

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT PIPELINE

Your source for state and local government news and contracting opportunities

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Money, money everywhere...especially for technology!



agencies.

(MORE)

Technology firms that regularly contract with government are well how the stimulus bill allocates more than \$44 billion for technology upgrades and modernization. Seems logical, however, that even technology firms that have never sold to government should be interested. Selling to the public sector is just as easy as selling to commercial clients...and the amount government has to spend is huge.

Some of the largest technology opportunities will Strategic Partnerships, Inc. revolve around implementation of health information systems, broadband enhancements and smart grid interoperability. Those opportunities will occur at the state, regional and local levels of government. However, another \$1.8 billion is allocated for technology initiatives at federal

IN THIS ISSUE

June 24, 2009

Job-counting guidelines released JAG awards being announced Mine issues to be addressed Follow the money Stimulus news briefs What the states are doing Other national news Calendar of events Don't miss another issue! State recovery Web sites ARRA - Text of the Act

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Guidelines for counting jobs released by administration

Reporting recipients of grants, loans, other forms of assistance vital With job figures relating to the federal economic stimulus bill slated to be released every three months, the Obama administration this week released its rules for counting jobs created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"As significant recovery funds have now made their way into local communities and the work to rebuild our economy continues to gain momentum, it is essential that the public have access to information on the manner in which funds are being expended at the local level," said Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The reporting guidelines tell the nation's governors, mayors and contractors how to report the numbers of recipients of grants, loans and other forms of assistance. Beginning in October, entities receiving federal stimulus dollars will have to report spending data. A Web site, www.FederalReporting.gov, has been instituted to simplify the reporting requirements.

The reports filed will, according to Orszag, answer these questions:

- . Who is receiving stimulus funding and how much?
- . What projects or activities are the stimulus dollars funding?
- . What is the status of projects or activities regarding completion and how many jobs have been created or retained as a result of the funding?

Federal officials are hopeful that when the reporting process begins, there will be a more accurate accounting of job statistics affected by the stimulus funding. When the stimulus bill was signed, the administration said 3.5 million jobs would be created by the end of 2010. There has been confusion regarding how different employment scenarios are counted - are part-time jobs counted the same way as full-time jobs? Some also guestion if the trickle-down effect is to be considered. If an energy efficiency expert is hired to help weatherize homes, is that worker the only one to be counted or does the new hire at the company that sells the supplies for weatherization count as well?

Officials say a full-time, year-round job counts as one job created while a part-time or seasonal job may count only as a partial job. They request that only those being paid by ARRA dollars should be counted. They also say data entered into the Web site will be scrutinized to ensure the numbers are not inflated.

JAG awards being announced by Dept. of Justice

Local law enforcement agencies benefit from stimulus funding Law enforcement agencies throughout the country are being awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP). The OJP provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims.

As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more than \$4 billion for state and local law enforcement and other criminal and juvenile justice activities has been set aside. The OJP will administer \$2.76 billion of this funding.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program supports a variety of local and state projects to prevent crime and improve the criminal justice system. The funding can be used for multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces, crime prevention, domestic violence programs and more. JAG grant funding is based on formulas that take into consideration population and crime statistics. However, each state receives a minimum allocation. Sixty percent of the funding goes to the states with the remaining 40 percent going to local government entities.

To view the local JAG awards by state through June 22, click <u>HERE</u> and look under "Recent Reports."

Safety, environmental issues at mines to be addressed

Fourteen projects in six states' National Forests to get attention

Nearly \$20 million in Recovery Act funding has been announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to address safety hazards and environmental damaged caused by neglected and abandoned mines. Six states -Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Michigan and Montana - will share in the funding for 14 projects in their National Forests.

Included are closing mine openings and vertical shafts, recontouring open pits, trenches and associated roads and removing or stabilizing abandoned buildings, equipment and hazardous materials. As a safety factor, the mine openings will be gated and signs posted to prevent public entry. Projects that include watershed cleanup activities include replacing contaminated soil and debris with clean soils and native vegetation and restoring streams to their original channels.

State projects and their funding include: Alaska (two projects) - \$2.8 million - Resurrection Creek Watershed Restoration and Salt Chuck Mine Removal Action; Arizona - (three projects) - \$1.75 million - World's Fair Mine Adit - Acid Mine Drainage Remediation, Santa Rita Abandoned Mine Safety Mitigation/Closures and North Phoenix Abandoned Mine Safety Mitigation/Closures; California (five projects) - \$10.9 million - Abandoned mines in White Pine County' abandoned mine safety closures, abandoned mine remediation, Tahoe National Forest Abandoned Mines and Blue Ledge Mine; Idaho (one project) - \$3.6 million - North Idaho Abandoned Mines Cleanup; Michigan (two projects) - \$340,000 - mine closures Upper Michigan, Phase I and mine closure Upper Michigan, Phase 2 and Norwich Mine Interpretive Trail; Montana (one project) - \$450,000 -Scotchman Mine. Total: \$19,884,000.

Follow the money

DOE announces \$45 million wind project funding opportunity Tuesday

A \$45 million financial assistance grant is being offered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funds will be used to support the nation's wind industry through testing the performance and reliability of wind turbine drivetrain systems.

The investment will deliver utility scale wind turbines with over a 20-year design life. The goal is to help improve the nation's competitiveness relating to wind energy technology, lower wind system capital costs and increase and maintain wind energy capacity growth.

The funding will be awarded on a competitive basis and each applicant must include organizational participants from one or more state universities and a plan for achieving a long-term sustainable operation and maintenance and funding without future assistance from DOE. A letter of intent must be filed by July 15 and applications are due Aug. 6. For more information, click <u>HERE</u>.

HUD, USDA have joint tool to provide transparency in spending

An Internet tool is being implemented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow Americans to see how and where agency stimulus money is being spent. HUD recently announced it would join USDA's geospatial project by uploading HUD stimulus data into USDA's Web tool.

In addition to seeing where the money is going, the tool also allows users to see how much money is going to each state and how many grants or contracts are being issued. The data can be searched by agency, state or amount of money obligated to grantees. USDA developed the tool and during the first 100 days after the Recovery Act was signed, got 1.5 million hits.

USDA awards \$176M for research lab, facilities upgrades

Laboratory buildings and support facilities at research locations in 29 states will share \$176 million in Recovery Act funding being distributed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The upgrades will further research being conducted at USDA laboratories. All of the projects are at locations conducting high-priority research. "This funding will ensure that our labs can carry out the critical research that enables the U.S. to have the safest, least expensive food supply in the world," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in making the announcement.

The funding will be used to improve the safety and health aspects of the laboratories, enhance the energy efficiency and reduce operation and maintenance costs. Maintenance savings will be returned to directly support the research program.

Some of the contracting opportunities related to the funding will be for electrical and plumbing repairs, fire detection and suppression system renovations, roofing systems replacements and deferred maintenance projects relating to electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems.

To view the complete list of projects receiving funding, click HERE and look under "Recent Reports."

Additional states to share \$453 million for weatherization projects

Fifteen additional states have been approved to share more than \$453 million in Recovery Act funding to expand their weatherization assistance programs. The funds, and additional funding they can receive for attaining certain milestones set out in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will help them weatherize 165,000 homes. Approximately \$6,500 will be spent on each home. The result will be lower energy costs for low-income families, reduced greenhouse emissions and additional job opportunities.

Receiving 40 percent of their total weatherization funding authorized by the ARRA are: California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia. Twenty percent of the funds can be used both to hire and train workers to do the weatherization.

The program is available to families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level - or about \$44,000 per year for a family of four. Making their homes more energy efficient is expected to decrease their heating bills by more than 30 percent, with hundreds of dollars per year on overall energy costs.

States must meet reporting, oversight and accountability standards of the ARRA to receive the last half of their funding. To view the list of states and how they plan to expand their weatherization programs, click HERE and look under "Recent Reports."

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

Stimulus news briefs

Ohio drops plans for using transportation funds for planning, studies Plans to use federal stimulus funds in Ohio for planning and study of highway projects have been dropped in

favor of using the money for construction. The state originally intended to use 7 percent of the \$744 million it was to receive from the stimulus funding for planning and preliminary studies. Federal transportation officials told the state they would rather see the money directed to create and keep construction jobs. Thus that \$57 million will now go toward construction - \$30 million to nine highway and bridge projects and the rest to other state projects not yet finalized.

Orlando International fourth airport to garner funds for inline baggage handling

Another major airport has been approved for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for inline baggage handling. The Orlando International Airport will benefit from \$15 million in ARRA funding to construct two of the systems. Three other major airports - San Francisco International, Philadelphia International and Jackson Hole - have previously been announced for funding for the same type systems. The Orlando airport project will include 100 percent inline screening with five operational inline systems to replace the current 34 standalone screening machines. The system automates the baggage screening process while eliminating the need for passengers to walk checked baggage to a screening location. In addition to improving workforce safety at the airport, the new system also will reduce the number of re-scans and physical bag searches.

California stands to lose billions in stimulus funding

If the governor's proposed budget cuts in California become reality, the state stands to lose billions of federal economic stimulus funds. As the state's unemployment rate jumped to 11.5 percent last week, officials are fearful that additional cuts to programs will make it even harder for Californians to get back on their feet. Federal funds for numerous programs - the state's welfare program and health insurance for poor families match state funding dollar-for-dollar. If the state spends less on programs such as Medicaid, it also will lose some enhanced dollars that would have supplemented the program. The end result is a lessening number of tax dollars that have gone to the federal government coming back to the state. Some state officials say California could lose up to \$7.5 billion in federal funds if the budget is approved.

Here's a switch...cities complain of getting less than rural areas

Here's a switch... In most instances, rural communities complain that they received far fewer dollars in federal aid than large, urban areas. However, mayors from bigger cities across the country now are saying rural areas are getting more of the federal stimulus dollars.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors recently reported that larger cities are receiving a smaller portion of the funding. Some allege that politics is becoming involved as the legislatures that oversee channeling the money from the state to local entities have a bias toward rural areas. They also say that the mayors' report addresses mostly infrastructure and transportation projects, while cities are seeing money flow into their coffers from other sources such as healthcare benefits, tax relief, etc.

Indiana wants to be integral part of high-speed rail corridor project

Officials in Indiana are hoping to become an integral part of a proposed expansion of passenger rail service. There is some \$8 billion in federal recovery act funding to expand that service and reports are that California and the Midwest have the best shot at the most funding. Indiana is one of eight Midwestern states promoting a network with Chicago as its hub. That network would join 12 metro areas within 400 miles. It would include the line that runs between Chicago and Indianapolis. Indiana must submit a pre-application next month and a full application in August. The cooperating entities realize that in the past high-speed rail's emphasis was on East Coast corridors. High-speed rail in the Midwest would require improvements to equipment and tracks to enable Amtrak trains to reach speeds of 110 miles per hour.

Some states could face problems competing for education funds

State officials beware - if your state is using stimulus funds to fill budget gaps instead of to aid public schools, you stand the chance of having millions of additional stimulus dollars withheld.

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan last week warned Pennsylvania against reducing the share of the state budget for education while not expending any funds from its Rainy Day Account. Texas, Arizona and other states may want to heed the same warning. Pennsylvania's plan could hurt that state's chances of competing for the additional \$5 billion in competitive grant funds for schools that adopt innovative ideas to improve public education.

NASA inks \$7.9 million contract for infrastructure repairs

A \$7.9 million, nine-month contract has been awarded for infrastructure repairs at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Funding to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) from the Recovery Act will pay for the contractor to perform roof repairs and roof ledge replacements.

The funding is part of \$1 billion in federal stimulus funds NASA will receive. Fifty million of the funds were prioritized to help NASA restore facilities that were damaged by hurricanes and other natural disasters in 2008. NASA officials called the facilities being repaired "crucial" to the agency's human spaceflight missions.

Recovery funds net Jackson Hole Airport inline baggage system

Another major airport will benefit from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, as Jackson Hole (Wyoming) Airport has been awarded \$6 million to construct a new inline baggage handling system. The new system includes enhanced explosive detection technology that provides on-screen viewing for officers conducting baggage screenings. It also can reduce re-scans and manual searches of baggage. Both are expected to enhance airport security while also streamlining airport procedures for passengers. The Jackson Hole funding is the third in the last two weeks. San Francisco International Airport was funded for \$15 million and the Philadelphia International Airport received \$26 million for its dual inline systems.

Virginia last state to seek infrastructure recovery funds

The state of Virginia last week submitted its final list of shovel-ready projects it recommends for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The state was the last of the 50 to submit its lists, starting last month. Some of the projects throughout the state have already started, according to state officials. They said that because other states had construction projects already under way or ready to get under way, they could more easily submit their lists for funding.

Virginia, on the other hand, has been strapped for cash and has been dedicating most of its transportation funding to maintenance and not construction.

What the states are doing

The **Ohio** Department of Transportation has awarded nearly \$84 million in contracts on more than 50 road and bridge projects in the state being funded by the Recovery Act. The projects are for interstate highways, local roads and bridge modernization projects. The largest project, replacement of a bridge on State Route 83 in Lorain County that is traversed by nearly 7,700 motorists each day, got under way last week. Approximately \$30 million of the state's allocation of \$57 million in recovery funds will be invested in nine additional road and bridge projects, while the remainder will be for existing projects. Additionally, ODOT requires all contractors

awarded contracts from recovery funds to post new job openings online to match those seeking jobs with opportunities throughout the state.

A new 7,000-square-foot gym and renovations to an existing community center at a public housing complex in Binghamton, New York, is being funded through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars. The gym is a project the complex planned years ago, but could never afford. The \$1.3 million project will include a basketball court, offices and locker rooms. Local firms will benefit in contracts for electrical, ventilation, plumbing and general contacting work. The remainder of the work includes turning a boiler room into a computer lab.

Deferred maintenance at the Gavins Point Dam and Fort Randall Dam in **South Dakota** will be paid for by Recovery Act funds as will sediment reduction projects and other Missouri River recovery projects. There are a total of 35 projects between the two dams, carrying a price tag of \$8.7 million. Many of the proposed projects have been on the drawing boards for years, but lacked funding. Among the projects are building a bike trail, doing maintenance work on the road below one of the dams, maintaining a large crane in the power plant and dealing with corrosion problems in the large pipes that bring water from the reservoir to the powerhouse.

Approximately 200 jobs in the Vista Unified School District in **California** may have been saved by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The state budget problems being experienced by the Left Coast state were expected to cut as much as \$3.6 billion from public schools by 2010. Vista would have had to cut approximately \$5 million by the end of the current fiscal year and \$9.7 million for the following school year. The news of \$6 million in additional stimulus funds let the district breathe a sigh of relief. However, school officials realize the funds will just be stop-gap and unless the economy improves significantly, they could be facing the same budget woes next year. Although half of the amount is dedicated to special education, schools do have some flexibility in other spending. The remainder of the money to bridge the budget gap will be borrowed from other funds.

A small business in **Oregon** has earned federal economic stimulus funding for contracts for work in two national parks in the state. Oddly enough, the company specializes in preventing forest fires and has been hired to burn areas of the state's Deschutes & Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grass Lands. The controlled burning will promote new growth and thin out some trees so wildfires don't become unmanageable. Officials note that burning also adds nutrients to the soil while some animals and tree species require bare ground to thrive. The main goal, however, is to preserve forests and keep communities safe. The projects not only will benefit this company, but others in the state that sell supplies to the company.

Stabilizing parts of the seawall at Ellis Island for \$26 million will eat up the major portion of some \$37 million in federal economic stimulus funds allocated to the National Park Service for construction projects at national monuments in **New York** in the coming months. Other projects include power and communications lines for security on Liberty Island and the stabilization of Castle Williams at the Governor's Island National Monument. Grant's Tomb Overlook will also see construction work.

Chicago's commuter rail agency, Metra, will receive more than \$46 million in economic stimulus funds to improve three of its lines. The projects include bridge rehab and reconstruction on the Electric District and Union Pacific North Line and replacement of fiber optic cable on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe commuter rail line to support voice and data needs and to provide signal and communications information.

In Louisiana, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority has been named to receive \$2.4 million in Recovery Act funding to improve its St. Charles Line. The money will be used for vehicle maintenance and replacement of decaying wooden crossties. Officials of the transit authority also hope to secure stimulus funds for three new streetcar lines.

Five of the 11 water and sewer infrastructure projects in two counties in **Georgia** are benefiting from \$40.5 million in federal stimulus funds. The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority has approximately \$144 million in federal money - \$121 million of which is stimulus funds - for 2009 projects. Rural projects receive a 70 percent subsidy of stimulus money while non-rural or metro area projects get 40 percent.

The Transit Authority of Northern **Kentucky** will use \$4.5 million in Recovery Act funding to upgrade its bus system through replacement of its communication system, purchase of bus shelters, upgrades to its farecollection equipment, etc. The system operates 27 bus routes throughout the state and to and from downtown Cincinnati.

Three **California** transit district will share \$85.9 million in federal stimulus funds to upgrade their existing fleets and infrastructure. Caltrain, allocated \$9.3 million, plans to use the funds on track, bridge and signal improvements. The Municipal Transportation Agency in San Francisco that will receive \$67.2 million plans preventive maintenance on its buses, maintenance and replacement of light rail track switches, new change machines and various renovations and maintenance projects. The Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District earned \$9.4 million and plans most of the money to be spent to refurbish a San Francisco Bay ferry.

About \$23 million in federal stimulus funds is headed to North Carolina, where transit projects will be the beneficiaries. Included is \$11.6 million for the city of Raleigh to build a new maintenance and operations facility for Capital Area Transit buses. From the \$103 million allocated statewide, 21 urban transit systems will share \$70 million for 77 projects. Rural areas of the state were also funded - with \$33 million headed to them. Among the projects throughout the state are paratransit vehicle replacement and maintenance, bus repainting, GPS systems, a vanpool expansion, vehicle locator systems, parking lot expansion, van purchases and computer hardware and software.

It's an even dozen for the University of **Colorado** at Boulder. The university is the recipient of 12 awards of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for research. The projects total \$6.7 million in stimulus funds, but the university expects even more as grant processes are still under way. Officials say the university has applied for more than 175 research grants from a variety of agencies that are using some of their stimulus dollars to fund grants. The stimulus-funded grants are in addition to the more than 1,000 proposals for \$1.5 billion university researchers apply for annually.

Pennsylvania public safety projects will benefit from \$13.5 million in stimulus funds to be spent in Philadelphia. City officials there say some of the funding also will save more than 50 court positions that were previously set for elimination because of budget cuts. The city's police department will see \$4 million worth of new equipment and training from the federal funds as well as a real-time crime analysis center. Another \$2.4 million will be spent on a green jobs training program for former offenders and a program to teach at-risk youth to create and restore murals.

Utah's Davis County plans to put its federal economic stimulus dollars toward energy efficiency projects, including purchase assistance for hybrid vehicles, ensuring more energy efficiency in its buildings (roof replacements, lighting and other upgrades) and installing geothermal heat pumps in two buildings that are on the drawing board - a Health Department headquarters and a library. The county was allocated \$749,100 from the U.S. Department of Energy for conservation projects.

Ohio cities are currently applying for \$11.6 million in funds allocated to the Ohio Department of Development from the Recovery Act. The funds are set aside for water and sanitary sewer projects. The funds are part of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Cities can benefit from grant awards from \$500,000 for public infrastructure improvements and \$100,000 for on-site improvements.

Florida's H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute has been awarded more than \$6 million in Recovery Act funds to support cancer research. A half dozen researchers applied for the funding - a total of \$4.9 million. Additionally, \$1.5 million in stimulus funds were allocated by the state to provide operating support for the center's research programs. Among the approximately 80 separate applications for National Institutes of Health funding is one for upgrades to current research facilities and development of a new lab space.

Public and private renewable energy projects will benefit from federal stimulus funding being offered by the **Massachusetts** Department of Energy Resources. The agency is currently preparing an application for both cities and private entities to send to the U.S. Department of Energy to try to claim some of the \$157 million it expects in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding. More than 70 projects are expected to be funded. Eligible for funding are combined heat and power systems, district energy systems, waste energy recovery of high efficiency industrial equipment. Federal stimulus money will pay for up to half of the price of the approved projects.

South Dakota is scheduled to get \$9 million now and \$12 million later from the federal economic stimulus bill to expand its weatherization program. Average homes can expect to save 15-20 percent on their heat bills once they are weatherized. While the state already has a weatherization program, the additional money will mean more family homes can be part of the program and more can be spent on each home. The maximum amount of spending on each home will be allowed to increase from the current \$2,500 to a stimulus-aided \$6,500.

Other national news

DOT funds to assist with bridge, highway construction, improvement projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) today, Friday, announced two new pots of money to fund innovative technologies in highway construction and repair and transportation improvement projects.

More than \$5.2 million in grants to 14 states will be used for bridge and highway construction and repair technologies. The funds are expected to improve construction, resulting in shorter construction time and fewer repair costs. The Innovative Bridge Research and Deployment (IBRD) program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration, promotes more use of technologies and applications that are not common practice and encourages states to use these technologies. To view the location and description of the bridge projects, click HERE.

Additionally, DOT has awarded \$140 million to 36 states to help fund nearly 250 transportation improvement projects. Entities can apply for the funding to support methods of increasing efficiency, roadway improvements and research. Nearly \$800 million in these grants has been awarded since the Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program began in 1998. For more information, click <u>HERE</u>.

USDA awards economic development grants for rural areas

Economic development and revitalization projects will be performed by the recipients of \$6.45 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities program and the Rural Economic Area Partnership program.

"The funding announced today will be used for a broad range of economic development and revitalization projects in some of America's neediest communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Thirty-nine projects will be funded for rural areas of the country. These grant programs help communities plan and implement economic development projects. Funding is contingent on the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

To view the applicants selected to receive Rural Business Enterprise Grants for Empowerment Zones/ Enterprise Communities and grants for Rural Economic Area Partnerships, click <u>HERE</u> and look under "Recent Reports."

Three federal agencies partner for sustainable communities

The U.S. Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have announced they are working together on a Partnership for Sustainable Communities. They are hopeful their efforts will improve access to affordable housing, provide more transportation options and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities throughout the country.

The agencies will be operating under six guiding "livability principles" they will use to coordinate federal transportation, environmental protection and housing investments at the three agencies. The three-way partnership follows action earlier this year that brought HUD and DOT together for joint operations regarding housing and transportation initiatives. Now another leg of the stool includes EPA ensuring that the goals of the other two agencies are met while protecting the environment, promoting equitable development and addressing climate change.

The six livability principles include: providing more transportation choices; promoting equitable, affordable housing; enhancing economic competitiveness; supporting existing communities, coordinating policies and leverage investment; and valuing communities and neighborhoods.

Another \$6 billion allocated by HHS to support CHIP

Six billion dollars in new federal funds will be made available throughout the country and in U.S. territories for Fiscal Year 2009 to provide health care to millions of children through the Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP). Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the funds are made available by the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, signed in February. The additional funding is aimed at maintaining the current CHIP enrollment and expanding programs.

HHS has released more than \$1 billion of the funding already and will allocate the remainder by the end of September. CHIP has a program in each state and is funded by state and federal funds. It provides health insurance for children of working families whose incomes are too high for them to be eligible for Medicaid but too low for employer-sponsored family plans or other private covers. To view a list of CHIP funding by state, click HERE.

Calendar of events

Webcast slated today 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 today, Wednesday, 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 <u>HERE</u>.

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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, 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, HERE.



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