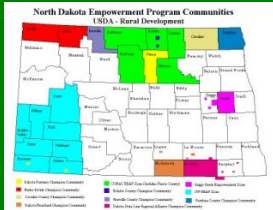




# E-Weekly Newsletter

July 9, 2004

Volume II, Number 28



## Champion REAP Alliance

Laura Every, Director

PO Box 324

Maddock, ND 58348

We're on the Web! [www.ndalliancelink.com](http://www.ndalliancelink.com)

### Phone:

(701) 438-2660

### Fax:

(701) 438-2283

### E-mail:

[levery@gondtc.com](mailto:levery@gondtc.com)

## News from the Director's Desk

### REAP Investment Board hires James Belquist

The REAP Investment Board (RIB) would like to introduce Jim Belquist, who started work for them on June 14. Jim will manage RIB projects, develop and implement a marketing strategy for the REAP Zones and act as liaison throughout the state.

Jim was raised on a farm east of New Rockford, graduated from New Rockford High School and Valley City State University. After graduation, he began a thirty-two-year finance career with Northwestern Bell Telephone Co and U S WEST. During that time, he also took finance and marketing courses at Wharton and U C Berkeley. He retired in 1999 from U S WEST in Denver as Vice President of U S WEST Trust Investment. Since that time he has been involved in private investments.

Jim and his wife Judy, who was also raised in New Rockford and is a Valley City State University graduate, considered returning to North Dakota in 1991, again in 1999 and finally were able to "escape city life" when he was recently appointed the RIB Director. Jim states that he and wife Judy are very happy with their decision and are more than willing to discuss with anyone the positive benefits of living in rural North Dakota.

Jim's many hobbies include pheasant hunting, climbing Colorado 14,000 foot mountains, fishing, skiing and traveling. Jim and his wife Judy have two children and four grandchildren.

Jim Belquist: [jboptions@gondtc.com](mailto:jboptions@gondtc.com)

### Champion REAP Alliance Seeks Input Regarding Issues Facing Rural ND

The CRA has created an on-line survey and asked rural North Dakotans to share their thoughts on the issues that rural ND face. The results of the survey will be reviewed and efforts to find partners to address these issues will be made. To provide your input, go to <http://www.createsurvey.com/c/18696-AXmzii/> and complete the survey found there.

### Funding Opportunities

#### More \$\$\$ for REDL&G Now

Gear up now to apply for increased REDL&G grant and loan funds in FY2005. USDA contacts recently told C&ED staff to expect \$10M for grants next year and as much as \$25M may be available for loans. Compared with the usual of \$4M in grants and \$15M in loans, this reflects additional funds from the Cushion of Credit account. First quarter applications are due October 1 to your state Rural Development office: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd\\_map.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html). For more information on REDL&G, visit our C&ED community on Cooperative.com

[www.cooperative.com/ResourceCenter/Research/CommEcDev/Federal/Item\\_Display.html?objectid=12059](http://www.cooperative.com/ResourceCenter/Research/CommEcDev/Federal/Item_Display.html?objectid=12059)

#### USDA Accepting Applications for New Rural Financing Program

You may work with community partners, such as financial institutions, community development corporations, and the state economic development authority to establish a Rural Business Investment Company in your region. Through September 17, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is accepting applications to license for-profit companies as RBICs that encourage economic development and job creation in rural areas. Once licensed, three of the eligible RBICs will be able to issue up to \$20M each in government-backed debentures. Application forms, program guidance, and a plain English Fact Sheet are available at [www.sba.gov/INV/RB](http://www.sba.gov/INV/RB)

#### Pedaling for Dollars?

Would bike trails be an asset in your community? If so, you may want to work with your local partners to write a grant

application to Bikes Belong. It's a national biking education and advocacy group that provides grants up to \$10,000 to help construct bike routes and trails to promote bike riding. Learn more about guidelines for this program at <http://bikesbelong.org/site/page.cfm?PageID=158>

#### **Rural Housing Service**

Faith-based and other organizations may apply for the *Section 525 Technical and Supervisory Assistance Grants*. The grants support organizations to provide homeownership and financial counseling, assist eligible applicants to develop multi-housing loan and/or grant applications, conduct outreach to low-income persons in rural areas, and facilitate the delivery of housing programs to the neediest low-income families in rural areas of greatest need for housing.

A total of \$2 million will be awarded to about twenty-five applicants. Half of the total grant amount will be awarded for programs in states with the highest degree of substandard housing and persons in poverty in rural areas: Texas, California, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, and Pennsylvania. Individual award amounts are expected to be about \$100,000.

The deadline for the pre-application packages to be received by a Rural Development State Office is August 2, 2004. The Federal Register announcement is at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-14909.pdf>.

November 1 Application Deadline for Funds to Support Physical Play for Children

#### **Nickelodeon Let's Just Play Grants Program**

The Let's Just Play Grants Program, a program of Nickelodeon, provides support to create or expand opportunities for physical play in K-9 schools and after-school community-based organizations throughout the U.S. Suggested uses of grant funds include hosting days of play throughout the year; purchase of playground, sports, or athletic equipment; integrating play time or recess into curriculum; establishing athletic or intramural clubs/teams; and establishing nutritional or health education programs.

Applicants must demonstrate a need for funding and participate in Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play on October 2, 2004. The application deadline is November 1, 2004. Visit the website listed above for program details.

Funds to Save Shelter Dogs and Cats

#### **Maddie's Fund**

Maddie's Fund supports comprehensive, community-wide projects that will guarantee every healthy shelter dog and cat in the target community a loving home. The Community Grants Program provides support for collaborations of no-kill organizations, animal control and traditional shelters, and private practice veterinarians, working together to implement an adoption guarantee and end the killing of healthy shelter dogs and cats in their community within five years. The Fund also supports veterinary colleges that support achievement of Maddie's Fund's no-kill goal through collaboration with animal shelters, continuing education, student education, post-doctoral education, or research programs. Applications are accepted throughout the year from nonprofit organizations and veterinary colleges throughout the country. Visit the above website for more information.

Grants to Enhance Climbing Opportunities and Conserve Climbing Environments

#### **Access Fund**

The Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grants Program supports projects that preserve or enhance climbing opportunities and conserve the climbing environment throughout the United States. Grants are made for climbing facilities, grassroots activism, land acquisitions funding, education outreach, conservation, etc. Requests are accepted from local climbing groups or organizations; governmental agencies that wish to sponsor or organize a local project; and research groups, conservation organizations and land trusts. The next application deadline is September 15, 2004. Visit the above website for more information.

Focus on Education, Environment, and Ford Motor Company Communities

#### **Ford Motor Company Fund**

Ford Motor Company Fund supports nonprofit organizations that strive to make the world a better place through a myriad programs and projects. The Fund focuses on the following areas: education at all levels, especially in the areas of science, engineering, math and business; the environment; vehicle passenger safety; helping communities, including programs focused on youth, community development, diversity education, conflict resolution, and touring art and cultural exhibitions; and programs and organizations that target specific needs and enhance the quality of life in company communities throughout the country. Applications are accepted year-round. Nonprofit organizations with national scope and nonprofit organizations in company communities are eligible to apply. Visit the above website for details and application guidelines.

Deadline Approaching for Public Interest Litigation Funding

#### **Impact Fund**

The Impact Fund is dedicated to providing funding, technical assistance and representation for complex public interest litigation in the areas of civil and human rights, environmental justice and poverty law. Grants of up to \$25,000 are made to pay for out-of-pocket expenses of substantial class action and impact cases. The Fund is particularly interested in receiving applications addressing systemic deprivations of constitutional or statutory rights in the following areas: post-9/11 cases involving denial of rights under the guise of "Homeland Security;" criminal justice and immigration; and education access and equity. Grants are made to private attorneys and firms and nonprofit entities that do not have sufficient access to funding sources if there is a likelihood that the case either could not be effectively prosecuted or substantial hardship would incur to the applicant in the absence of a grant. The next deadline for pre-applications is August 26, 2004 with full applications due September 2, 2004. Visit the website for more information.

#### **Bank of America Foundation Neighborhood Excellence Initiative**

The Bank of America Foundation focuses resources on helping children and families succeed in life and neighborhoods flourish by helping make positive changes through the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative.

#### [Buffett Award Recognizes Individuals in the Field of Conservation and Community Development](#)

The Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership is a recognition program funded by the Peter and Howard Buffett Families to honor outstanding First Nation or tribal members in the field of conservation and community development.

#### [Entergy Charitable Foundation Grant Guidelines and Application](#)

The goal of the Entergy Charitable Foundation is to support initiatives that help create and sustain thriving communities.

#### [Toshiba America Foundation Supports Science and Mathematics Education](#)

The mission of the Toshiba America Foundation is to contribute to the quality of science and mathematics education in U.S. communities by investing in projects designed by classroom teachers to improve science and mathematics education for students in grades K-12.

#### [Innovations in American Government Program](#)

The Innovations in American Government Program is a significant force in identifying and promoting excellence and creativity in the public sector.

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## In Need of News/Updates

I am in need of news to share in my weekly emails and to post on the ndalliancelink.com website. E-mail me at [levery@gondtc.com](mailto:levery@gondtc.com)

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## Upcoming Meetings/Events

- ✓ July 13, CONAC monthly meeting and strategic plan review in Maddock
- ✓ July 14, SW monthly meeting and tour of Women's Prison in New England
- ✓ July 21, Champion REAP Alliance monthly meeting via conf. call
- ✓ July 26, REAP Investment Board planning session in Bismarck, date tentative.

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities

- 07.12.2004 Monday [Starting a Business](#) NDSCS Tech Center 800 6th Street N, Wahpeton, ND 58074
- 07.12.2004 Monday [Understanding Financial Statements](#) NDSCS Tech Center 800 6th Street N, Wahpeton, ND 58074
- 07.13.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 07.14.2004 Wednesday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 07.15.2004 Thursday [NumberCrunchers: Understanding Financial Statements](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 07.20.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 07.21.2004 Wednesday [QuickBooks: Working with Lists](#) James Valley Career & Technology Center 12th Avenue & 10th Street NE, Jamestown, ND 58401
- 07.27.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 07.28.2004 Wednesday [QuickBooks: Entering Sales & Invoices; Receiving Payments and Making Deposits](#) James Valley Career & Technology Center 12th Avenue & 10th Street, Jamestown, ND 58401
- 08.02.2004 Monday [Starting a Business](#) NDSCS Tech Center 800 6th Street N, Wahpeton, ND 58074
- 08.03.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 08.04.2004 Wednesday [QuickBooks: Getting Started](#) James Valley Career & Technology Center 12th Avenue & 10th Street NE, Jamestown, ND 58401
- 08.05.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Payroll and Timesheets](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 08.10.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 08.11.2004 Wednesday [QuickBooks: Working with Lists](#) James River Career & Technology Center 12th Avenue & 10th Street NE, Jamestown, ND 58401
- 08.11.2004 Wednesday [Lean Manufacturing 101](#) Hilton Garden Inn 4301 Darthmouth, Grand Forks, ND 58201
- 08.12.2004 Thursday [NumberCrunchers: Understanding Financial Statements](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 08.17.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 08.18.2004 Wednesday [QuickBooks: Entering Sales Invoices, Receiving Payments, and Making Deposits](#) James River Career & Technology Center 12th Avenue & 10th Street NE, Jamestown, ND 58401
- 08.24.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 08.25.2004 Wednesday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 08.31.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 09.02.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Inventory and Sales Tax](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 09.07.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102
- 09.08.2004 Wednesday [Manufacturing for Uncle Sam](#) Entrepreneur Centers of ND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

09.13.2004 Monday [Starting a Business](#) NDSCS Tech Center 800 6th Street N, Wahpeton, ND 58074  
09.14.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
09.18.2004 Saturday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
09.21.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
09.28.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
10.04.2004 Monday [Starting a Business](#) NDSCS Tech Center 800 6th Street N, Wahpeton, ND 58074  
10.05.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
10.07.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Getting Started](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
10.11.2004 Monday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
10.19.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
10.20.2004 Wednesday [Lean Manufacturing 101](#) Minot State University 500 University Ave. W, Minot, ND 58701  
10.23.2004 Saturday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
10.26.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
11.04.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Managing Your Bank Accounts](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
11.10.2004 Wednesday [Manufacturing for Uncle Sam](#) Entrepreneur Centers of ND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
11.13.2004 Saturday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102  
12.01.2004 Wednesday [Lean Manufacturing 101](#) Best Western Kelly Inn 3800 Main Ave., Fargo, ND 58102  
12.02.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Sales and Accounts Receivable](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

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## Current and Ongoing Projects

- ✓ NDalliancelink.com maintenance and updating
- ✓ Alliance Link Newsletter (Dec 2004)
- ✓ Leadership & Board Training Initiative- RBOG Grant Project
- ✓ Rural Coalition Development- Survey on-line through 7/12/04
- ✓ RBOG Grant- Project Implementation and Oversight

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## Links

SBDC <http://www.ndsbdc.org>

E-Commerce Guide <http://sbdcnets.utsa.edu/SBIC/e-com.htm>

Biz Pathways <http://nd.bizpathways.org/Bizpathways/Index.aspx>

SBA <http://www.sba.gov>

Fundsnet <http://www.fundsnetsservices.com/>

Philanthropy News Digest <http://fdncenter.org/pnd/>

The Grantsmanship Center <http://www.tgci.com/>

DUNS Number Information [http://www.dnb.com/US/duns\\_update/index.html](http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html)

Rural Leadership ND <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/rInd/>

