number can be convicted of aggravated identity theft. Under the Bush administration, many undocumented workers were arrested on aggravated identity theft charges, rather than a misdemeanor, and deported for using false Social Security numbers. The decision in *Flores-Figueroa v. U.S.* is considered a major victory for immigrant communities as it restrains an exceptionally harsh

punishment and limits the unfair application of the aggravated identity theft charge.

Announcement of the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Health Reform

On May 11, Secretary Sebelius of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the establishment of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Health Reform. This Office will spearhead the Department's efforts to pass urgently needed health reform this year and coordinate closely with the White House Office of Health Reform.

Defending the Voting Rights Act

On April 29, the Supreme Court heard arguments related to the Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder case in which the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) is in question. Renewed in 2006, Section 5 requires jurisdictions with histories of discrimination in voting to receive federal preclearance of new voting practices or procedures. As minority and immigrant communities continue to grow in the U.S., laws like Section 5 are critical in protecting their voting rights and ensuring their full civic participation in the democratic process. The Supreme Court is expected to release their decision in a few weeks.

Upcoming Events

National Conference on Volunteering and Service

The 2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service is the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors. This year's theme is, "Civic. Energy. Generation." Participants will learn about the role of volunteerism in meeting critical community needs and will take part in vital conversations about the future of service and volunteering in America. This year's conference will reflect the tremendous excitement in the U.S. today as people of all ages and backgrounds unify in a powerful movement to bring about social change. The conference will be held on June 22-24, 2009, in San Francisco, CA.

Scholarships and Fellowships

Funding Opportunities

WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others

The WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others supports grassroots organizations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico that serve the overlooked needs of women and children. The Foundation provides grants of \$5,000 to \$30,000 for critical health programs, social services, and education projects that give women and children the knowledge and tools they need to improve their lives. Examples of funded programs include food and shelter for the homeless, healthcare for the poor, after-school programs, career training for under-employed women, and domestic violence prevention programs. Applications must be submitted by the second Tuesday of September of each year.

KIDS Consortium: Green Schools Mini-Grants

KIDS Consortium, with support from State Farm Youth Advisory Board, is offering mini-grants for "green" service-learning projects developed by K-12 schools in New England. Grants of up to \$750 will support "green school" service-learning projects, such as energy efficiency and recycling, proposed by K-12 educators, students, and community organizations working with youth. Funded projects must solve a problem or address a local need related to making schools and neighborhoods healthier and more environmentally sustainable. Students involved in these projects will have an opportunity to participate in a 2010 Green Schools Student Summit in order to share their projects with students from around the region. The application deadline is August 31, 2009.

Union Pacific Foundation: Community-Based Grant Program

The Union Pacific Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in the communities served by Union Pacific Railroad, primarily in the midwestern and western United States. (For a company system map, [go here](#).) Through the Community-Based Grant Program, the Foundation provides support in the

following categories: Community and Civic, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services. Organizations in the railroad's service area are invited to submit a one-page preliminary application form online. Selected organizations will receive a link to the website containing the online application form, which must be submitted by midnight CDT on August 15, 2009

Aetna Encourages Regional Health

Applications for the second round of Aetna's Regional Community Health Grants program are being accepted. The program currently focuses on funding programs that offer community-based health education, prevention, and early detection efforts to address the obesity epidemic and on programs designed to improve overall health literacy. Aetna is especially interested in improving racial and ethnic health care equality. Aetna will consider requests ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000. In this round, applications will be accepted from eligible communities in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Tennessee. This grant round closes June 15, 2009.

David Bohnett Foundation

The David Bohnett Foundation encourages social activism by supporting a number of local and national initiatives with cash grants, state-of-the-art technology, and technical support. The Foundation's areas of interest include support for national and local organizations that serve the needs of the LGBT community; educational, research, and recreational activities that serve the local LGBT communities via Internet access; the reduction and elimination of the manufacture and sale of handguns in the U.S.; voter registration and education; and animal language research, service animals, and eliminating rare animal trade. Letters of inquiry are accepted twice a year. The next deadline is June 30, 2009.

Federal Deadlines

USDA: Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants

This program helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption, and assists them in meeting the nation's critical energy needs.

Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration: Recovery Act Funding

This program provides financial assistance to distressed communities in both urban and rural regions.

USDA: Rural Development Community Connect Grant Program

This program provides financial assistance to furnish broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where such service does not currently exist.

USDA: Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program

CSREES announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program for fiscal year (FY) 2009 to meet national goals for addressing the health and access needs of rural Americans. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2009 is approximately \$1.5 million.

Promoting Youth & Child Safety

The purpose of this grant is to support local youth and child safety project. This grant has two parts. Part A is for a local organization to implement an intervention strategy that addresses a community threat to youth and children. The proposed program should specifically address a threat to the well-being of children and youth in the local area and be replicable elsewhere. Under this project the following project areas are not fundable: delinquency, gangs, mentoring, purchase of equipment and information dissemination.

Strategic Enhancement for Mentoring Programs

The purpose of this grant is to support program growth for current and existing youth programs. This grant will only support program growth in 3 areas: (a) inclusion of parents and families in mentoring activities; (b) add or enhancing structured activities for the mentor and mentees; and (c) adding or enhancing the training available to mentors.

Strengthening Communities Fund: Nonprofit Capacity Building Program

The Office of Community Services will support new cooperative agreements to experienced organizations to provide nonprofit organizations with capacity building training, technical assistance, and competitive financial assistance. The focus of this program is to build the capacity of local nonprofits to address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities, including helping low-income individuals secure and retain employment, earn higher wages, obtain better-quality jobs, and gain greater access to state and Federal benefits and tax credits.

Hmong National Development, Inc. (HND) is a national, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to build capacity, develop leadership and empower the Hmong American community. HND works with local and national organizations, public and private entities, and individuals to promote educational opportunities, increase community capacity, and develop resources for the well-being, growth, and full participation of Hmong in society.

The HND News Flash is a bi-weekly electronic newsletter with information regarding policy issues, HND updates, and current community news. For more updates, visit: www.hndinc.org.

Disclaimer: *The views expressed in this edition do not necessarily represent the views of the organization. Unless specified otherwise, the below information and/or resources are provided for informational purposes only.*