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South Carolina Nonprofits to Receive Help from Federal Grant

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations (SCANPO) and the United Way Association of South Carolina have been selected to receive over \$200,000 to strengthen the operational capacity of the nonprofit sector statewide. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$12 million to 49 grantees under a new program created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"We are proud to be one of only six nonprofit associations nationwide to receive this award," said Mason B. Hardy, President of SCANPO. "The funds will enable us to work with 20 faith-based and community organizations in disadvantaged and hard to serve areas to create a stronger nonprofit sector throughout the state."

SCANPO and its partner, the United Way Association of SC, will work together to strengthen 20 faith-based and community organizations in disadvantaged and hard to serve areas in the state. The target audience for the program consists of nonprofit organizations serving a 14 county region (Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Edgefield, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Laurens, McCormick, Orangeburg and Saluda counties) that will be chosen for the project because of the substantially high unemployment and poverty levels in those rural areas. The participating organizations will cover a diverse variety of organizations based on organization type, geographic location, size and programs served. Organizations interested in the program will be required to fill out an application that will be reviewed by a team of state-wide evaluators. Applicants will not be excluded because of the religious nature of the organization or its programs or because it lacks 501(c)(3) status. This program is offered at no cost to all interested organizations.

SCANPO plans to provide training aimed at building the capacity of nonprofit organizations which specifically address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities.

Community forums will be held in Aiken, Barnwell, Greenwood and Walterboro where faith-based and community organizations serving the 14 county region will receive information about *Serving, Supporting and Strengthening Nonprofits for a Better South Carolina* and will be encouraged to apply for the free program. Applications are available on the SCANPO Web site.

The schedules for the community forums are:

Walterboro: January 13, 2010 | 10:00-11:00am | Colleton County Adult Education Center
Barnwell: January 19, 2010 | 1:00-2:00pm | Barnwell County Library
Aiken: January 22, 2010 | 1:00-2:00pm | Aiken Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Services
Greenwood: January 28, 2010 | 2:30-3:30pm | Arts Council Federal Building

To register for the community forums or for more information on the grant, please visit www.scanpo.org or call 803-929-0399.

The South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations (SCANPO) is the only statewide organization that brings together charitable nonprofits to strengthen the effectiveness of the state's nonprofit community. SCANPO's mission is to serve, support, and strengthen nonprofit organizations for a better South Carolina. For information on SCANPO, please call 803-929-0399 or visit www.scanpo.org.

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