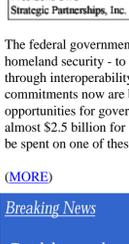




Homeland security funding a national priority

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Mary Scott Nabers
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Times have changed significantly!

Ten years ago, funding for homeland security was not a national priority. In fact, at the turn of the century, one of the country's greatest fears was the implementation of Y2K. Today, homeland security is definitely a national priority and federal funding has been significantly increased. In 2002, the country spent about \$19 billion on homeland security. Today, the budget has escalated to \$55 billion, a staggering 189 percent increase.

The federal government has made two major commitments in the area of homeland security - to enhance communications at all levels of government through interoperability and to secure the nation's assets and borders. Those commitments were backed with an abundance of funding and the opportunities for government contracting are huge. The stimulus bill provides almost \$2.5 billion for additional security initiatives and most of the funding will be spent on one of these two priorities.

(MORE)

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Breaking News

Guidelines released for applying for high-speed rail grants

Network of corridors sought through \$8 billion in recovery funding

Transforming the nation's transportation system through a national network of high-speed rail corridors is one of the goals of an \$8 billion competitive grant program that is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Today, Wednesday, guidelines for states and regions to apply for that funding were released by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"The time has finally come for the United States to get serious about building a national network of high-speed rail corridors we can all be proud of," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said, noting that high-speed rail can reduce traffic congestion and link with other modes of transportation such as light rail, subways and buses to help lessen traffic gridlock, reduce dependence on foreign energy sources and curb air pollution.

The high-speed rail proposal is intended to offer a rail network in 100-600 mile corridors that connect American communities. The plan calls for the rebuilding of the country's transportation system by rebuilding existing rail infrastructure and developing a high-speed rail system network. In addition to the grant funds, the program also is expecting continued funding of \$1 billion per year in President Barack Obama's federal budget proposal.

The grant application guidelines are a result of meetings throughout the country with interested stakeholders, including governors and state transportation heads. The grants will be provided for both planning and construction. Proposals will be considered on the merits of their ability to make trips faster and reduce highway and airport congestion while meeting environmental, energy and safety goals. To view the guidelines, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

Energy technology lab announces grant opportunities

Energy assurance, Smart Grid technology among projects to be funded

Three grant opportunities have been announced by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Lab. Officials expect approximately 110 projects to be funded in amounts from slightly over \$200,000 to more than \$3.5 million.

The Enhancing State Government Energy Assurance Capabilities and Planning for Smart Grid Resiliency Initiative (State EA Initiative) will be open to states. The purpose of the grants is for states to either develop new plans or tweak existing plans to include new energy portfolios and new applications, such as Smart Grid technology, into energy assurance and emergency preparedness plans. Some 56 awards are expected from this funding, ranging from \$205,257 to \$3,572,526. Application deadline is July 30. The funding focuses on the entire energy supply system, including refining, storage, and distribution of fossil and renewable fuels.

Another source of funding is the Resource Assessment and Interconnection-Level Transmission Analysis and Planning agreement. This funding source is hoping to develop or strengthen capabilities in each of the three interconnections serving the lower 48 states of the United States, to prepare analyses of transmission requirements under a range of alternative futures and develop long-term interconnection-wide transmission expansion plans. The interconnections are the Western Interconnection, the Eastern Interconnection and the Texas Interconnection. Six awards are expected. This funding requires matching funds and the deadline for application is Aug. 14.

Finally, funding will be available through the State Electricity Regulators Assistance program. The funding is for electricity activities and programs that will affect utility investment in the electric power industry. State public utility commissions will be involved in implementing parts of the electricity-related initiatives through their regulatory power over electric investment and other decisions for their state's electric utilities. States may apply for this funding and 51 awards are expected, ranging from \$763,577 to \$1,686,869. Deadline for application is Aug. 31.

Development, facility bonds available to local governments

\$25 billion set aside with rebates of up to 45 percent

Local governments facing budgetary woes will find some consolation in the \$25 billion being set aside from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Recovery Zone Bonds. These bonds will be allocated to cities and counties using formulas based on unemployment rates.

Development bonds are allocated for infrastructure projects that allow rebates equal to 35 percent of interest rate costs. Taxable development bonds, on the other hand, offer a 45 percent rebate. Development bonds can be used for such projects as job training and education.

Facility bonds also will be offered. They are tax-exempt, private activity bonds local governments can use for projects that are not typical public activities, such as stadium construction. To view the allocations by state of Recovery Zone economic development and facility bonds among counties and large cities by state, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

DOE makes \$11M available for battery development

Seven projects aimed at projects for electric drive vehicles

Seven cost-shared research projects have been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to develop advanced batteries for electric drive vehicles. Nearly \$11 million in DOE funds will be available for these projects over three years and private sector contributions are expected to drive that number closer to \$19.3 million. The projects are one more way that DOE is supporting promotion of a diverse supply alternative energy.

Among the projects to be funded are \$1.1 million to develop a high throughput electrode fabrication process for a lithium ion battery technology, \$3.2 million to develop hybrid nano carbon fiber/graphene platelet-based, high-capacity anodes for lithium batteries and \$3.3 million to develop a chemical shuttle agent that will eliminate the danger of overcharging lithium ion batteries developed for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles and electric vehicles.

Follow the money

Clean energy technologies can benefit from \$300 million in recovery funding

More than \$300 million has been invested by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in projects that will benefit numerous clean energy technologies, from carbon capture in coal, solar power and higher efficiency cars and trucks.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said there is "enormous potential" for new jobs and reduced carbon pollution through implementation of some current initiatives, but added new solutions also need to be developed. He said he is "optimistic that these breakthroughs are within our reach." The funding allocated is a way to help achieve them, he said.

An investment of up to \$240 million is being made for the development of high-efficiency commercial and passenger vehicles. The funding includes \$110 million from the Recovery Act as well as annual DOE appropriations. The funding solicitations are either for system-level technology development, integration and demonstration for Class 8 trucks and advanced technology powertrains for light-duty trucks.

The goal of the first area is to increase vehicle freight efficiency by a total of 50 percent for heavy-duty Class 8 trucks. Projects in the second program will work to advance the research and development of efficient engine and powertrain systems for passenger vehicles.

\$22 million to go toward advanced photovoltaic technology research

Twenty-four competitively selected projects will be eligible for up to \$22 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to advance photovoltaic (PV) technology research, development and design - all of which are hoped will help lower the cost of PV generation. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) projects that the projects may be matched by more than \$50 million that will be available from private partners.

Also related to solar energy, the DOE will invest up to \$27 million to develop the country's solar installation training infrastructure, using \$5 million in ARRA funds and \$22 million in yearly DOE appropriations. As the nation seeks to move more toward renewable energy, green jobs will be created and DOE officials note a workforce must be trained to support increased renewable power generation. These jobs will be for installers, engineers, sales persons and more in the solar photovoltaic, heating and cooling industries.

Recipients will be either a national organization to assist with development and distribution of a model curriculum, best practices and information on careers in solar energy and regional training providers to offer advanced courses on solar technologies, instructional design and course development.

Another \$11.3 million will be allocated to nine projects to develop pre-combustion carbon capture technologies to reduce CO2 emissions in coal-based integrated gasification combined cycle power plants.

To view the projects that will be funded to assess and test an idea that can impact the solar photovoltaic industry, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

Training dollars will help trade-affected workers learn new skills

Citizens who lose their jobs due to outsourcing and foreign trade will soon get help for career training from their respective states. The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the release of more than \$450 million in Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) funds so that states can provide that training as well as employment and case management services to unemployed workers.

The program is aimed at helping these displaced workers upgrade their existing skills or retrain for new careers in industries ripe for growth. The program got a hefty shot in the arm from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act when the program was expanded to help ensure work for those negatively affected by trade. It authorized an increase in the maximum amount of TAA funds that could be used nationwide - from \$220 million to \$575 million. This funding and funds for case management services and administration led DOL to make a supplemental allocation to the states for 2009, allowing them to serve more trade-affected workers.

Michigan earned the largest distribution at more than \$49.9 million. North Carolina was second with \$43.9 million, followed by Pennsylvania with \$21.8 million, California with \$21.7 million and Indiana with \$21 million. To view the TAA supplemental training fund distribution by state, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

USDA awards grants for wood-to-energy, biomass projects

Thirty projects in 14 states were highlighted this week by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack as recipients of \$57 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The projects all are for wood-to-energy and biomass utilization.

Wood-to-energy grants garnered \$49 million of the funds, while the final \$8 million was set aside for biomass utilization. The projects' goals are to create new energy sources to decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil. The funds not only will support development of new energy sources, but will also help create markets for small-diameter wood and low-value trees removed during forest restoration. They will also help communities and entrepreneurs turn forest restoration residue into marketable energy products.

Following is a breakdown of wood-to-energy and biomass utilization projects including the state, the number of projects and the estimate amount needed to complete the projects. The biomass projects totaling \$8 million include: Arizona, two, \$500,000; Idaho, two, \$65 million; Oregon, two, \$750,000; and Washington, one, \$250,000. The wood-to-energy projects include: Arizona, one, \$1.4 million; California, two, \$4.7 million; Colorado, four, \$1 million; Idaho, two, \$3.2 million; Kentucky, two, \$2 million; Maine, one, \$1.14 million; Minnesota, one \$250,000; Missouri, one, \$6 million; North Dakota, one, \$237,000; New Mexico, one, \$2.5 million; Nevada, one, \$620,000; Oregon, four, \$11.1 million; Pennsylvania, one, \$400,000; and Washington, one, \$4 million.

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

Stimulus news briefs

NASA awards first contract from ARRA funding

NASA's first procurement using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds is a contract with a California company to repair critical infrastructure facilities at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The facilities were damaged by Hurricane Ike last September. The funding will be used for roof repairs and roof ledge replacements. The value of the contract is \$7.9 million and the base contract lasts approximately nine months. It has seven options, which may be conducted concurrently. This first expenditure comes from the approximately \$1 billion in ARRA funding headed to NASA, \$50 million of which was prioritized for restoring facilities that were damaged by the hurricane.

States asked to develop national education standards

Up to \$350 million in Recovery Act funding will be available to states to help develop common, internationally measured standards for student achievement in reading and math. The funds would be used to help the states develop tests to assess the standards.

While the federal government cannot set national standards, each state can set its own. The available funding will be provided through the U.S. Department of Education's \$4 billion fund that rewards states that adopt innovations supported by the current administration. All but four states - Alaska, Missouri, South Carolina and Texas - have signed on to support development of national standards.

"Having real high standards is important, but behind that, I think in this country we have too many bad tests," said Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "If we're going to have world-class international standards, we need to have world-class evaluations behind them."

Feds seeking new design for Recovery Act's Web site

It may be pretty, but the Web site being used by the federal government to track federal stimulus money is not very functional. Thus the General Services Administration (GSA) has issued a pre-solicitation notice for an information technology contractor to redesign the site and implement and host the 2.0 version. The deadline for submitting proposals is expected to be in late June.

The updates will help make the site more user-friendly with changes to the information architecture and design. The Recovery and Accountability Board (RATB) will also be open to technology improvements for version 2.0. Working on the site will be limited to the nearly 60 contractors that are on GSA's government-wide acquisition contract called Alliant.

Among the features sought are the ability to evaluate data quickly, be built for speed and responsiveness and provide accurate information per Office of Management and Budget guidelines.

San Francisco Airport to get new inline baggage handling system

The San Francisco International Airport will get a new inline baggage handling system with \$15 million in Recovery Act funding. The new addition is expected to increase security for travelers, speed up the baggage processes and create jobs. It will eliminate the need for passengers to walk their checked baggage to a screening location and wait before proceeding to the security checkpoint. The system also incorporates enhanced explosive detection technology and provide on-screen viewing capabilities for officers conducting baggage screenings.

Colorado names outreach coordinator for disadvantaged businesses

In addition to having a state board to oversee the state's spending of federal stimulus dollars, Colorado recently announced it would also hire an outreach coordinator to ensure disadvantaged businesses also get their share of the money. Maranda Pleau, the small business coordinator for a Colorado general contractor will join the board June 29. She will be charged with ensuring that minority businesses are made aware of contracts in which they might participate.

Philly airport to provide for two inline baggage handling systems

The Philadelphia International Airport has received Recovery Act funding of approximately \$26 million to construct two inline baggage handling systems, seeking to improve security and ease check-in procedures. This announcement comes on the heels of U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's announcing last week \$15 million for similar equipment at the San Francisco International Airport. The new baggage system will eliminate the need for passengers to walk their checked baggage to a screening location and wait before proceeding to the security checkpoint. It includes enhanced explosive detection technology to provide on-screen viewing during baggage screenings. The two new systems will bring to four the number of operational inline systems instead of eight separate screening locations.

What the states are doing

California law enforcement agencies stand to gain from the \$136 million in economic stimulus funds announced by the U.S. Department of Justice. The funds will strengthen law enforcement programs throughout the state to help reduce the flow of illegal drugs. Some of the projects include eradicating marijuana gardens, dismantling methamphetamine labs and attempting to shut down drug-trafficking organizations.

In **Washington**, the State Arts Council and the Western States Arts Federation have received some of the Recovery Act funding set aside for nonprofit arts organizations across the country. WSAC now has \$273,000 for more than two dozen stimulus grants in the state. WESTAF, headquartered in Denver, has \$543,000 to spread among organizations in 13 states, probably between 13 and 18 awards. National Endowment for the Arts funding for these and other arts groups has yet to be distributed. Seattle institutions are hoping to share in \$250,000 sought by the mayor. NEA projects are mostly for salary support to ensure jobs are not lost in the arts industry.

The feds have approved **Arizona's** plans on how to apply it will spend \$681 million in education stimulus funding over the next two years. The state will be eligible to apply for another \$335 million later this year, which would bring its total funding to \$1 billion. The funds will likely be used to reinstate teachers who had been laid off. While some of the funding is expected to help close the budget gap - \$4 million for the state - lawmakers are still debating the budget, so educators and education officials are not sure how much money will be coming their way.

California transportation entities have been awarded Recovery Act funds for capital improvement projects. Caltrans will receive \$9 million for track, bridge, signal and bicycle improvements through Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties. The San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) will garner \$7 million to purchase new buses and for preventive maintenance.

New York plans to use the Recovery Zone Facility Bond Program to jump-start industrial and commercial projects. The Recovery Act authorized \$25 billion for recovery zone bonds and New York hopes to be awarded at least \$200 million of that. The bonds act as private activity bonds for projects such as stadium construction that are not typical public activities. These bonds are similar to the Build America Bonds that offer federal rebates up to 35 percent of interest rate costs. New York plans to use the bonds for construction of office buildings, large industrial facilities and retail complexes. The funding comes at a time when New York developers have stopped or delayed projects throughout the city.

Ohio has announced \$40 million in loans to two energy companies in the state as part of the state's stimulus package to be used for advanced energy projects. One of the companies will benefit from a \$30 million bridge loan to be used to help construct a \$3 billion coal-fired generating station. The project is expected to employ 1,600 workers during its four-year construction period. Another company is scheduled to receive a \$10 million loan. Both are part of the Recovery Act's impetus of funding non-coal technology projects and clean-coal projects.

Colorado's Fort Collins-Loveland Airport may use some of the federal stimulus money headed to the state to complete paving work that has long been on hold. Construction on the project began two years ago, but was halted for lack of funds. The taxiway that would benefit from the funding is for the airport's primary taxiway for the airport's main runway.

Ten **Alabama** airports will benefit from federal economic stimulus funding. The Tuscaloosa Regional Airport will get \$580,000 to repave a runway, the George Downer Airport will get \$1.7 million for runway paving and lighting and Vaiden Field Airport garners \$1.2 million for runway paving.

Public safety grants to **Kentucky** victims services organizations will be made from some \$800,000 in economic stimulus funds. Organizations will be able to apply for the funds beginning June 15. The grants will be used to provide funds to public agencies and nonprofits that offer services to victims of crime such as child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence.

The **Kansas** Board of Regents plans to allocate \$7.7 million in funding from the stimulus bill to higher education institutions in the state, most of the money going to deferred maintenance. The projects include: Wichita State University, \$850,000 to replace an academic building's heating and ventilation system; Emporia State University, \$584,856 for roof repairs and replacement; Kansas State University, \$2.3 million for campus utility and power plant improvements; Pittsburg State University, \$569,424 for HVAC replacements and electrical and fire code improvements; the University of Kansas, \$2.07 million for campus fire code improvements, roof repair and replacement, electrical service improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act improvements and infrastructure improvements; University of Kansas Medical Center, \$868,024 for infrastructure improvements, elevator repairs and roof repair and replacement. Washburn University and the state's 19 community colleges and six technical colleges will also be recipients of funding.

Georgia's Environmental Facilities Authority will garner \$54.8 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help local governments finance water infrastructure improvements. The funds will benefit the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program that provides low-interest loans for drinking water systems and to finance water infrastructure improvements. Priority is given to funding of small and disadvantaged communities and programs that encourage prevention.

Texas will receive more than \$17.5 million from the U.S. Department of Labor as part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance funding whose goal is to help retrain workers who lost their jobs due to outsourcing and foreign trade. The federal stimulus funds will be used to pay for job training and placement. Increased imports and competitive trade have resulted in more and more workers losing their jobs. This funding will be used to upgrade those workers' existing skills or teach them the new skills they need for new careers in industries that have potential growth.

Three **Ohio** construction projects - \$33 million. The projects are in Columbus and one, a project to widen and improve two avenues near the campus of Nationwide Children's Hospital, will eat up \$25 million of that total. A number of upgrades in the downtown River South district will be allocated \$5.5 million. Another \$3 million will be used to reconstruct and resurface eight high-traffic city streets.

Tennessee is putting its Recovery Act funding into highway infrastructure in the state. Tennessee's Department of Transportation has awarded nearly 200 projects and \$421 million to construction firms, cement companies and electricians for projects in all of the state's counties. Tennessee currently ranks second only to Illinois in the number of projects awarded to date. Construction firms are hiring and rehiring employees and officials expect the recovery projects will eventually provide 25,000 jobs.

A **Kentucky** nuclear enrichment plant at Paducah will use \$40 million in stimulus funds to clean up and tear down contaminated buildings at the site. More than 50 hires are expected to work on the projects. The funds are part of \$6 billion in Recovery Act funds allocated for nuclear cleanup in 12 states.

In **Missouri**, officials of the Kansas City bus service are hoping a bill in Congress passes that would allow transit agencies to use some of their Recovery Act funding for company operations and not just capital purchases. Kansas City this month is looking at cutting service on 25 of its 66 routes during times of the day when ridership is low. If the bill passes, another \$690 million will be available to states for bus and rail service that previously would have gone to capital projects. Kansas City would stand to garner \$1.6 million in funds for operations.

Other national news

\$1.8 billion in FEMA preparedness grants announced for 2009

States, urban areas, tribal governments and nonprofit agencies will be able to compete for nearly \$1.8 billion in U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) preparedness grants announced this week. The grant funds will be used to help these entities protect against, prevent and respond and recover when disaster strikes. The 2009 grant allocations include:

State Homeland Security Program - \$861.1 million for enhancing preparedness capabilities through planning, equipment and readiness activities; Urban Areas Security Initiative - \$798.6 million to enhance urban preparedness in high-threat, high-density areas (includes \$439 million in seven highest-risk areas and \$359 million for others); Metropolitan Medical Response System Programs - \$39.8 million divided evenly among 124 jurisdictions to improve regional mass casualty preparedness and response capabilities; Citizen Corps Program - \$14.6 million to help engage citizens in community preparedness, response and recovery activities.

Additionally, \$1.7 million will go to State Homeland Security Program Tribal for eligible tribal applicants to improve preparedness initiatives, \$15 million will go to the Nonprofit Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program to assist in preparedness for high-risk urban areas and support technical assistance funding. To view grant assistance by state, click [HERE](#).

OSHA has \$7 million in grant funds for promoting safety, health

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has nearly \$7 million in Susan Harwood Training Grants it plans to make available for nonprofit, community and faith-based organizations. The grant funds will be used to provide training and education programs on safety and health topics for both workers and their employers. This year, some of the two dozen targeted topics are such things as crane safety, combustible dust, emergency preparedness and response and the OSHA recordkeeping process.

Reducing injuries and illness in the workplace can increase productivity and save lives. These grants will be awarded for a 24-month performance period. Grant solicitations were published in the June 10 edition of the Federal Register. Applications are due on July 24 and must be submitted electronically. For additional information on the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program, visit the OSHA Web site at [www.osha.gov](#).

Interest-free loans being made available to small businesses

Small businesses having a hard time dealing with the declining economy may be eligible for up to \$35,000 in short-term relief through the Small Business Administration's America's Recovery Capital Loan Program. The program kicked off this week.

The loans will be offered by SBA lenders for as long as funding is available or through Sept. 30, 2010, whichever comes first. The loans are interest-free for up to five years, guaranteed by the SBA with the loan interest costs charged by banks being paid for by SBA. The Recovery Act allowed the SBA to set aside \$255 million to pay interest charges for loans granted to small businesses. The loans' interest rate charges have been set at the prime rate plus 2 percent, or around 5.25 percent currently. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Calendar of events

DOE to meet Thursday on weatherization assistance program rulemaking

The U.S. Department of Energy will hold a public meeting tomorrow, Thursday, for discussion of the proposed rule on Rulemaking for the Weatherization Assistance Program. The rule is intended to reduce the review and verification burden related to income verification, rent increases and property enhancement criteria under the weatherization program for certain properties identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The meeting will be at 11 a.m. at the DOE at 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, 20585 Forrestal Building, Room 8E-069. Participation will be both by Webinar and by conference call. Send notice of intent to attend by Webinr or conference call to [wxdhnp@ee.doe.gov](#) and you will be sent registration instructions by return e-mail.

Webcast slated June 24 on using Clean Renewable Energy Bonds

A Webcast for state and local officials regarding how to take advantage of low-cost financing using Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREB) has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. (EST). The free Webcast, titled "How to Use CREBs for Financing Renewable Energy Projects on Public Lands," is offered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Assistant Project and will feature a representative of the DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory and a representative of Denver Water. Although free, those planning to log in to the Webcast must register in advance. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

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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 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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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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