

Fire Grant Application Period to Open March 1, 2002

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that the application period for the 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program will open on March 1, 2002. This year's \$360 million program will provide funds to local fire departments to protect the safety of firefighters and the public with basic firefighting capabilities, basic fire prevention programs, and intermediate level emergency medical services.

Fire departments may apply for eligible activities in one of four different programs:

1. **Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety** (eligible activities include: Training, Wellness and Fitness, Firefighting Equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment).
2. **Fire Prevention** (eligible activities include: Public Education, Public Awareness, Code Enforcement, and Arson Prevention).
3. **Emergency Medical Services** (eligible activities include: Training and/or Equipment).
4. **Firefighting Vehicles**

This year's grant program is more flexible for applicants. Fire departments will be able to complete and submit applications on the Internet. The web-based application will contain helpful guidance, and FEMA can send an electronic confirmation once they receive an application. They will also be posting program guidance and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the web site at www.usfa.fema.gov. Interactive applications will be made available at



that web site no later than March 1, 2002. FEMA officials are also available to assist you on their toll-free hotline at (866) 274-0960 or by email at usfagrants@fema.gov.

(This article was taken directly from a press release issued by the United States Fire Administration (USFA) on

Planning Orientation Assistance Available From ACOG

Many local governments rely on their Planning Commissions and Boards of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to oversee the task of reviewing comprehensive plans and administering zoning ordinances within their community. This job requires members of each group to know and understand not only the local ordinances and plans but also their responsibility as set out in state legislation. Working with the many rules that govern how these groups function and how plans and

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ADC Approves Loans in January

At the January Board meeting, the Directors of the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) considered and approved the following loan requests:

A loan for \$90,000 was approved for Friendly's Scrubmobiles, Inc., of Inman in Spartanburg County. This is the second ADC loan to this growing company owned by Martha Toney and Rita Golden. The company sells medical uniforms and scrubs directly to customers at their place of work, such as hospitals, nursing homes, doctor's offices, etc. The funds will be used for additional inventory in order to expand sales. Within the year, Friendly's will be franchising their Scrubmobile concept with the plan to go nationwide. Over the next two years, four to six new jobs will be added.

A \$50,000 loan request for Kilgore Holdings, LLC was approved. Funding will be used to finance a building to be used as art studios on West Pendleton Street in Greenville County. The building was the general store for Brandon Mills. BB&T is the lead lender, with the ADC funds to be used for upfitting of the building. Kilgore Holdings, LLC will own the building, which will be leased to ArtBomb, Inc., a group of local artists. The artists will pay monthly rent for studio space; space that has been lacking in the Greenville area. The plan is to provide space for up to 14 artists.

In Spartanburg, the ADC has had an SBA 504 loan approved by the Small Business Administration to

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New Census 2000 Data Soon To Be Released!

Beginning in March 2002, the U. S. Census Bureau will start to release information gathered from the long form, which was completed by one of every six households participating in Census 2000. This information, referred to as Sample Data, addresses population and housing characteristics in greater detail than the population and housing data already released from the short form (referred to as 100 Percent Data). A number of subjects are included in this data, such as: Ancestry, Disability, Grandparents as caregivers, Income in 1999, Marital Status, Occupations, Commuting, Educational Attainment, and Value of Housing. Most of this information may be accessed via the Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov.

Between the months of March and May, certain Sample Data will be incorporated into *Demographic Profiles*, which include various demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for a specified geographic area. Using the Census Bureau's web site, individuals may generate a profile for the entire country, for a specific state, or for a specified county, city, or congressional district within a state.

Between the months of June and September, the Bureau will continue its release of Sample Data in *Summary File 3*. Summary files present statistics for a large number of geographic areas and are designed to show great subject matter detail, presented in tabular form. Like Demographic Profiles, this file presents data from the population and housing long form for the geographic areas previously listed. This file, however, also presents information for smaller geographic areas such as census tracts and census block groups.

According to the Census Bureau's product release schedule, some information from Census 2000 will be released as late as March 2003. A safe assumption is that, the more detailed the information, the later the release. The

United States
Census
2000

Appalachian Council of Governments serves as an affiliate of the State Data Center for the dissemination of Census information. For more information regarding Upstate demographics, contact the Information Services

Municipal Council Retreats - *Strategic Planning and Goal Setting*



The Easley City Council

What do the municipalities of Spartanburg, Six Mile, Landrum, Norris, Easley, Reidville, Pacolet and Gaffney all have in common? Their municipal councils have all participated in or are planning to participate in strategic planning sessions facilitated by the Appalachian Council of Governments.

Six of the councils have recently conducted one day planning sessions, while the City of Spartanburg conducted a two-day program and the City of Gaffney has planned a three-day event. The municipalities of Easley, Norris and Reidville utilized the ACOG boardroom as the site of their retreats for its convenience and economy (it's free).

Each of the councils has had the foresight to take some time away from i t s



Reidville City Council

respective jurisdiction and routine business to consider solutions for long term problems and plan for future community needs. ACOG facilitators have worked with the councils to establish prioritized lists of short term



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provide permanent funding for a new Bruster's Ice Cream building to be located in the Boiling Springs area. The ADC funding of \$212,000 will compliment the National Bank of South Carolina's primary funding of this \$607,000 project. The principals, Linda and Jim Graham, already own a Bruster's location in Spartanburg that the ADC has helped fund. This location's success has led them to seek this additional site. The project should be complete and ready for funding in the second quarter of 2002.

Long Term Care Ombudsmen Advocate for Residents' Rights

CORNERSTONE OF CARE: Residents' Rights

Why are there Residents' Rights?

The Nursing Home Reform law and many state laws contain specific provisions that protect residents' rights - the basic human and civil liberties that most of us take for granted every day; for example, the right to visit with anyone you choose, or the right to get up and go to bed when you wish. Who wouldn't expect to make such decisions? You don't lose any rights when you move into a nursing home.

But nursing home staff tend to focus on routine and efficiency. They must care for large numbers of frail, dependent people. Respect for the rights of individual residents sometimes gets lost in the drive to operate efficiently as a business.

The nursing home is an institution,



with institutional bureaucracy and management. Residents are physically frail and often mentally confused. These factors help explain why the law places so much emphasis on residents' rights.

Residents' rights are one of the key items state survey agencies must inspect during their reviews of nursing homes, and many states have their own strict laws and regulations to protect individual rights.

Residents and their families generally receive a copy of a nursing home's policy on residents' rights upon admission. This important document can help residents receive the best possible care. It's a good idea for both

residents and family members to reread it from time to time. Be sure the nursing home's policy does not violate your rights.*

Who to Contact?

Call the Appalachian Council of Governments' Long Term Care Ombudsman toll free:

Anderson County	225-3268
Cherokee County	489-6960
Greenville County	242-9733
Oconee County	882-7538
Pickens County	855-0163
Spartanburg County	582-1403

*Sarah Greene Burger...[et al.] and the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (1998) [Nursing Homes: getting good care there.](#)

Pendleton District *State of the Workforce Report* Addresses the Region's Labor Market Challenges

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board launched a regional workforce research project in the summer of 2001 in an effort to begin to understand the workforce of Northwest South Carolina, which incorporates Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

The primary product from this research, the *State of the Workforce Report*, includes overall workforce supply and demand trends, and an analysis of the implications for achieving workforce excellence in the Pendleton District region. This report also provides a brief assessment of the

career development system and the manner in which the education and training providers in the community are working to meet the needs of employers, job seekers, and workers.

The overarching goal of this *State of the Workforce Report* is to share data with economic development, education, business, government, labor, and other community leaders who agree that a serious commitment to workforce development is essential to the region's economic vitality.

The report suggests that regional economic development cannot succeed without a stronger emphasis on and strategic investment in workforce development. It also concludes that the challenge for this region is to fully embrace the notion of becoming a high skills region that is focused on growing employment in advanced manufacturing and other sectors that can use those skills successfully.

Based on interviews with leading edge employers, the Pendleton District region has a solid core of firms that are systematically using advanced technical platforms as their approach for competitive success and agree that supporting this direction may be the greatest opportunity for workforce development strategies in the region. "Overseas competition is squeezing us. We must thus pursue automation, working smarter, developing our workforce so that we have 100% trained people with minimal turnover and increased opportunities for advancement."

To do this, the report indicates it will be crucial to focus on strategies to ensure a good supply of entry-level workers prepared to work with technology effectively and that current workers can easily access the skill building tools they need to tackle jobs with changing and increasing skill demands.

"We require more highly skilled workers. Increasing automation requires technicians and diagnosticians. We

(Workforce Report continued on page 4)

ElderCare Trust Fund

THE FACTS

South Carolina is getting older. In 2000, one in six South Carolinians turned 60 years or older. This represents a 60 percent increase since 1980. In 1992, the South Carolina ElderCare Trust Fund was established to enable taxpayers to make voluntary contributions through "check-off" on income tax forms.

Contributions are distributed as grants by the ElderCare Trust Fund Partnership Board. The Board is made up of citizen leaders from across the state. Your contribution to ElderCare Trust helps support innovative programs, services, and pilot projects around the state that help older persons remain in their homes and communities, avoiding institutional care for as long as possible. These activities will ensure and promote independence and dignity throughout their lives.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community organizations in Chesterfield, Spartanburg, Greenville, Anderson, Williamsburg, Richland, Lexington, Dorchester, and others are among the many that have received funding for innovative projects using ElderCare Trust.

Examples of grant projects include minor home repairs, home safety and home injury protection programs, respite care services for patients with Alzheimer's disease and their families, ramps for handicapped seniors, weekly supplies of frozen meals, grant-a-wish days, and health and wellness programs.

DONATION RETURN FORM

Please make checks payable to the

✓ Remember to check off for the **ElderCare Trust Fund** on your state income tax form, or make a difference today by mailing a tax-deductible donation to the address below:



ElderCare Trust Fund, and mail them to the following address:

Bureau of Senior Services
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

On your state income tax form, ElderCare Trust is found on **Line 24** of the long form (SC1040). On the short form (SC1040A), it is found on **Line**

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ordinances may be applied is sometimes the most difficult task these groups have to face. This is especially true as turnover within a commission or board occurs.



ACOG staff is available to provide orientation sessions for both Planning Commissions and BZAs to help them understand all the roles and responsibilities they are charged with. Members of the planning staff recently conducted orientation sessions in Williamston and Walhalla to further the efforts of their boards. Williamston's Planning Commission and BZA were recently reorganized, so the orientation was tailored for new members to help them understand their responsibilities. Many of the Walhalla Planning Commission members had served for several years, and requested an orientation session just as a refresher and overview of state legislation, as well as to answer some questions.

Some of the elements that are covered include state enabling legislation for planning; roles and responsibilities of each board; and an overview of the development and administration of comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances and land development regulations. The orientation sessions can be customized to meet the needs of each group. Please contact Steve Pelissier, Planning Director, for information on scheduling a Planning Commission or BZA orientation session.

(Workforce Report continued from page 3)

need more skilled workers with increased/improved interpersonal skills and who are computer literate, and can perform increasingly complex problem solving."

This report identifies several opportunities to be considered in framing an action plan, including: integrating and expanding educational opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing and Health Care; encouraging and supporting the upgrading of skills of the incumbent workforce; and working closely with high growth firms to understand their needs for workforce solutions to support continuing growth.

The Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, conducted research for this project. The Appalachian COG provides administrative oversight for the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Program.

For printed copies of this report, please contact: Ms. Julia Sermons, Workforce Program Director, Pendleton District Workforce

Public Forum On Needed Services For Older Adults

A public forum will be held in Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee and Pickens Counties to give individuals an opportunity to speak out about services needed for older adults in their community. The forums are being held to listen to those individuals using services or in need of services. Information gained from the forums will be utilized in an Area Plan being developed by the Appalachian COG Area Agency on Aging for the State Office on Aging in the Department of Health and Human Services. Citizen input is vital for policy makers to gain a better understanding of issues facing senior citizens and their caregivers in South Carolina. For the date, time and location of the forum in your community, please contact Beverly Allen at the Appalachian COG's office at 242-9733.

VIEWPOINT

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