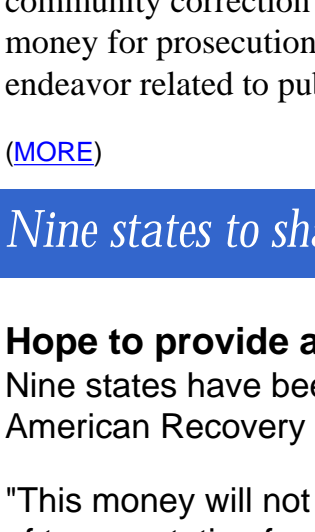


**Got public safety solutions?****If so, look for an abundance of opportunities**

**Mary Scott Nabers**  
President/CEO  
Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

If ever there was a good time to have public safety and law enforcement offerings, the time is now. Federal stimulus funds are flowing to law enforcement programs throughout the country. Good sales reps should already be on the ground talking to public safety decision-makers about their needs.

Not only is there a high demand for crime fighting products and services, there are allocations specifically targeted to a myriad of other public safety initiatives. There is no shortage of opportunities in any governmental jurisdiction. Ports will receive funding for increased security, community correction programs will be enhanced and court systems will receive money for prosecution and court programs. It is actually hard to think of any endeavor related to public safety that has not been funded.

[\(MORE\)](#)

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**Nine states to share \$742.5 million for transit projects****Hope to provide alternative form of transportation for work, home, school**

Nine states have been announced by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to share in \$742.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for transit projects from coast to coast.

"This money will not only put people back to work and spur the economy, it will also provide an alternative form of transportation for people around the country to get to their homes, work and school," Secretary LaHood said.

The states - Arizona, California, Colorado, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington State - already have commitments from the Federal Transit Administration for projects. While the ARRA funding will not increase the federal commitment to these projects, it will help the transit agencies get the money faster. They also will ensure savings on financing the projects. And, like other ARRA projects, the local economy will be stimulated and jobs will be created or retained.

The following projects are slated for funding:

**Arizona** (Phoenix-Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail) - \$36 million

**California** (Los Angeles - Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension) - \$66.7 million

**Colorado** (Denver - West Corridor Light Rail Transit) - \$48 million

**New York** (New York - Long Island Rail Road East Side Access) - \$195.4 million; Second Avenue Subway Phase I - \$78.9 million

**Oregon** (Portland - South Corridor I-205/Portland Mall LRT) - \$32 million; Springfield - (Pioneer Parkway EmX BRT) - \$2.9 million

**Texas** (Dallas - Northwest/Southeast Light Rail Transit) - \$78.4 million

**Utah** (Salt Lake City - Mid Jordan Light Rail Transit) - \$90.9 million

**Virginia** (Northern Virginia - Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension to Wiehle Avenue) - \$77.3 million

**Washington** (Seattle - University Link Light Rail Transit Extension) - \$44 million

**EPA announces grants for 'Brownfields' cleanup****\$111.9 million available includes \$37.3 million from recovery funds**

Supplemented by \$37.3 million in federal economic stimulus funds, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that \$111.9 million in grants will be available to help communities clean up "Brownfields," sites which might be contaminated by hazardous chemicals or pollutants. Forty-six states, four tribes and two U.S. territories will share the grant funds to update former industrial and commercial sites and spur economic development by making them productive business and community properties. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said revitalizing these sites helps human health and the environment while creating green jobs and attracting business investments to the area.

The original Brownfields law was expanded so that the new definition now allows communities to also consider mine-scarred lands or sites contaminated by petroleum or the manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs as Brownfields. There are currently an estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites.

A total of 252 applicants were named to receive 398 grants. Among them, 253 applicants received \$66.8 million in combined recovery act and general program funding to conduct site assessments and planning for eventual clean up at one or more sites. Another 20 applicants received \$22.6 million in combined funding for Revolving Loan Fund Grants as capital for a loan fund to provide subgrants for cleanup activities at Brownfields sites.

Cleanup grants were awarded to 116 applicants and amounted to \$22.5 million in recovery and general program funding for the recipients to clean up Brownfields sites they own.

To view the complete list of grant recipients, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS.

**Schools explore creative uses for stimulus funding****Not all ARRA funding is restricted to special needs students, IDEA programs**

School districts throughout the country are watching for their checks - approximately \$100 billion in funding overall from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. While some of the funds are dedicated for services for special needs students and low-income students, other funding is available for a myriad of other uses aimed at ensuring the best possible education for American students.

At a recent stopover in Iowa, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan suggested that some of the funding be used for bringing technology into classrooms and ensuring that teachers know how to effectively use that technology. He also suggested that science labs could be modernized so that today's students can learn in 21st century classrooms and laboratories.

Duncan also said he envisions some of the funding to be used to provide summer school classes and to provide for teachers who will mentor their colleagues. "You can identify your best teachers and pay them to coach their colleagues who are having trouble," he said. Duncan also said that schools should consider being open more than just the regular school day, and instead adding afternoons, weekends and days during the summer to allow students to get up to speed on their academics.

Following are some guidelines from Duncan regarding how school spending should reflect the priorities of ARRA:

- Adopt rigorous college- and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments - take steps to promote rigorous standards, effective assessment systems and strong curriculum;
- Establish data systems and use that data for improvement - implement systems to gather and analyze data and provide feedback to educators, students, families and the community to improve student and teacher performance;
- Increase teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers - examine teacher distribution through how district's recruit, hire, induct, develop, evaluate, advance and compensate teachers;
- Turn around the lowest-performing schools - consider a significant overhaul of school staff, leadership, instructional program and calendar, and for the most distressed schools, school closing or consolidation; and
- Improve results for all students, including early learning, extended learning time, use of technology, preparation for college and school modernization and conduct reviews, demonstrations and evaluations that enhance program effectiveness.

**Follow the money****Strengthening Communities Fund gets \$50 million for grants**

Grant funds totaling \$50 million from the Strengthening Communities Fund, a new fund created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is now available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The money will be used to assist nonprofits and faith-based organizations that assist families and communities struggling during the current economic slowdown.

The Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) has two parts - the Nonprofit Capacity Building program and the State, Local and Tribal Government Capacity Building program. The Nonprofit Capacity Building program will make one-time, two-year awards of up to \$1 million to lead organizations that will use the funds to support other faith-based or secular nonprofit organizations. The other program will make one-time, two-year awards of up to \$250,000 to state, city, county and Indian/Native American tribal governments. They will use these grants to strengthen nonprofit organizations and increase the nonprofits' involvement in projects that help turn around the economy. Grant recipients must provide at least 20 percent of the approved cost of the project from non-federal funds, which can be with either cash or in-kind contributions. The Administration for Children and Families' Office of Community Services at HHS will administer the SCF programs. For more information for applicants, click [HERE](#).

**Latest report from federal agencies shows funding, how it's spent**

Federal agencies are required to report weekly Financial and Activity reports regarding recovery funding efforts. These reports are part of the transparency requirement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and show where the money is being spent and on what. They also show each agency's completed actions and planned actions.

The total dollars made available through ARRA and the total amount that has been paid out is recorded by each agency. To view the latest report, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS. Clicking on the agency name in the report will reveal that agency's more detailed report of how it is spending its funding. By clicking on the column with paid dollar values, a detailed breakdown by budget accounts will appear.

**NIH distributes additional funds for improving global health**

Dartmouth College, the University of California-Irvine, the University of New Mexico and Yale University will benefit from federal economic stimulus funding from the National Institutes of Health that will help each satisfy student demand for global health studies. The money will be in the form of the Fogarty International Center's Framework grants, which make it possible for faculties to work across disciplines to bring their expertise to bear on improving global health.

At Dartmouth, the Recovery Act support will partially fund three faculty positions dedicated to teaching and expanding the international health curriculum and add a part-time administrative assistant. At UC Irvine, the grant will create one part-time program coordinator position, two fellowships for undergraduate students, three fellowships for graduate students and one fellowship for junior faculty or a research scientist. The money will help develop new courses and to establish a global health concentration in the master of public health program. The University of New Mexico will use its funding to hire one new full-time administrative assistant, providing part-time consulting work in information technology for Web site development and training nine graduate student fellows a year to meet the demand for global health professionals. At Yale, the grant will directly support one-quarter of a faculty member's time and half of a project coordinator's.

**Massachusetts scores \$25 million for Wind Technology Testing Center**

Massachusetts this week got a \$25 million boost from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to move forward development of its Wind Technology Testing Center. The center, which will test commercial-sized wind turbine blades to help reduce cost, improve technology and put tomorrow's blades into today's marketplace, will also create hundreds of jobs. The funding is being administered by the U.S. Department of Energy. When completed, the facility will be the nation's first large blade test facility.

Other Massachusetts-based companies that will receive approximately \$1 million (watershed) tools subject to negotiation) in wind funding include: The Cadmus Group, Inc. (Watertown), analysis tool for distributed wind technologies - \$476,831; Consensus Building Institute, Inc. (Cambridge), building state capacity to advance wind energy through the best practices of collaborative planning and siting - \$99,785; Power Advocate, Inc. (Boston), overcoming supply chain challenges to wind power in the United States - \$100,000; Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC (Framingham), New England Wind Energy Education Project - \$99,746; and University of Massachusetts (Amherst), offshore wind energy systems engineering course development - \$252,687.

**Public housing authorities to share \$1 billion for improvements**

Public housing authorities (PHAs) across the country can look forward to improvements as they share \$1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding announced this week. The funds are designed to help PHAs improve the quality of their existing housing, promote energy efficiency and create jobs. This flow of ARRA funding follows \$3 billion released in March to more than 3,100 public housing authorities that was distributed by formula. The new \$1 billion will be awarded competitively.

The application for these funds from the Public Housing Capital Funding program is available on the HUD Recovery Act Web site. Applications will be accepted June 1-July 21 for energy efficiency projects and June 1-Aug. 18 for the other three categories. This is how the funding breaks down:

**Energy efficiency:** \$600 million is available for PHAs for energy efficiency projects.

**Financing stalled projects:** \$200 million is available to allow PHAs to develop or renovate projects put on hold because of lack of funding.

**Public housing transformation:** \$100 million is available to transform obsolete public housing projects into newly built or renovated developments.

**Housing for the elderly/persons with disabilities:** \$95 million is available to improve public housing units and create community facilities for the delivery of medical and other services to these populations.

**Stimulus news briefs****Obama's proposed budget cuts school tech funds**

Education technology groups have expressed their disappointment in reduced federal funding for the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program proposed in President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2010 budget. The president's proposal reduces federal funding for the program by 63 percent, from \$270 million to \$100 million. However, the program did receive a boost from \$650 million in economic stimulus funding for the 2009 and 2010 fiscal years.

**Lobbying prohibition in recovery act creating stir**

The battle continues over the prohibition of lobbying federal officials who have oversight of portions of the funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. President Barack Obama has issued a presidential order that prevents federally registered lobbyists from meeting in person or via telephone with government officials to discuss details of the federal stimulus plan. The only contact lobbyists are allowed to have with those officials must be in writing and posted on agency Web sites.

One of the goals of the ARRA is transparency and federal officials fear some entities might have an unfair advantage over where the funds are spent because of lobbying efforts by professionals. However, lobbyists and their supporters argue the prohibition infringes on one's constitutional right to freedom of speech. Additionally, lobbyists say they are being ordered to do reporting others who ask questions of federal officials are not, creating an unfair advantage for non-lobbyists. They feel the prohibition creates an unfair prohibition on discussion of this huge spending bill and if it applies to lobbyists, it should apply to everyone. The White House has promised a review of the order later this month.

**LaHood suggests 'rail czar' for group in Midwest**

With \$8 billion in federal stimulus funds likely to be shared by a proposed passenger high-speed rail network in the Midwest and five other corridors, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has proposed that the Midwest states appoint a "rail czar" to make sure all entities are on the same page and working together.

Chicago would be the hub of a 3,000-mile network through nine Midwest states and Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin are leading the charge for developing the network. It would provide links to St. Louis, Detroit, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Kansas City and Louisville.

**Richardson names advisory team to assist with grant funding**

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson has created an advisory team to help communities in his state compete for grant funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Richardson, realizing that small communities might be at a disadvantage in claiming some of the recovery funds, said their best bet is through the competitive grant process. He named Rich Homans, state Taxation and Revenue Secretary as chair of the advisory team that will help communities navigate the grant process. Others on the team are from throughout the state with varied experience.

**Phoenix city officials lobbying D.C. for funding**

While a prohibition against registered lobbyists speaking with federal officials regarding expending stimulus funds, local officials are not banned. In fact, the mayor of Phoenix and other city officials already have spent nearly \$20,000 traveling to Washington, D.C., to lobby for funding. They are hopeful their efforts will lead to tens of millions of dollars in competitive grant funding that is available for transportation, public safety and other projects. They have met with the Secretaries of Energy, Transportation and Education as well as senior administration aides. City officials are not only hoping to sway some decision-makers, but also to find out more of the particulars of the different pots of stimulus funding for which they might qualify.

**Police violators will not receive stimulus funding**

Crime doesn't pay. And neither does not playing by the rules. More than two dozen police agencies in 16 states will not receive any of the federal stimulus money set aside for the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program to hire more officers. U.S. Department of Justice files show that the Amtrak Police Department and agencies in Newark and Camden, New Jersey, are among the largest law enforcement agencies who will not receive funding. The federal government claims millions of dollars in misused grant funds by these and other police agencies. When the problems became known, the 26 agencies agreed not to apply for new grant funds for three years, rather than pay back the more than \$7 million they collectively owed. That cut them out of funding from the federal stimulus bill.

**Cold regions will benefit most from weatherization funding**

Those who live in colder regions of the United States are more likely to benefit from federal stimulus funding set aside by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The cold weather states will get approximately \$3 to every \$1 allocated for warmer weather states. The stimulus plan provides \$5 billion for weatherization, more than 20 times what is usually allocated each year. Although some argue that hot weather can take just as big a toll on people as cold, the U.S. Department of Energy has always tended to favor cold climates for weatherization projects because 14 percent more is spent in the United States on heating than on cooling. However, with \$5 billion available, both cold and warm weather states are likely to get their fair share. The maximum amount of funding available per household is \$6,500.

**San Diego unveils its own stimulus tracking Web site**

Although the states are required to design Web sites to keep their citizens informed of how federal stimulus funds are being spent, the City of San Francisco believes city residents deserve that same level of transparency. Thus, Mayor Jerry Sanders ordered a Web site to show where San Diego was spending its funding. Not only does the Web site let citizens see where funds are being spent, it also allows them to make suggestions where other funding should be spent. So far, the city has plans to spend some of its \$56 million in initial funding for street and road improvement projects, energy efficiency programs, emergency shelter needs and more. Chamber of commerce officials report some \$7.5 billion in "shovel-ready" projects in San Diego that are ready for funding. In addition to the allocation already received, city officials are hopeful even more funds can be had through the grant process. San Diego is one of a number of cities across the country that has lobbied federal officials to ensure the city gets the funding it needs.

**Arkansas uses unusual method for tracking stimulus funds**

Not only does the state of Arkansas have a Web site on which its citizens can track federal stimulus funding in the state, but state officials also have a free application available for users of iPhones. The application is available through the iTunes store under "Arkansas.gov Recovery Project Search." Users can search by key word or by city or county name to see where recovery dollars are being spent in the state. The application also features a Global Positioning System (GPS) that allows users to find projects located near their area.

**\$17 billion to be allocated for change to e-health records**

A continued move toward becoming a paperless society is being helped along by funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. More than \$17 billion in federal stimulus funds has been set aside to help health care providers move toward e-health records. The goal is to provide instant access by physicians and nurses to patient records, to help curtail prescription errors and errors on medical charts.

Not all physicians are embracing the proposal, however, even though doctors and hospitals would be reimbursed by higher Medicare and Medicaid payments contingent on their having such a program in place by 2011. If they don't move to the new paperless system, their Medicare and Medicaid dollars could be cut. Many hospitals and doctors cite the cost of transferring to an e-system. However, others are taking first steps toward the transformation. One hospital network in Virginia that includes hundreds of doctors has been converting to the new system which is expected to cost \$237 million and take some 10 years. They say the stimulus dollars could translate to up to \$40 million for that network alone. There are still questions nationwide, however, about maintenance and compatibility with other systems - not to mention security concerns.

**Teacher unions pushing for expending stimulus funds now**

School districts facing layoffs were in hopes of using the bulk of their federal economic stimulus funding this year. However, Education Secretary Arne Duncan has reminded school officials that the funding is for a two-year period. Teacher unions are pushing for using most of the money now to preserve the jobs of teachers in danger of being laid off.

"This is a two-year money and so spreading it between the years makes a lot of sense," said Duncan. "Funding is to a one-time appropriation. Duncan said the goal is indeed to save jobs, but it is also about reform... and throwing money at the situation is not the answer. Others are bent on using most of the money now, with hopes that a second stimulus bill is in the future."

**Other national news****DoD awards \$260 million in university research funding**

Some 69 academic institutions will share in \$260 million in funding awarded by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to successful multidisciplinary basic research. The awards, to be given over the next five years, are subject to the periodic completion of negotiations between the institutions and the DoD research offices that will make the awards - the Army Research Office, the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The award is the result of FY 2009 competition. Some 69 institutions are expected to participate in 41 research efforts. To view the selected projects, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS.

**New \$370 million prison proposed for Montana**

Construction of a 1,800-bed prison facility has been recommended to the Montana Department of Corrections. A consultant suggested a \$370 million facility in the Billings area. Lawmakers on an appointed advisory council that will make its recommendation to Gov. Brian Schweitzer feel like the proposal will be adopted. The first phase of the prison, which could house more than 900 inmates, would be built by 2015, with the project completed in 2025.

**What the states are doing**

**New Hampshire** is using \$130 million in federal stimulus funding to build and repair highways and bridges. One paving company president who won a \$10 million contract to reconstruct and pave a section of turnpike roadway said landing the project kept him from having to lay off approximately 75 employees.

**Hawaii** airports are looking forward to sharing \$2.3 million in federal stimulus funding. Lihue Airport on Kauai and Hilo International Airport on the Big Island will receive the funds, which are to be used for explosive detection systems and advanced technology X-ray units. The systems will streamline baggage screening and increase security capabilities at the airports.

**California** hopes to leverage \$5 million of the approximately \$12.5 million in energy efficiency and conservation block grants the City of San Diego will receive through the federal economic stimulus bill to build solar arrays in the city's Balboa Park. Plans are for the array to generate three megawatts of electricity, about 60 percent of what the park uses or enough to power about 2,000 homes. The \$5 million in ARRA funds would be used to offset a portion of the \$30 million project costs for SunEdison. Officials say the project would mean engineering and construction jobs while also ensuring more renewable energy usage.

**Virginia's** Metrorail extension to Dulles International Airport will benefit from \$77.5 million in federal stimulus money from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This money will be added to a previous allocation of \$90 million in federal funds for a 23-mile Silver Line through Tysons Corner. The \$77.5 million will accelerate the payments, saving \$15 million in financing costs by limiting the amount of debt for the project to be undertaken. Phase One of the \$5.2 billion Silver Line is already under way.

**Utah** Transit Authority's Mid-Jordan light rail line is the beneficiary of \$91 million in federal stimulus money. This funding is only part of the money the federal government has promised for the project, which bears a price tag of \$535 million. The project is expected to be completed by 2012. This infusion could up that completion date some and even if it doesn't, it will provide jobs and be a shot in the arm for the local economy. ARRA funding of \$4 million could also assist with a makeover of the Ogden River through "green water quality projects," but the project will face other local competition. The Ogden project's grant application would restore the river and the environment along its banks. Grant winners will be named in mid-June.

**Missouri** is soon to start another 54 bridge and highway projects after the Missouri Department of Transportation Commission approved \$87.1 million in federal stimulus-funded projects at its recent meeting. The work includes repairs to bridges, building new interchanges, resurfacing roadways and improvement projects involving highway shoulders and pavement. This brings the total number of recovery projects in the state to 91, with more than 4,900 jobs resulting. The best news - the latest projects all came in 15 percent under budget, freeing up more than \$15.4 million for more projects.

**New York's** Long Island Railroad will use some of the state's stimulus money to build new rail lines to the east side of Manhattan. The state's Metropolitan Transportation Authority is in line to receive \$195.4 million for its Eastside Access Project.

**Massachusetts** wants private developers to qualify for federal stimulus funds to get major developments up and running. The state is trying to find funding sources for infrastructure work that is holding up private development. A local congressman hopes the restrictions on how stimulus funds can be spent should be lifted since they are preventing large-scale development from moving forward or receiving funds. Officials are looking at growth districts - areas that municipalities and the state have identified as locations for significant new commercial, residential or mixed-use development - for state financing as well as federal funds, saying it could be a "mix and match" approach to get infrastructure projects funded.

**North Carolina's** two Triad AmeriCorps programs will use federal stimulus funding totaling \$300,000 to fund more positions necessary to fulfill their purpose. The Black Child Development Institute of Greensboro Inc.'s Spirit of Excellence program will receive about \$74,000 to fund 10 positions to provide tutoring and mentoring services to at-risk elementary school students in Guilford County. The University of North Carolina-Greensboro's center for New North Carolinians AmeriCorps program will benefit from approximately \$223,000 to fund 24 full-time positions to assist with providing interpretation and translation services to the state's newest citizens in Guilford County.

**Georgia** water and energy projects will get a boost from ARRA funding that will allow the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority more latitude in helping finance water and energy projects. With the \$38 million the agency already budgets for water, sewer and energy project, federal stimulus funding will swell that amount to approximately \$380 million. The funds will be distributed through grants and loans and mostly will benefit energy conservation and clean water projects.

In **Pennsylvania**, the City of Erie has been tabbed to receive \$1.4 million in ARRA funding to help homeless families or those in danger of becoming homeless. The money will be used for rental assistance, security and utility deposits, delinquent utility bills and credit repair and counseling. The money is made available through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program Fund. The services will be available for renters and not homeowners. Regarding transportation projects, the state has awarded contracts for \$73 million in construction as well as \$119 million to a state-run authority that helps finance sewerage and water treatment plants.

**Florida** schools already have received some federal economic stimulus funding for special education and Title I funding, but the Alachua County School District is hoping to see if it will be granted funding to assist with hiring nearly two dozen employees - psychologists and teacher specialist who work outside the classroom. ARRA funding does not allow for hiring classroom teachers. The district already has used previous funding for technology for special needs students, classroom supplies, textbooks and professional training programs.

**Texas**, like other states, is receiving funding for youth employment programs from the federal economic stimulus package. In Houston, thousands of jobs in local governments and municipalities for the summer will be created from the funding. The City of Houston has already announced more than 600 jobs will be available to help clean up city parks, assist in libraries, document heritage cemeteries, etc. Austin is looking to spend some of its federal stimulus funding on "green" projects, including the request for \$300 million for fleet and environmental projects. Austin could be in line for as much as \$15 million from the ARRA for energy projects. The city plans to buy alternative fuel cars and alternative fueling stations along the I-35 corridor. Hidalgo County will use \$7.4 million in stimulus funds to help complete the funding needed for a \$13 million roadway improvement project to prevent bottlenecks when the Antzaldus International Bridge opens this fall.

**Illinois** plans to spend \$2.3 million in Community Services Block Grant funds from the federal stimulus bill to end the threat of closure of four mental health clinics in Chicago. Chicago will use some of the remainder of its \$19.5 million allocation other human services projects - providing jobs for the homeless, those in poverty and military veterans as well as job training and placement and substance abuse treatment. Another \$1.9 million will be allocated to assist small businesses in hiring employees.

**New Mexico** is expecting \$264 million in stimulus funds for highway and road construction and other public transit projects. The latest \$140 million allocated for road reconstruction will be used for widening projects along U.S. 64/87 and U.S. 491 from Tihatchi to Shiprock and I-10 from Las Cruces to the state line.

**Ohio's** Columbiana County has received several million dollars in federal stimulus funding for much-needed projects. Among the projects are a \$2 million sewer system to serve 440 homes and 14 businesses, \$3.4 million for a local water district to run a waterline to a village suffering with an inefficient water treatment plant, \$2.4 million for sewer line replacement projects along three city streets, \$85,000 for new equipment for a local sewage treatment plant and to improve the water system and a \$1.4 million paving project on State Route 39. And in Akron, officials hope to use more than a million dollars in stimulus funds to build a fence on the All America Bridge to prevent chickens from jumping off the bridge. Akron also will spend \$8 million improving roads and infrastructure around a new Bridgestone-Firestone complex.

**Calendar of Events****5th Annual Government Health IT Conference, Exhibition**

"Driving Transformation" is the theme for the June 4-5 5th Annual Government Health IT Conference and Exhibition. The event will be at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. The conference is designed to introduce the health IT government and business communities to the health IT programs, policies and people who are charged with transforming health care in the United States. For more information, click [HERE](#).

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**All 50 states have own recovery Web sites**

All 50 of the states and the District of Columbia now have their own "recovery" sites where citizens can track where ARRA dollars are being spent in their respective states. The states are charged with ensuring accountability and transparency in how the funds are spent and their Web sites show the projects being funded and the amount of ARRA funds allocated. For links to each of the state and District of Columbia recovery Web sites, click [HERE](#).

**The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an unprecedented infusion of \$787 billion into a failing United States economy. The ARRA is designed to create or save millions of jobs and to address pressing needs throughout the country, from education to infrastructure. To view the bill as passed by the U.S. House and Senate and signed by President Barack Obama, click [HERE](#).

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The *State and Local Government Pipeline* is a free, weekly, national e-newsletter detailing important happenings throughout the country and the premier source for state and local government news and contracting opportunities.

**Publisher: Mary Scott Nabers**

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