

break bread

Illinois Community Action Association
Food Security & Advocacy News

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2006

FY 06 Budget Passes & Is Devastating to Social Programs

Source: www.frac.org & ICAA, February 2006

The House voted on February 1, 2006, 216 to 214 to pass the FY2006 Budget Reconciliation conference report (S. 1932). All Democrats, 1 Independent, and 13 Republicans (one of which was Illinois' own Tim Johnson of the 15th District) voted to oppose this legislation. The details of the roll-call vote should be available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Except for the President signing it, this was the final action needed to pass the FY2006 entitlement program changes. The bill makes deep cuts in Medicaid, student loans, child support enforcement, child care, foster care, and disability assistance to help finance tax cuts for the wealthy, and includes a TANF reauthorization that weakens rather than strengthens the program.

The President's budget for the coming fiscal year (FY2007) has many more deep cuts including CSBG (which is at zero again). The President's budget was released Monday, February 6, 2006.



USDA Seeks Proposals for Food Stamp Outreach Grants

Source: www.usda.org, January 2006

Page 2

Public Policy Spotlight

Page 3

What's Going On Locally

Page 4

What's Going On Nationally

Page 6

What's Going On Internationally

Page 11

Upcoming Events



April 3rd is the deadline to apply to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for FY 2006 food stamp outreach grants of up to \$75,000 each. At least \$1 million, contingent upon availability, is available. The competition is not open either to state and local food stamp agencies or to groups that received FNS outreach grants awarded in FY 2001, 2002, 2004, or 2005. If interested in applying, please contact Holly Copeland, at 217.789.0125 or go to www.grants.gov.

Public Policy Spotlight

EPA Ignoring Public Opposition to Testing Chemicals on Kids

Source: <http://www.organicconsumers.org>

Several months ago, the Organic Consumers Association alerted its readers to an EPA proposed rule that would allow pesticide and other chemical testing on children. Over 50,000 comments were generated to the EPA condemning this proposal. Despite overwhelming input from citizens, congress, and EPA's own scientists opposing the proposed rule, the agency's administrators have announced they intend to approve the proposal and allow chemical testing on children.

"The fact that EPA allows pesticide testing of any kind on the most vulnerable, including abused and neglected

children, is simply astonishing," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. Even EPA's own scientists are speaking out against the agency's proposed rule. "I am somewhat dismayed that this rule was presented in such a complex — and I would have to say, tricky — way," said Suzanne Wuerthele, a regional toxicologist for the EPA. Earlier in 2005, Congress mandated that the EPA must ban all chemical testing on humans without exception, in order for the agency to be allocated its full budget. EPA has clearly failed to do this with this proposed rule.



Administration Rejected Aid to Poor Families Choosing Between Food and Heat

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Maine, New York, Kansas, Virginia, and South Carolina asked the Bush administration to "increase food stamps for low-income families facing higher heating bills this winter." The administration rejected



their request to increase food stamp allotments "from \$8 to about \$30 a month for families who pay their own utility bills." The Energy Department predicted that heating bills could rise by 25 percent this winter, and some families will have to choose between food and heat. The Center on

Budget and Policy Priorities' Robert Greenstein said the decision is "effectively cheating low-income families."



Cook County Sheriff's Garden: A Patch of Paradise

Source: University of Illinois Extension Office

On just about any day, weather permitting, groups of men work in the garden at 3026 South California Avenue, pulling weeds, watering flowers, and harvesting vegetables. Some of them, only a few weeks before, were shooting heroin and stealing car parts to support their drug habits. The men are some of the 200 inmates of

It gives them a chance to be outside and to do something meaningful. When they find out the vegetables go to feed the homeless and to the WIC program, they respond to that.

—David Devane
Executive Director, DCSI

a Cook County Sheriff's Office pre-release center who have helped tend a 6,000 square foot patch of soil within the Cook County Jail complex. The garden is part of a program designed to rehabilitate non-violent drug offenders while providing food for Chicago's poor and the homeless. The inmates who work in the garden are drug offenders involved in a treatment program run by the Department of Community Supervision and Intervention (DCSI), a department in the Sheriff's Office.



The DCSI facility and the garden are within the sprawling county jail complex, but are separate from the main jail, where prisoners accused of violent crimes are

SNAPping into Action: State Nutrition Action Plan at Work

Source: Illinois Department of Human Services (edited by ICAA) January 2006

The Illinois Interagency Nutrition Council (INC), the vehicle for Illinois SNAP, has been in existence, formally, since 1994.



**Illinois
INTERAGENCY
NUTRITION
COUNCIL**

The mission of the council is to promote health and wellness through nutrition education, coordination of services, and

access to nutrition programs so that all Illinois residents can achieve food security.

housed. Some of the DCSI inmates are awaiting trial, some are awaiting sentencing and others are released after their time in the DCSI facility. Cook County Sheriff Michael Sheahan says the garden is an example of the type of program that is needed to help inmates stay out of jail once they are released. The DCSI community vegetable garden was first planted by DCSI inmates in the spring of 1993 with help from University of Illinois Extension Urban Gardening Program. Extension staff envisioned the garden as a therapeutic project for DCSI inmates, giving them a chance to develop their social skills, take pride in their work and contribute to the community by growing food for the needy. The garden now grows a variety of fresh vegetables including zucchini, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, turnips, onions, mustard greens, and collards. Extension staff provide weekly technical assistance to the gardeners. Much of the produce grown at the garden is sold to a south side food distribution site operated by the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. This year more than a ton of zucchini valued at \$1,400 has been grown and sold. Through an initiative called the Farmer's

see SNAP on page 8

see SHERIFF on page 9

What's Going On a national perspective

Meal Services to Homeless Youth Expanded

Source: Foodlinks, Jan 20, 2006

On January 3, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued interim regulations in the *Federal Register* extending eligibility for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) participation to emergency shelters that serve homeless teenagers and children without their families. The rules implement a provision of the 2004 child nutrition reauthorization act that raised the age limit for residents of emergency shelters from age 13 to 18.

USDA notes that, "These changes are expected to increase the number of emergency shelters that will be eligible to participate in the CACFP as well as the number of homeless children that will have access to free, nutritious meals." Comments on the interim regulations may be submitted through March 6, 2006. For additional information, see the *Federal Register* notice at: <http://a257.gakamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/05-24683.pdf>.



Parents Sue Over 'junk food' Ads

Source: comfood list serve, January 2006

Consumer groups in the US are suing cereal maker Kellogg's and children's TV network Nickelodeon in a bid to stop them showing adverts for sugary foods. They are demanding that both companies drop TV and website ads for so-called 'junk foods' aimed at youngsters. TV ads for sugary and fatty snacks have been criticized by pressure groups in the US, who argue they are helping to fuel soaring child obesity rates. But industry groups deny that food companies have acted irresponsibly. They say that manufacturers have no direct control over which foods are bought by consumers. The court action against Kellogg's and Nickelodeon-owner Viacom is being brought jointly by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood and



More States Opting for Food over Money in TEFAP

Source: Foodlinks, January 20, 2006

An increasing number of states are exercising their option to spend a portion of their storage and distribution funds in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) on food. The final fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) once again allows states to convert up to \$10 million of the \$49.5 million provided for distribution expenses to be used to buy food.

Although TEFAP continues to be allocated \$140 million a year for food purchases, a growing need for more food to combat increasing hunger nationwide has propelled an increase in the numbers each year. USDA reports that for fiscal year 2006, 12 states will use \$2.55 million of the \$10 million for food. Those numbers are up from fiscal year 2005, when nine states converted \$1.45 million and from fiscal 2004, when just four states transferred \$744,000.

Reduced amounts of bonus commodities available to TEFAP are also driving the trend. So far this fiscal year, USDA has supplied only five items – dry beans, dried cherries, grape juice, dried fig pieces, and canned sweet potatoes. No additional bonus purchases are on the horizon at this time, according to USDA officials.

see PARENTS on page 9

Full Bellies, Fewer Crimes

Source: Bonnie Schindler, January 26, 2006

‘Crime definitely plays a big role when you live in an area where everyone is in poverty.’

Food is an essential ingredient in sustaining life; without it, the body and mind are not in balance. For one-third of low-income adults, it is a daily struggle to maintain equilibrium. On the days when these adults lose this struggle, there is a correlation between hunger and social ills. Without food, people sometimes do poorly in school or break the rules, said Frank Tamborello of the Los Angeles Coalition to End



Hunger & Homelessness

”Hunger and poor nutrition have been scientifically proven to affect

children’s educational performance,” he said. “Hunger is a symptom of poverty, and I believe you can find validation that loss of jobs and income can lead to a higher crime rate.”

The problem is especially prevalent in areas where people such as Leatrice Parks, a struggling mother of two who lives in Long Beach. “Crime definitely plays a big role when you live in an area where everyone is in poverty,” Parks said. “Everyone around us is hungry.” She said that because of their situations, people would do anything they could to survive: selling drugs or stealing. Before electronic benefits cards, Parks said some folks illegally copied food stamps and sold them in the streets. Tamborello compared a low-income person’s nutritional intake neglect to a car. He said that small problems could cause an even greater one. If a car is low on oil, yet still seems to be functioning normally, people ignore it - but there can be serious consequences that might later affect the whole vehicle, he explained.

”(People who do not have the means) won’t be able to take care of their kids,” Parks said. “The kids start looking raggedy

- they get taken to foster families.” Parks, who spent her youth in the foster care system, said people have to prove to the



courts that they can find a job, pay for bills and buy food. If it takes too long to find a good-paying job, their kids might already be adopted, Parks said. “I know people who have lost their kids,” she said. “I don’t know if they are just not thinking about what life is like,” Parks said. “Don’t they know you can’t live off minimum wage?”

Cuts in the assistance program hurt low-income people in other ways and many will lose the ability to save. The low-income families who are working to lift themselves out of poverty will suffer the most,” said Antonia Hernández, president and CEO of the California Community Foundation. “Currently, families who receive food stamps can own a car and even have some savings. If these budget cuts pass, these hard-working families will no longer qualify.”

”There’s a philosophy among some members of Congress that the (Food Stamp Program) isn’t popular with the majority of Americans, and that it violates conservative principles of self-help,” Tamborello said. Parks, who works 48 hours weekly cleaning up after elderly patients who need mental counseling and caregiving assistance, said she is not lazy but needs assistance because she is not making enough money.

“There is not (much) assistance for working people; it is almost like you are best being on welfare,” Parks said. Tamborello said the money allocated benefits legal

see FULL on page 8

What's Going On

an international perspective

Nobody Should Die from Hunger in the 21st Century

Source: zaman.com, February 02, 2006

The problem of poverty has been taken up by the Intercultural Dialogue Platform (KADIP). Emphasis was made on the unacceptability of the existence of hunger and hunger related death in the 21st century, and the panel agreed on the point that preventing waste could help solve the problem. Turkish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Mehdi Eker stated during the "Hunger and Poverty: Religions' Suggestions for Solution" that a child dies of hunger every five minutes while others are suffering from obesity. Eker told all celestial religions speak of greed and extravagance, and

**Thirty million people a year
DIE of HUNGER
Thirty million people a year
DIE of HUNGER
Thirty million people a year
DIE of HUNGER**

said, a huge step in overcoming world hunger will be made when these excesses are eradicated. Cape Town University Professor Francis

Wilson from the South African Labor and Development Unit noted that hunger and poverty have increased by 20 percent in the last 15 years. Kerim Guzelis from the Syriacs Orthodox religion pointed out that what is essential in charity is the principle of privacy. "A charity room was built in Horasan. Those that wanted to contribute were able to leave donations in that room and someone in need would later take from it. In this way, no one feels any humiliation, as no one knows who is giving and who is taking." Yeuda Adoni speaking on behalf of the Jewish religion said helping the poor and giving bread to the hungry is the duty all humanity and exists in all holy texts as a duty assigned by God to all mankind. Dositheos Ananostopules from the Orthodox sect highlighted the point of poverty's vicious circle. Sleiman Saikali from the Catholic sect said love must be a lifestyle. Kirkor Damatyan

US Congress Scraps Cotton Subsidy

Source: BBC, February 2, 2006

The US Congress has approved the scrapping of major subsidies to the cotton industry, in a move that could help producers in the developing world. The administration agreed in December to implement a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling against the subsidies, but it needed congressional authorization. Brazil, which brought the case, said government help for American cotton farmers distorted the global market. The subsidies included incentives to buy cotton from domestic farmers. Aid agencies said the system was particularly damaging to cotton-producing nations in West Africa which, they say, did not get a fair price for their crops. The House of Representatives passed the bill on Wednesday, following approval by the Senate late last year.

The congressional vote, which came with protests from the agricultural lobby, means that US exporters and manufacturers will no longer receive an incentive for buying their cotton from domestic farmers. The Bush administration has already scrapped two credit programs for the farmers, to comply with the WTO decision. BBC Americas editor Simon Watts says US cotton subsidies have been at the centre of a global trade battle for years, with successive administrations paying billions of dollars annually to farmers in the American South, who have a powerful lobby in Washington. US trade officials believed the subsidies were legal, but in a landmark ruling in 2004 the WTO decided that much of the assistance broke its rules. In Brazil, the resolution will be seen as vindication of the government's strategy of tough diplomacy at the WTO, in coordination with other developing nations, our correspondent says. At one stage, Brazil even threatened trade sanctions if the US did not implement the ruling.

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see NOBODY on page 9

Mali's David v Goliath GM Struggle

Source: BBC, December 7, 2005

The debate on genetically modified (GM) crops has erupted again in Africa, three years after Zambia refused genetically modified food aid. Mali - sub-Saharan Africa's largest cotton producer - has begun a controversial five-year project to introduce GM crops such as BT cotton to the country. "We have been given some figures that show that generally BT cotton is more productive than conventional cotton because of the natural protection of this plant so there is no need for treatments," says Siaka Dembele, at Mali's agricultural research institute, IER.

The institute along with the US development agency, USAid, and the transnationals Monsanto and Syngenta are leading the project which started last year. Mr Dembele says production is not just up in the United States, but

other developing countries too. But his belief that the use of less pesticide would have both economic and environmental benefits is not shared by some. "That's an absurd proposition," says Asseto Samake, a professor of genetics and biology at the University of Mali. "The claims they are making for this cotton are absolutely false." Ms Samake explains that BT cotton has been modified with the introduction of genes of the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* so it can secrete toxins to resist two or three major cotton pests. She says that in Mali there are thousands of cotton pests and that when a few are removed from the natural equation, others will flourish and farmers will still need pesticides. "If BT cotton is so profitable, why do they have to subsidize their cotton farmers with billions of dollars in the United States?" Ms Samake asks.

"Our farmers in West Africa achieve record production using just their digging sticks and regular seeds and they have great difficulty selling what they produce, because subsidies in America and Europe have made the world price for cotton fall. "So why do they come now with their

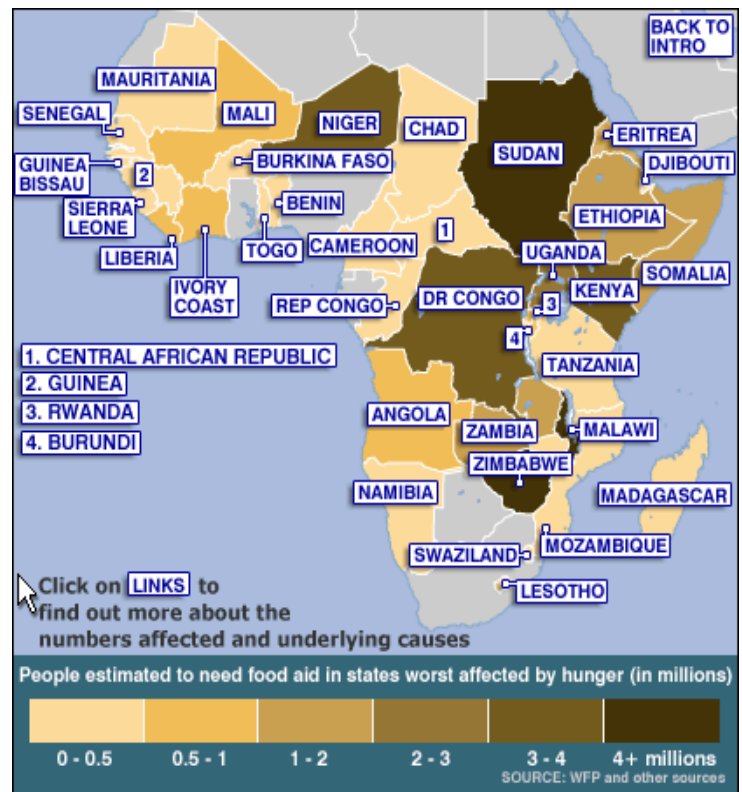
Sub-Saharan Africa is in the grip of an extraordinary hunger crisis, with more than 40 million people needing emergency food aid across 36 countries, according to UN figures.

The crisis has been made worse by east Africa experiencing an unusual drought that

has coincided with southern Africa's "hunger gap", or the lean time between one harvest and the next. The number of people being sustained

40m in Sub-Saharan Africa Need Emergency Food Aid, Says UN

Source: The Guardian, February 2, 2006



see MALI on page 10

see 40M on page 10

More Information

SNAP continued

INC representatives include State agencies with food assistance programs: Department of Human Services, Department of Public Health, Department on Aging, Department of Agriculture, and University of Illinois Extension, the Food Bank Association, School Nutrition Association, the Illinois Hunger Coalition, the Dairy Council, Catholic Charities, the Illinois Community Action Association and others.

SNAP was a snap in Illinois; it was not hard. The team initially selected the school environment goal and then added on the goal of promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles. March National Nutrition Month is an opportunity in Illinois to bring partners together at the State capital to showcase the INC member's programs. In particular, the importance of fruits and vegetables is identified. The University Extension Office has delivered fruit and vegetables to state legislators with special messages on them.

A recent addition to INC is the "CLOCC," the Consortium to Lower Obesity in the City of Chicago. This organization assists in addressing concerns about child obesity. As a result of the INC, the Extension has offered cooking classes to WIC families at 18 WIC Food Centers.

The INC has also been identified in legislation to work with an Early Learning Council that exists in Illinois to address early childhood issues. The INC intends to work with this Council on nutrition and physical activity issues. The point of the INC is to maximize the accessibility of nutrition services to Illinois' residents, to prevent the duplication of services, and foster collaborative efforts by the organizations in Illinois charged with combating hunger and promoting nutrition.



FULL continued

residents, while illegal immigrants have never been allowed to have food stamps. The closest many illegal adults get to these benefits is via their legally born children who may accept food assistance. Currently, legal permanent residents who have lived in the country for at least five years are eligible for food stamps. Those who are under the age of 18, have a connection to the military or are disabled do not have to wait the five years.

Under the recently passed Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, the waiting period will be extended to seven years

during the 2006-2010 period. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that an average of 50,000 people would, therefore, no longer be eligible for



benefits in the next two years. By 2008, that number will rise to 70,000. Reducing legal immigrants' accessibility to food stamps is not new, according to California Food Policy Advocates. In October 1997, there was a reduction in food stamp benefits for this target group of people. The organization surveyed these groups to measure the effects of the decline in assistance. It found that legal immigrant households whose benefits had been cut were experiencing significantly more hunger than other low-income households.

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PARENTS continued

two Massachusetts parents. They point to a recent study by the US government-backed Institute of Medicine, which suggested that companies were using TV ads to encourage more children to eat unhealthy foods. The groups, which



served notice of the lawsuit on Thursday, want Nickelodeon to stop showing ads for treats and snacks when more than 15% of the audience is made up of under-eight-year-olds. They also want the companies to stop marketing junk foods on websites and through competition giveaways. “The industry has had decades to clean up its act, but instead it has only intensified its marketing,” said CPSI executive director Michael Jacobson. “Nickelodeon and Kellogg engage in business practices that literally sicken our children,” he added. However, Kellogg’s and Nickelodeon said both companies had been encouraging children and families to lead healthy lifestyles. Kellogg’s - whose Tony the Tiger character famously promotes the firm’s Frosties sugar-coated cereal - said it was committed to educating parents and children about nutrition and exercise. Nickelodeon



added it actively encouraged families to lead active and healthy lives. Dan Mindus, a spokesman for campaign group the Center for Consumer Freedom, said: “Kids want these foods not because of ads, but because they’re children.”

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SHERIFF continued

Market Nutrition Program, WIC participants can redeem their food coupons for freshly grown vegetables. Money earned from the sale of vegetables goes to support the garden. In addition, some of the produce from the DCSI garden is donated to Inspiration Cafe, a restaurant for the homeless in the Uptown community. According to Ed Simmons, DCSI Director of Support Services, the fact that the garden feeds hungry people motivates many of the DCSI gardeners. “I’ve had some of the gardeners say to me that the main reason they’re involved in this project is because they are helping hungry children,” he said. “They tell me they’ll put up with the bugs and the hard work as long as they’re helping the babies and the kids.” “Our goal is to connect the DCSI gardeners to other Extension horticulture programs for employment and job training,” says Ron Wolford, Extension Urban Horticulture & Environment Educator. “They have valuable experience that can help them get employment in other horticulture-related programs.” “The key is partnerships,” says James D. Oliver, regional director of Extension. “The University is a valuable resource to our whole community, because it works with the government, schools, and other groups. That’s what outreach and the public service mission of the University is all about.”

break bread

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NOBODY continued

from the Armenian community stated Islam’s system of foundation also has an equivalent in Christianity UNICEF Turkey National Committee Chairman Professor Talat Halman stressed \$1 trillion was spent for defense in 2005 and asked that these funds to be reassigned to help eradicate hunger and poverty.

According to reports from the World Health Organization, only one third of the world’s population receives sufficient nourishment, another third is insufficiently nourished and the remainder is starving. And even today somewhere in the world, one person still dies from hunger every 3.6 seconds.

**“One person still dies from hunger every 3.6 seconds.”
World Health Organization.**

Information

40M continued

by the UN's World Food Program (WFP) has risen to 40 million, from 21 million in 1995.

Kenya, where 3 million need food aid, has seen a steady decline in rainfall during the past decade. In southern Africa, the HIV/Aids pandemic has crippled subsistence farming, leaving adults too sick to work in the fields and others struggling to cope with orphans. In Sudan and Congo, where civil wars continue, the WFP says 6.1 million and 3 million people respectively need emergency aid. The problems have been compounded by the political failures in those countries.

Care International yesterday issued a renewed appeal for Niger, which is again threatened with starvation, partly because of the knock-on effect of last year's crisis. Fiona Turnbull, a Care spokeswoman, said: "In Niger, our figures show that 60% of people got into debt as a result of the food crisis last year. When the harvest came in, they had to sell most of that to pay off debts. People are getting poorer and poorer, and have less to fall back on."

The charity is appealing for funds to distribute food to the most needy, as well as to replace lost cattle and set up seed banks in an attempt to ward off further crises. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit www.care.org.

MALI continued

GMOs and technology to solve a problem that they created? It's a big farce!" adds Ms Samake, who is a member of the Coalition to Protect Mali's Genetic Heritage that formed when word leaked from IER about the USAid-funded project on BT crops. Coalition member Mamadou Goïta alleges USAid and the multinationals are encouraging Africa's researchers and government officials to accept biotechnology with lavish gifts of new computers and printers, office equipment, vehicles, and scholarships for study of biotechnology in the US. "This is buying people," he says. Phone calls to USAid in Mali were not returned.

Mali's Minister of Agriculture Seydou Traore dismisses suggestions of corruption. "I know of no bribes in Mali that have anything to do with biotechnology and GMOs," says Traore. "If there are cases of corruption elsewhere around the debate on biotechnology and GMOs, in Mali, at least for the moment, we don't know them." In July 2005, Monsanto paid a \$1.5 million fine for having bribed an Indonesian official \$50,000 to try avoid an environmental impact study on its genetically engineered cotton in that country. In the mud and thatch villages of Mali's cotton belt, many farmers express concern that BT cotton would increase debt and dependence. "Our problem is the low price and not cotton production," says 37-year-old Ladji Kone, in the community of Bohi in southern Mali. "GM crops would re-colonize us," says Sereba Kone, president of the cotton growers in Bohi. In the village of Petaka, 800km northeast of Bamako, farmers express similar concerns. Here, they work on a project funded by the small Canadian NGO, USC, to develop and preserve their own seed varieties in community gene and seed banks. "I

think GM crops are not a good principle for us," says project leader, Tienen Sylla. "These seeds we have here we inherited from our ancestors over generations and they fit our difficult climate. GM seeds would be a trap."

Some coalition members admit that theirs is a "David and Goliath" struggle, which they are not likely to win. "I think there is pressure coming from outside which they probably can't divert," says Mr Diakite. "It's very difficult for an African government to fight something being imposed by a super giant like United States or all these seed companies." The third West African ministerial meeting on biotechnology, supported by USAid, is set for Accra, Ghana, in June 2006.

ICAA's Advocacy Day



Advocacy Day will be on February 28, 2006 from 10am - 8pm. There is a \$10 registration fee to attend. Breakfast, Lunch and food and drink at the reception will be provided. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hilton for \$99 - this rate expires on February 13th. The agenda, registration form and the Legislative Reception invitation are available on www.icaanet.org. Register Today!

Community Food Applications Invited

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that approximately \$4.6 million is available for new awards under its Community Food Projects (CFP) competitive grants program for fiscal year 2006. Eligible applicants must submit letters of intent by February 13, 2006 in order to be invited to submit a full application. The application deadline is April 13, 2006.

CFP funds are available in three categories this year – regular Community Food Projects, Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) projects, and a new category of Planning Projects. Community Food Projects promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues, while T&TA projects help program applicants and grantees to build organizational capacity and strengthen project operations. Regular CFP and T&TA projects may request as much as \$300,000 for projects of up to three years' duration. The small-scale Planning Projects will offer up to \$25,000 for assessment of local food security and the identification of needed improvements. Regular CFP and Planning projects must commit matching non-federal resources on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

For additional information, review the CFP request for applications at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1080>.

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Winter 2006

Illinois Community Action Association
Community Food and Nutrition Program
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
www.icaanet.org

Staff

Holly Copeland
Food Security Specialist

John Colgan
Vice-President of Public Policy

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If someone you know has an interest in food assistance programs or nutrition advocacy, we would be happy to add them to our mailing list.

The break bread staff would like to thank the USDA's midwest region, food and nutrition service for the inspiration for this newsletter. Their newsletter, insight...out, focuses on nutrition news and can be obtained by contacting kathleen.fiorito@fns.usda.gov.

ICAA's Mission Statement

The Illinois Community Action Association is a membership organization which serves as the network for Illinois' not-for-profit corporations and units of government which strive to raise the health, education and economic standards of the low income population in every county within the State of Illinois. The Illinois Community Action Association serves the collective interests of its members by: advocating public policies, promoting the value of the Association, providing information on issues relevant to the membership, and building partnerships that advance the community action network.

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Illinois Community Action Association

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Illinois Community Action Association

3435 Liberty Drive

Springfield, IL 62704

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