

In the Loop™

Compiled by Valerie F. Leonard

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Please Forward...

Archived issues of *In the Loop* may be found at www.valeriefleonard.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome!

Welcome to *In the Loop*, an eclectic compilation of e-mail transmittals that I have received during the past week. From time to time, you will find announcements of events, grant opportunities, job postings, links to websites and articles of interest or notes of encouragement. I hope that you, or someone you know, would find the information to be of use. If you would like to unsubscribe, submit material, or make general comments, you may contact me at valeriefleonard@msn.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Valerie F. Leonard, Editor

Assessing the Habits of Highly Effective Agencies

I am conducting a series of surveys of agencies engaged in capacity building activities. This includes government agencies, foundations, nonprofits and faith-based organizations. I ask that you take 10 minutes to complete a short questionnaire. [Click Here](#). A link to the survey is also on the front page of my website, www.valeriefleonard.com.

Your individual contact information and responses will be kept confidential, and aggregated results will be shared with those who respond. **The survey will be available until September 15th, and results will be sent by September 22nd.** Over time, information from the surveys may be useful for your organization as you develop needs assessments and build your case of support as you apply for funds for capacity building. **Thanks!**

ARRA RESOURCES

[The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#)

[About Recovery.gov](#)

[Stimulus Funding Opportunities](#)

[Updates from Recovery.gov](#)

[Recovery.Illinois.gov](#)

[Chicago Recovery and Reinvestment](#)

[IllinoisResource.Net](#)

[Donors Forum of Chicago Stimulus Funding Index](#)

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

I would like to thank Ms. Carolyn Brown Hodge, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Quinn, for providing periodic announcements of Jobs, Funding Sources and Conferences. I recommend that you review all recent posts, as some deadlines are rolling.

[8-7-09.pdf](#)

[8-14-09.pdf](#)

I would like to thank Ms. Suzette Foster, Director of Marketing and Outreach for the Indiana Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, for providing the following funding announcements.

[July FO.pdf](#)



WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Register for Capacity Building Blocks

Capacity Building Blocks™ is a 10-week workshop series for nonprofit leaders who are serious about maximizing community impact. The interactive workshops provide an in-depth organizational assessment, and balance of instruction, case studies and group activities designed to help you strengthen your organization's infrastructure, and position it for long term sustainability. You may participate in the entire series, or selected modules. ([More...](#))

Rural Preservation Conference September 24

I received the following information from the Housing Assistance Council's e-newsletter.

HAC will convene "Preserving Rural Rental Housing: A Conference on Policy and Practice" in Washington, D.C. with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Hear from key members of Congress, leaders in Section 515 preservation legislation, expert congressional and USDA staff, and local practitioners. Visit <http://www.ruralhome.org>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

I thank Keith Pye, a fellow Whitney Young Alum, for the following information.

Hello Alum:

Attached is a brochure to "Your're Hired" a job seminar I will be conducting on September 26, 2009. This seminar is a pro-bono endeavor on my part. It is my part in trying to help serious job seekers develop new skills and strategies. **Please forward a copy of the brochure to any person or organization that you feel may benefit from this conversation.** If any of you have a direct contact to a Senior HR Specialist, please contact me. I will provide you with additional information upon your contact .

Keith Pye, Class of 79
312-890-3131

[You're Hired](#)

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago Fundraising Manager, Donor Development

I thank **Verna Sutton** of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago for the following information.

Below is the link to the latest open position. In order to view the job requirements and responsibilities, click on the position title.

Position: [Fundraising Manager, Donor Development
Resource Development](#)

Anyone interested in applying, please complete the [prescreen assessment](#) and attach your resume by no later than **Thursday, September 10, 2009**. Should you have any questions or problems viewing this open position, please contact me at 312-906-2352.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Illinois ResourceNet

- **Do you have a collaborative project looking for funding?**
- **Has your organization ever thought about applying for a federal grant?**
- **Are you overwhelmed by a grant application and wish you knew where to go for help?**

We have the solution!

Illinois Resource Net (IRN), was established to help prepare nonprofit organizations and small municipalities and other small government units, as they apply for federal grants. In a nutshell, this project will offer:

- on-line training opportunities,
- one-on-one technical assistance,
- workshops,
- regional as well as statewide conferences, and
- A very user friendly website.

Most of the services offered will be free or very low cost and open to anyone interested in participating. You will be asked to sign up for the project online at: www.illinoisresource.net. Afterwards, your own technical assistant will be assigned to you to assist you.

Interested but want to know more? Here's how:

Phone: (312) 413-4301

E-mail: info@illinoisresource.net

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Discounts on Quick Books™ and Quicken™

Visit www.valeriefleopard.com to purchase Quick Books and Quicken products for discounts ranging from 10%-36%. These prices are lower than what you will find at an office supply store or on the Intuit website. Products include QuickBooks Online Edition, Quick Books Nonprofit Edition 2009, QuickBooks Premier Edition 2009, QuickBooks Premier Retail Edition 2009; Quick Books Contractor Edition 2009, Quicken Home & Business 2009, Quicken Rental Property Manager; Quicken Medical Expense Manager and QuickBooks Checks and Forms.

RECOMMENDED READING

The following articles were published in recent issues of Leadership Wired, a bi-weekly electronic newsletter published by Robert Maxwell.

Principle-Centered Planning

By Dr. John C. Maxwell

When Plans Don't Go According to the Script, Keep Planning

Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway®

By Dr. John C. Maxwell

Stepping Out Against Fear

Momentum Breakers vs Momentum Makers

Dr. John C. Maxwell

Recapturing Momentum

Self-Preservation

By Dr. John C. Maxwell

Questions That Sustain Your Leadership

HAC NEWS

The following are excerpts from the Housing Assistance Council monthly newsletter, HAC News, September 2, 2009, Vol. 38, No. 18 visit www.ruralhome.org to download the entire newsletter.

HUD OFFERS FUNDS FOR SECTIONS 202 AND 811, AND OTHERS. Apply by November 5 for the Assisted Living Conversion Program or for Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing, by November 13 for the Section 202 elderly housing program, and by November 16 for Section 811 housing for people with disabilities. Visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm> or <http://www.grants.gov>.

HUD DELAYS INCOME VERIFICATION RULE. HUD's "Refinement of Income and Rent Determination Requirements in Public and Assisted Housing Programs" published on January 27, 2009 (see [HAC News, 2/4/09](http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/fr/)) will be effective January 31, 2010. See [Federal Register, 8/28/09](http://www.federalregister.gov) or <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/fr/>. Contact Nicole Faison, HUD, 202-402-4267.

WEBSITE COMPILES STATE LAWS THAT IMPACT HEALTHY HOMES. The National Center for Healthy Housing and the National Conference of State Legislatures prepared <http://www.healthyhomestraining.org/codes/state.htm>, providing links to state landlord-tenant laws, housing/maintenance codes, health/sanitation codes, and others. Contact Tom Neltner, tneltner@nchh.org, 410-992-0712.

MANUAL PUBLISHED FOR ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSING ON RAPID REHOUSING. Organizational *Change: Adopting a Housing First Approach* and other resources are available from the National Alliance to End Homelessness at <http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/housingfirst>.

LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS PRIMARY CAUSE OF FAMILY HOMELESSNESS, RESEARCH REVIEW CONCLUDES. A review of existing research has affirmed that the primary cause for most homelessness among families is the inability to find housing they can afford. Enterprise Community Partners and the National Alliance to End Homelessness, which commissioned the study, conclude that for the vast majority of unsheltered American families, homelessness can be alleviated through rental subsidies. *Ending Homelessness for Families: The Evidence for Affordable Housing* is free at <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2466/>.

RESOURCES FOR POLICY, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Woodstock Institute

<http://www.woodstockinst.org/>

Woodstock Institute is a Chicago-based policy and advocacy nonprofit that works locally, nationally, and internationally to promote community reinvestment and economic development in lower-income and minority communities. Woodstock Institute staff provides regular technical assistance to community organizations, media outlets, policy makers, and financial institutions. This assistance includes developing lending analyses, new data sources, program evaluations, and product development.

THOMAS

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/abt_thom.html

THOMAS was launched in January of 1995, at the inception of the 104th Congress. The leadership of the 104th Congress directed the Library of Congress to make federal legislative information freely available to the public. Since that time THOMAS has expanded the scope of its offerings to include the features and content listed below.

- [Bills, Resolutions](#)
- [Activity in Congress](#)
- [Congressional Record](#)
- [Schedules, Calendars](#)
- [Committee Information](#)
- [Presidential Nominations](#)
- [Treaties](#)
- [Government Resources](#)
- [For Teachers](#)
- [Help and Contact](#)

ILGA.gov

<http://ilga.gov>

This site includes introduced bills and resolutions, adopted amendments, engrossed bills and resolutions, conference committee reports adopted by both the House and the Senate, enrolled bills and resolutions, and re-enrolled bills for the General Assembly from January 1997 to the present time. During the legislative session, there may be delays in posting recently filed or adopted documents on this site.

JUST CHECKING

The 7 Deadly Sins of Board Development

We have all heard of the 7 deadly sins for our everyday lives—lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride. These vices, if left unchecked, can lead to harmful consequences. When it comes to board development, there are 7 mistakes that can stagnate organizational growth.

1. Selecting board members based on friendship or family relationship, without regard to level of commitment, core values or skills the prospective members bring.
2. Allowing prominent, or “big name”, people to come onto the board with the understanding that they won’t be able to make meetings or attend functions
3. Having board members “rubber stamp” decisions made by the board president or executive director, without discussing the benefits and consequences of the decision upon the organization.
4. Lack of commitment and participation from board members
5. Failure to adequately monitor the organization’s finances
6. Failure to file required annual reports with the state and local government
7. Failure to keep abreast of the latest developments in the organization’s industry, locale or community

Are you a saint or sinner?

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