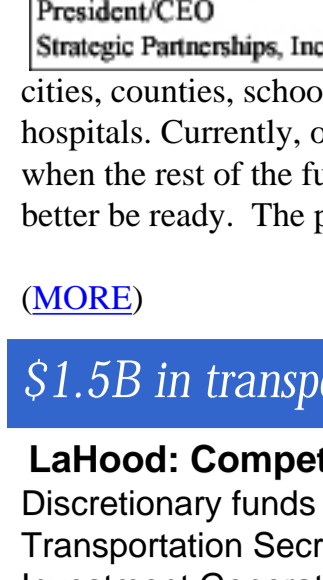




## Contractors: get the jump on stimulus projects by talking to decision-makers early in process



Mary Scott Nabers  
President/CEO  
Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

Just three months ago, the federal government appropriated almost \$1 trillion dollars to strengthen the faltering United States economy. Most of the funding will flow directly to governmental entities that will in turn employ private sector contractors to provide services. Government contracting opportunities in the next couple of years will be huge...actually historic. The objective, of course, is to divert jobs to the work throughout the country so that new jobs are created.

Billions of dollars will soon flow to state agencies, cities, counties, school districts, airports, ports, university campuses and public hospitals. Currently, only about 6 percent of the funding has been released...but, when the rest of the funding is released in a few months, government contractors better be ready. The plan is for work to begin as soon as possible.

[\(MORE\)](#)

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## \$1.5B in transportation discretionary funds announced

### LaHood: Competitive grants range from \$20 million to \$300 million

Discretionary funds totaling \$1.5 billion for transportation projects were recently announced by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. The money will be distributed in the form of TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants for capital investment in surface transportation projects. The grants will be competitive and will pay particular attention to their impact on the nation, a region or metro area, how many jobs they will create and if they benefit economically distressed areas.

LaHood said the funding will "open up the door to many new innovative and cutting-edge transportation projects." He said he expects the projects to also promote greater mobility, improve the environment and create more livable communities.

Ranging in size from \$20 million to \$300 million, the minimum amount of a grant can be waived for smaller cities, regions or states. Projects with price tags of more than \$1 million will require rigorous economic justifications.

Primary selection criteria include contributing to the medium- to long-term economic competitiveness of the nation, improving the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, improving the quality of living and working environments through livable communities, improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the safety of United States transportation facilities.

Grant applications should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation by Sept. 15 for state and local governments, U.S. territories, tribes, transit agencies, port authorities and others. Comments on the criteria must be received by June. 1.

Priority, of course, will be given to projects that can quickly create and preserve jobs and that can stimulate the economy quickly, especially in economically depressed areas.

## Health care technology companies to educate doctors

### Pushing for use of ARRA funds for move toward electronic health records

An alliance of healthcare technology companies is getting together to help educate 500,000 physicians throughout the country regarding funding opportunities from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. One of the initiatives of the act is to move toward implementation of electronic health records, which observers say will not only save money, but will also increase the safety and efficiency of health care.

The alliance hopes that by connecting doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, payers, public health organizations and other health care stakeholders, technologies such as electronic health records (EHR) can improve the management of chronic health conditions that account for some 75 percent of health care costs in this country. Calling itself the EHR Stimulus Alliance, the group plans both a virtual and physical extensive education program. It hopes to alert stakeholders to how much they are eligible to receive, when it will be allocated, how they can qualify, requirements they must meet and costs associated with implementing these electronic records.

The stimulus bill provides between \$44,000 and \$64,000 in incentives for adoption of an EHR program by 2011. Physicians already using an EHR system report it positively affects their clinical decisions, cuts down on medication errors and allows quicker access to other providers to share medical records. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will pay the incentives to physicians over five years, beginning in fiscal 2011. Physicians who have not adopted certified Electronic Health Record systems by 2014 will have their Medicare reimbursements reduced by 1 percent beginning in 2015; 2 percent in 2016; and by up to 3 percent in 2017 and thereafter.

## DOL cites \$500M for grants for green energy job training

### To help individuals impacted by recession, auto industry restructuring

Competitive grant funds of \$500 million from the economic recovery bill for projects that prepare workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors will be available through the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The grants are intended to help individuals impacted by the recession, including auto and auto-related workers, to jobs in the green energy sector.

The ETA is looking for grant partnerships between the public and private sectors, education institutions, community and faith-based organizations and research institutions. States, too, are expected to play a key role in coordinating and gathering information on skill qualifications for existing, new and emerging careers. State Workforce Investment Boards will be charged with developing plans and implementing training programs in workforce areas.

Solicitation of applications for the following types of grants should begin in June:

**State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants:** Competition among State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) or multiple SWAs to collect, analyze and disseminate labor market information, as well as develop a labor exchange infrastructure to direct individuals to careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

**Energy Training Partnership Grants:** Two applicant pool grants for eligible national labor-management organizations with local networks and statewide or local strategic nonprofit partnerships to provide training that leads to employment of dislocated and incumbent workers.

**Pathways Out of Poverty Grants:** Two pools include eligible national community-based and faith-based organizations with local networks and local partnerships that include community-based organizations, education and training institutions, business and labor organizations.

**State Sector Training Grants:** Will be used to provide training and job placement activities aligned with a workforce sector strategy that will target energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

**Green Capacity Building Grants:** Competition to build the capacity of current DOL trainees to prepare targeted populations for employment and support organizations as they update existing training and job placement programs for the emerging green economy. Includes purchase of equipment, staff professional development, curriculum development and/or adaptation, partnership development and hiring of additional staff.

There will also be a competitive grant focus for areas undergoing significant automotive-related industrial restructuring.

## Follow the money

### Ceiling amounts on Smart Grid projects increase significantly

The amount of the ceiling for Smart Grid projects through federal economic stimulus funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has increased significantly. In April, DOE said it would provide \$4 billion in funds for Smart Grid projects, including \$3.75 billion for Smart Grid technologies and grid monitoring devices and \$615 million for demonstrations of regional Smart Grids, utility-scale energy storage systems and grid monitoring devices. Since then, DOE has raised the award ceiling for Smart Grid deployments from \$20 million to \$200 million, and the ceiling for Smart Grid demonstrations has been raised from \$40 million to \$100 million. The first set of 16 interoperability standards for Smart Grid technologies has been released. They are recognized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and address such issues as smart meters, distributed power components and cyber security. Future standards will address basic connectivity and data networking. For more information, visit the [NIST Smart Grid Web page](#).

### Ports can compete for \$150 million in security grant funding

An investment of \$150 million is being made in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to protect critical port infrastructure from terrorist attacks. The funding will be in the form of competitive grants, but there will also be funding tiers and some ports may be eligible for automatic allocations.

The grant funds can be used for construction, personnel, equipment, planning and training and exercises. The applications are due July 2 and awards will be made on a rolling basis Oct. 15-Dec. 31.

### Indian health funds of \$500M to update facilities, purchase equipment

The Indian Health Service is releasing \$500 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds that will be used for improvements in Indian health. The funds are allocated for a variety of expenditures:

- \$227 million for health facilities construction;
- \$100 million for maintenance and improvements;
- \$65 million for health information technology;
- \$85 million for sanitation facilities construction; and
- \$20 million for health equipment to improve health care.

Part of the facilities construction money will be used for a new HIS Eagle Butte Health Center in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, and the Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome, Alaska. The Recovery Act health facility construction funds will be used to complete the construction of the new IHS Eagle Butte Health Center (to serve 9,300 American Indians) in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, and the Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome, Alaska, which will replace a 61-year-old hospital there.

Also as a result of the funding, 169 sanitation facilities projects will be constructed in 24 states to provide potable water, wastewater disposal and solid waste systems to American Indian and Alaska Native homes and communities. More than 300 maintenance and improvement projects will be on tap and more than 200 pieces of medical equipment, including 35 ambulances and 10 CT scanners will be purchased, as will other health care equipment to be distributed among 24 states. To view all of the IHS projects, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS.

### Rural areas share in \$60M for community facilities, emergency services

Rural communities are not being left out of the mix as recipients of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials recently announced they have chosen 280 projects in 39 states to share in \$60 million in essential community facilities and emergency responder money. The funds are made available through the USDA's Rural Development Community Facilities program.

Close to \$19 million of the total will be leveraged with \$6.9 million from other sources to help local communities with the purchase of emergency services and systems, and fire and rescue equipment, including more than 120 fire, medical and police vehicles.

The Rural Development's Community Facilities program helps finance and develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas, including childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. The funding is available to public bodies, nonprofit organizations and recognized Indian tribes. To view the amount of funding and the number of projects by state, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS.

### FEMA announces Assistance to Firefighters Grants application process

The Federal Emergency Management Agency this week announced it will begin taking applications in July for the \$210 million it has available for Assistance to Firefighters Grants funding made available through the economic stimulus bill.

Project grants will be capped at \$5 million and multiple projects submitted in one application cannot exceed \$15 million. The funds can be used for modifying, constructing and upgrading non-federal fire stations. Priorities for funding will be replacements of unsafe or uninhabitable structures, expansion to meet increased demand, sleeping quarters, enhancements to accommodate communications and adjusting for cramped or ill-configured operations structures. The application process runs from July 2 through Sept. 29. Awards will be announced on a rolling basis Oct. 15-Dec. 31 and will be made directly to the fire departments.

### Variety of projects on tap for \$3 billion in Interior Department funding for states

Three billion dollars in investments in projects across the country will be overseen by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a result of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Most of the funds will be allocated for projects under the direction of the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Indian Affairs and the National Park Service.

**California** has been allocated \$401,155,000. Some of the funding will be spent for projects such as a remodel of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Reserve (NWR) and repairs at health and safety radio towers at 24 Bureau of Land Management sites.

**Texas** is allocated \$20,346,000, part of which will be used to construct a new administrative facility at Brazoria NWR and an energy efficiency project at Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery to include replacing lights, increasing insulation, installing programmable thermostats, caulking, sealing and weather-stripping, replacing windows and appliances.

Among the projects **New York** will spend part of its \$63,369,000 in funding on an installation of a fire suppression system at the Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science and replacement of the Lake Ontario Laboratory.

**Arizona** will spend part of its \$319,130,000 in ARRA funds for installation of solar power at the Aravaipa West Ranger Station and site safety and security improvements at the Arizona Strip District Office.

In **Colorado**, the Front Range District Office will contract for scanning of 225,000 pages of patents to be placed online for public use by its \$86179,000 in stimulus funds. Eight photovoltaic systems will also be installed at the historic headquarters buildings at Mesa Verde National Park.

For information about these and other funding opportunities, contact Reagan Weil or Richard Hartmann at 512-531-3900.

## Stimulus news briefs

### Maine stimulus funds going to 75 transportation projects

The \$131 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds headed to Maine for infrastructure use will fund 75 projects throughout the state. There are already 16 projects under way. Another 24 project contracts have been awarded but not started, 15 are currently up for bids and another 20 have yet to be put out for bids. More bidders than usual are becoming involved in seeking contracts and officials report bids are coming in at about 4 percent below original estimates, freeing up money for other projects.

### Kentucky officials seek funds to update Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park

Kentucky officials are hoping to secure \$5 million to \$20 million in federal, state and private money - including some economic stimulus funds - to build replicas of the 1800s-era buildings at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Nicholasville. Officials who support what was once the third-largest recruiting and training station in the country for black Union soldiers are hoping that excess stimulus money going back to the U.S. Treasury because projects did not meet federal requirements will be available for other projects such as this one. The park attracted approximately 8,500 visitors last year and officials say the reconstruction would make the park a "premiere national site." Among the projects sought is a replica of the 272-foot Hickman Creek Bridge across the Kentucky River, which would become the largest single-span covered bridge in the world.

### Maryland launches tools to identify stimulus funds

Two online tools have been developed by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to help businesses borrow money and thus tap into the flow of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The two tools are the Maryland Business Connection and the ARRA Business Connection.

The Maryland Business Connection features information regarding how to access capital, how to do business with federal agencies, market products and services and recruit and train employees. The ARRA Business Connection provides a list of stimulus programs as well as opportunities for contracting, with additional information regarding events and workshops related to the stimulus bill.

### Biden submits first ARRA progress report

Although only about 6 percent of the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have been distributed so far, Vice President Joe Biden last week submitted the first progress report on the act's implementation.

The report was sent to President Barack Obama and covers the first 90 days since the implementation of the act. To view the report, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS.

### Stimulus funds lead to 10,000 AmeriCorps positions

The Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps) says 10,000 people will be put to work in distressed communities as a result of \$85 million in federal economic stimulus funds that are headed to nonprofits and other organizations across the country. The new positions are expected to open up during the summer and fall.

The AmeriCorps program, which today includes some 75,000 enrollees, offers services in distressed areas that range from housing construction, youth outreach, disaster response and elderly care. Some \$200 million for these community service programs was set aside in economic recovery spending.

### ARRA adds \$555 million to Housing Assistance Program

A temporary expansion of the Housing Assistance Program has been announced by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). An additional \$555 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will be used to provide benefits to eligible military and DoD civilians who might suffer financially when selling their primary residence during the housing downturn.

The expansion will focus on wounded service members relocating for treatment or medical retirement and survivors of those killed while deployed. It also includes military and DoD civilians affected by the 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and for normal military permanent change of station moves. More information on the program is available at [www.hap.usace.army.mil](#).

## What the states are doing

**New Jersey** recently briefed more than 800 local officials on how to secure some of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. Representatives of nearly a dozen federal agencies and 13 state agencies gathered in Trenton to help explain the available programs and grants. New Jersey says to use some of its stimulus funds for housing, highway and flood protection projects and a new commuter rail tunnel to Manhattan.

**Missouri's** Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis is expecting more than \$8.2 million in economic stimulus funds to help increase three of its divisions - the Workforces Investment Act of St. Louis County Summer Youth Employment program, Head Start and the Weatherization Assistance Program. The Head Start program alone will receive more than \$530,000, part of which will be used to train teachers, buy supplies and improve facilities.

**Tennessee's** Gov. Phil Bredesen is proposing the state use \$62.5 million in federal economic stimulus funds to create what he's calling the Volunteer State Solar Initiative, a solar energy and economic development program. The funding is subject to U.S. Department of Energy's and the Tennessee Legislature's approval. The institute would be established at the University of Tennessee and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and would focus on improving the affordability and efficiency of solar products. It would also establish the West Tennessee Solar Farm power generation facility, serving as a demonstration and research tool.

**New York's** Towanda School District hopes to be able to keep its classes small by using stimulus money to hire additional teachers. Also on its wish list for use of the funds are adding more tutoring programs and beginning a program aimed at teaching work skills for special education students by building a greenhouse in which to teach them skills. Technology needs would be met by the addition of more laptops in the schools.

**Utah** will use its stimulus money not only for the announced removal of a huge pile of uranium-contaminated mill tailings near Moab, but also another \$6 billion will come into the state as low-level radioactive waste as a result of two dozen clean-up projects elsewhere. Utah has a one-square-mile facility that offers the only commercial disposal available for waste from 36 states.

**Virginia's** Arlington County will use most of its nearly \$20 million in stimulus funds for either transportation projects or social programs. The transportation funds could be used to restore \$10.3 million for a bridge and interchange project whose funding was removed as a result of state budget cuts last year. Another \$1.6 million has been applied for by the county for affordable housing and homelessness prevention programs.

**California** will see approximately \$550,000 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding headed to the San Gabriel Valley, which will go toward a maintenance project on the 210 Freeway. While not a lot of funding was received for the Valley areas, officials say some of the funding will be used to jump start other projects that did not have enough funding to get off the drawing boards. That could include an overhaul of the 605/10 interchange and toll lanes on the 10 and 210 freeways.

**Texas's** legislature is considering a bill that would create a vehicle to allow the state to receive federal stimulus funds that will be available for rail projects. The rail plan proposed is the Texas T-bone that consists of a route from Dallas-Fort Worth to San Antonio and a line from Houston to Temple. Nonstop service from Houston to Dallas and Austin to San Antonio would be offered and local service to points along the route, such as College Station and Temple, also would be offered.

**Illinois's** Chicago's Regional Transportation Authority will apply for up to \$3 million in stimulus funds for advanced battery technology for 1,200 Colorado Transit Authority and 300 Pace buses. The new advanced batteries are expected to last years longer than the current ones. The funds are from discretionary funding that is in addition to the regular economic development funds - \$1.5 billion in grants for capital investment in surface transportation projects.

**Washington State** will see \$20 million headed its way to Ramgen Power Systems, which will use the money to help develop technology to reduce carbon emissions. The end result will be helping factories and power plants throughout the country reduce their emissions.

**Maryland** Gov. Martin O'Malley is signing legislation providing health care organizations an incentive to implement electronic health records. The legislation allows the state to use federal stimulus funds for that purpose and to coordinate those efforts with the state's plan to create a statewide health information exchange. The e-records are expected to reduce medical errors, lower costs and eliminate the need for running multiple tests on patients. Physician incentives are between \$44,000 and \$64,000 over a five-year period for a program that will likely cost them approximately \$50,000 to implement.

**Florida** will see \$3 million in stimulus funding come into the state in Miami, which recently accepted that amount to be used for housing assistance. The \$3.4 million grant will be used to help Miami residents struggling to keep their homes and will be distributed in the form of short- and medium-term rental assistance, security and utility deposits, moving costs and hotel vouchers.

**New York State** is preparing to use \$137.6 million in federal stimulus funds to upgrade its unemployment insurance program, which could mean higher benefits for the newly unemployed. Some of the funds also will be used to ensure the unemployment offices are adequately staffed. The state also could be qualified for an additional \$275 million if it makes changes in its unemployment insurance system that are being mandated by federal officials.

**Colorado** is seeking \$49 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help fund renewable energy projects such as wind and solar power. The money would be used to train government workers in energy code enforcement, for job training and for public outreach regarding saving energy. The state has qualified for approximately \$80 million to make some of its low-income housing more energy efficient.

**Illinois's** Knox County Housing Authority is expecting close to \$1 million in stimulus funding and the funds are expected not just to be for property improvements. Officials hope to use the money for upgrading cul-de-sacs at a variety of family sites, improve parking lots, install security cameras, upgrade sidewalks and improve landscaping.

**California** youth will be able to take advantage of \$1.58 million in stimulus funds set aside for youth employment in the form of summer jobs for disadvantaged youth age 14-24. The state's 49 regional Workforce Investment Boards will be charged with creating positions for them. Additionally, CaliforniaVolunteers, which administers the AmeriCorps program in California, has been awarded \$5.8 million to support 10 programs and some 700 members. Some of the programs that are funded help provide employment skills training, budget and fiscal management, nutrition education and programs that fight child abuse.

## Other national news

### Fugate sworn in Tuesday as new FEMA Administrator

W. Craig Fugate was sworn in Tuesday as the new Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Fugate is the former director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, where he served since 2001 coordinating disaster response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness efforts for county and local governments in the state. He will be working closely with U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, FEMA teams and officials in the federal, state and local governments in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season.

### Iowa's own stimulus bill signed into law

In Iowa, the I-JOBS bill has been signed into law, creating what lawmakers are calling a state economic stimulus plan. The \$830 million in funding is for infrastructure and flood recovery. It is hoped that both will provide thousands of jobs. By law, bonds can be issued to pay for the projects and those bonds will be paid back through 20 years of gambling revenue.

### Frieden chosen director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Thomas Frieden, commissioner of the New York City Health Department, has been named by President Barack Obama as the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Frieden is an expert in preparedness and response to health emergencies. He has been a leader in the fights against heart disease, cancer and obesity, infectious diseases and in the establishment of electronic health records. Frieden has served in his New York City post since January 2002. He began his career at the New York City Department of Health in 1990 as a CDC epidemiologic intelligence service officer. He is a graduate of Oberline College and holds degrees in medicine and public health from Columbia University. He completed specialty training in internal medicine at Columbia and subspecialty training in infectious diseases at Yale University.

## Calendar of events

### DOE plans Webcast on purchase agreements for photovoltaic projects

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Assistance Project will host a free Webcast for state and local officials - "Third-Party Financing and Power Purchase Agreements for Public Sector PV Projects" - on how to structure power purchase agreements for photovoltaic (PV) projects at state and local facilities. The Webcast will be from 3 to 4:15 p.m. EST on Wednesday, May 27. Presenters will be Jason Coughling of the DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Ann Livingston from the Commissioner's Office in Boulder, CO. Attendees must pre-register. For registration information and background materials and reports, click [HERE](#).

## Don't miss out on another issue!

Many of our subscribers forward this newsletter to co-workers and associates. If you are not a subscriber, but would like to continue receiving this free newsletter each week, please click [HERE](#) to subscribe.

## 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 flailing 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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## Procurement consulting and advocacy services

Strategic Partnerships, Inc. (SPI) and MultiState Associates Inc., the leading companies in the state and local government procurement and government relations world, have teamed to offer a timely client-customized service that helps companies find and capture state and local government contracts arising from the recently enacted federal stimulus package. [Click here](#) for procurement consulting and advocacy services

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