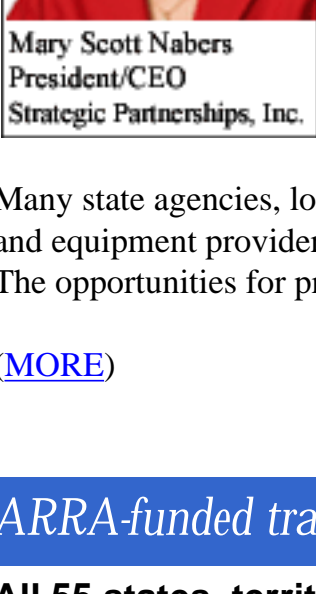


**Stimulus funds for smart grid projects about to be allocated...**

***IN THIS ISSUE***



Mary Scott Nabers  
President/CEO  
Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) just announced five grant programs with funding in each for smart grid technology projects. The total amount of money available through the five programs is \$4.2 billion. Many governmental entities as well as private sector contractors have been waiting many months for funding rules and regulations to be released. Applications for funding are being accepted now for projects throughout the country. Funding for specific smart grid projects could be released to individual states as early as mid-September.

Many state agencies, local governments, utility companies, regional coalitions and equipment providers have plans in place and will compete for this money. The opportunities for private sector contractors are numerous, varied and large.

[\(MORE\)](#)

[Transportation projects on schedule](#)

['Buy American' provision may be waived](#)

[A second stimulus package?](#)

[Follow the money](#)

[Stimulus news briefs](#)

[What the states are doing](#)

[Other national news](#)

[Don't miss another issue!](#)

[State recovery Web sites](#)

[ARRA - Text of the Act](#)

[Need our help?](#)

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#)

**ARRA-funded transportation projects moving quickly**

**All 55 states, territories meet deadline for obligating 50 percent of funds**

Although there are still billions of dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds yet to be distributed, ARRA-funded transportation projects are moving at a fast pace. To qualify for Recovery Act funding for these projects, states were required to have at least 50 percent of their allocation obligated by June 29. All 55 states and territories beat that deadline by at least 10 days.

So far, some \$19 billion in transportation funding has been obligated for more than 5,000 bridge, highway and other transportation projects throughout the country, according to federal officials.

The projects include restoration, repair, construction and other activities under the Surface Transportation Program. Projects are given priority if they can be completed in three years, are in economically distressed areas or will maximize job creation and economic benefits.

The good news, according to officials, is that nearly 2,000 of those projects are already under construction. The better news is that many of them are coming in under budget, meaning there will be money left over for other projects. "By delivering on these projects ahead of schedule and under-budget, we have been able to do even more than we expected," said Vice President Joe Biden.

Lower construction costs and more competition for construction projects have resulted in lower-than-anticipated costs. Many highway and airport construction projects are coming in consistently 10-20 percent under budget, some as high as 30 percent.

To view highway obligation deadline information by state regarding when the 50 percent obligation was met and how much of the funding each state has already put to work, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

**'Buy American' provision for broadband may be waived**

**List given for items for networks that no longer require stipulation**

A previous "buy American" stipulation on funds to build broadband networks as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been waived. Last week, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) granted a limited waiver of the buy American stipulation for broadband equipment used in broadband networks deployed using stimulus funds. NTIA is responsible for the distribution of \$5 billion of the \$7.2 billion allocated for broadband initiatives in unserved and underserved areas.

Included in the waiver are switching, access, transport, routing, customer premise, billing equipment and end user devices. It does not include optic cables, coaxial cables, cell towers and other facilities. For equipment not on the list, case-by-case waivers can be requested. Some companies argued that the buy American stipulation would slow down some projects because networks generally include equipment from companies throughout the world.

**Second stimulus package not completely ruled out**

**But officials want current plan to have time to work**

Less than a week after President Barack Obama said he was not ready to offer a second stimulus plan in spite of a still-struggling economy, one of his top political advisers said that possibility has not been completely ruled out. The rate of economic recovery so far has not been what the administration had expected and a push to get more of the Recovery Act funding into the hands of state and local governments was announced.

But Sunday on a television news program, the president's political adviser David Axelrod said the country is still working its way through the tough economic times, adding that most of the stimulus money has not even been spent yet. "I'm not going to make any judgment about whether we need more," said Axelrod. He said allowing the recovery funds to work requires time and patience. "It took years to get into the mess we're in. It's not going to take months to get out of it."

**Follow the money**

**Upgrades, expansion of community health care centers funded**

Upgrades and expansions of community health care throughout the country will be aided by \$851 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Release of the funds to the states for a variety of projects was announced this week by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Much of the funding will be used for facility and equipment needs and to increase health care for Americans, many of them uninsured. The money will be in the form of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) grants for construction, repair and renovation of more than 1,500 health centers nationwide. More than 65 of the facilities will use the funds to either purchase new equipment or health information technology systems while another 400 will use the funds to help adopt and expand the use of electronic health records.

There are approximately 7,500 sites that provide preventive and primary care regardless of one's ability to pay, with charges set according to income. They serve more than 17 million patients annually, 40 percent of whom have no health insurance. The CIP grants are the third set of health center grants from the Recovery Act. Previously, \$155 million was allocated for establishing 126 new health center sites and \$338 million in increased demand for services grants were allocated so that approximately 2 million more patients could be served over the next two years. Among the allocations are \$14 million to the state of Texas for immunizations, \$33.7 million to California for state adoption assistance and foster care funding, \$1.3 billion to Florida for its Medicaid prescription drug program and \$86.7 million to New York for community service block grants. To view a list of all CIP grantees, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

**Energy efficiency programs affect homes, businesses**

Funding for a new energy efficiency program that covers everything from energy efficient lighting to building construction was announced this week by the U.S. Department of Energy. The initiative is aimed at changing energy conservation standards for household and commercial lamps and lighting equipment. With 7 percent of all energy consumed in the country for lighting, the new initiative seeks to save enough electricity from 2012 through 2042 to power every home in the country for 10 months.

Also part of the initiative is a \$346 million investment of Recovery Funds to expand and accelerate the development, deployment and use of energy efficiency technologies in all major types of commercial buildings and new and existing homes. This can include either replacement or retrofit of older buildings.

Funding for the projects include \$100 million for advanced building systems research, \$70 million for residential buildings development and deployment, \$53.5 million for commercial buildings initiative, \$72.5 million for building and appliance market transformation and \$50 million for solid-state lighting research and development.

For more information on how the funding breaks out, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

**State energy programs' projects to be funded with \$200 million**

Ten states will share more than \$200 million in Recovery Act funding being distributed by the U.S. Department of Energy for state energy programs. The funds will be used to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Receiving 40 percent of their total State Energy Program (SEP) authorization from the Recovery Act are Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Washington. These states previously were awarded 10 percent of their funding to pay for planning costs. The remaining 50 percent will be released when the states meet reporting, oversight and accountability requirements of the federal government.

The projects included in the states' proposals include energy audits, building retrofits, education and training efforts, transportation programs to increase the use of alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles and new financing initiatives to promote investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. To view the awards by state, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

**Millions to be allocated for hydropower infrastructure updates**

Hydropower infrastructure will be modernized, its efficiency increased and its environmental impact reduced through the use of \$32 million in Recovery Act funding announced this week by the U.S. Department of Energy. Officials note one of the pluses of hydropower is that it can be stored behind dams and released when needed. These funds will be competitively awarded to non-federal hydropower projects that can be developed without significant modifications to dams and with minimal regulatory delay.

There will be two areas of projects. The deployment of hydropower upgrades at projects greater than 50 MW and at projects less than 50MW. The projects greater than 50 MW include those at large, non-federal facilities with existing or advanced technologies to allow for improved environmental performance and significant new energy generation. The projects of less than 50 MW are small-scale, non-federal facility sites with existing or advanced technologies that will improve environmental performance and significant new generation.

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

**Stimulus news briefs**

**Oklahoma creates hotline for reporting misuse of stimulus dollars**

A hotline has been created by the state of Oklahoma for state residents, contractors and government employees to report suspected fraud, waste or abuse of the federal economic stimulus funds headed to that state. With \$2.6 billion in stimulus funds headed for Oklahoma, state officials realize the risk for abuse is high, but they also realize the public is one of the best sources for detecting fraud. Calls to the hotline will be answered by Oklahoma FBI agents and callers can remain anonymous. Officials expect about \$500 million to come into the state by the end of June. As reports are made, the state auditor and his employees will visit state agencies as well as look at field operations. The majority of the funding headed to Oklahoma will be going to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the state Education Department and the state Transportation Department. Officials point out that the stakes are high - just 1 percent will mean \$26 million worth of fraud.

**Wisconsin road, bridge projects continue to come in well under budget**

As competition heats up for construction work, more and more projects are coming in under budget. In Wisconsin, the latest round of road and bridge work funded by the federal economic stimulus bill came in nearly 5 percent lower than expected. Savings - \$5 million! In earlier rounds of bidding (April, May and June), projects came in about 7 percent lower than anticipated, netting a \$23 million savings for the state. As long as the bids continue to come in lower than anticipated, more projects can be funded with the surplus from lower-than-expected costs. The last round of 25 state and local bridge projects in Wisconsin was estimated to cost more than \$110 million, but the low bid was \$105.4 million.

**USDA announces new Recovery Act Web site**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the launch of its new Recovery Act Web site, [www.usda.gov/recovery](#). The site features a blog, podcasts, RSS feeds and other interactive tools that allow citizens to learn about USDA funding in states and communities across the country. On the site, readers can read about projects in other parts of the country and share their own stories about how stimulus funding is working in their communities through the "Tell Your Story" portion of the site. The USDA already has a geospatial Web-function to show where and how USDA is spending its stimulus dollars. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently added its projects to that map.

**National parks doing their part in going 'green'**

Greening up national park sites is one way to preserve them, and park officials are doing just that, thanks to federal stimulus funds. The National Parks Service and the Environmental Protection Agency have initiated the Climate Friendly Parks network program to help parks address climate change. Each park will measure its emissions and then produce plans to curb them while also educating the public on how to help. Seventeen parks already have created such plans while 60 others are in the development stage. Parks, like homeowners, are turning down thermostats, sealing windows and installing food composting and recycling bins. At Mount Rainier, solar panels were installed on the building to provide it with energy.

Some of the activities undertaken will be funded by \$750 million in stimulus funds, including money for energy efficiency projects and the use of wind turbines and solar panels to generate energy.

**Signs crediting stimulus money for projects drawing ire**

Some folks in New Hampshire have taken offense to a requirement that signs be posted to mark projects that are being funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money. U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire has filed legislation to prohibit the use of such signage. Each of the signs carries a price tag of approximately \$300. "To spend taxpayer dollars on signs touting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at each and every project does nothing for households who are struggling to get by or for those who've lost their jobs during the economic downturn," said Gregg. In Derry, officials had a hard time finding a vendor to make the signs and finally contracted with the state Department of Corrections for the 3 X 5-foot signs at a cost of \$318, to be reimbursed by the federal government.

**What the states are doing**

In **South Carolina**, the city of Florence will use a revolving loan for the first phase of \$18.9 million in construction on a waste water treatment facility. Some \$4 million of the funds are from the Recovery Act. Total cost of the project is \$120 million. The remainder of the funds will come through the state revolving fund loan, a bond issue and grant funding.

**North Carolina** is seeking recovery funds to hire 150 more patrol officers in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Up to \$1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding will be available to help hire additional law enforcement officers across the country. The funds will pay for newly hired officers for up to three years. According to police officials, additional grant funding will be spent for overtime pay, community prosecution programs and for digitizing case files.

In **West Virginia**, the Huntington Housing Authority's YouthBuild program will benefit from \$400,000 in federal stimulus funds. The money will be used to help leaders work with disadvantaged youth to develop educational and employment skills. The program works with at-risk youth ages 16-24.

**New York City** could soon see more than 100 new police officers on its streets. Federal stimulus funds are expected to be used to hire 128 officers. The new officer hirings are facilitated by experienced officers being promoted to serve in anti-terror units in city subways. Although the stimulus bill says the money can only be used to hire anti-terror unit officers, New York police officials convinced federal officials that recruits lack the training to serve in that division so experienced officers instead are being promoted, opening up more hire spots.

The Clark County School District in **Nevada** is planning to spend \$6 million in Recovery Act funds and \$5 million in bond revenue or general funds to purchase 40 new buses and to build a natural gas fueling station. The 40 new buses will be only a drop in the bucket for the district, which already has 1,500 buses, most of which use a mix of bio-diesel instead of standard diesel fuel.

The Westlake, **Ohio**, Board of Education will apply for \$20 million in stimulus bonds to help construct a new school building. The state has been allocated \$267 million in interest-free Qualified School Construction Bonds. The bonds must be repaid, but being interest-free could save the district up to \$16 million. If approved, the district could then decide if it did, indeed, want to accept the funds. District officials are still studying their options.

Federal brownfield stimulus money was used in **Minnesota** by the St. Paul Port Authority. The \$200,000 stimulus cleanup grant will be part of the Port's \$6 million redevelopment of the former Minnehaha Lanes site in the Frogtown area. The Port Authority became the first Environmental Protection Agency grantee to begin spending the federal brownfield money. The Minnehaha Lanes building has been demolished and the site is now being pitched for redevelopment.

Nearly \$5 million in improvements to the Yeager Airport in Charleston, **West Virginia**, is being facilitated by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Among the projects is an aluminum and glass canopy over the first lane of the passenger drop-off area. Other improvements funded by stimulus money are a fire sprinkler system for the entire terminal, new baggage claim equipment, interior renovations and a digital display system.

A range of road and bridge projects in Monmouth County, **New Jersey**, will benefit from \$11.7 million in federal stimulus funds. This comes on the heels of the county being approved for \$4.2 million in stimulus dollars for energy efficiency projects, \$1.8 million for job training, \$1.2 million for homelessness programs and \$100,000 toward preparing a wastewater management plan for the county. The road and bridge projects include some resurfacing projects, upgrades to electrical components in traffic signals, bridge replacement and renovation and other projects.

A tuition increase of 7.5 percent was reduced to roughly 3 percent at the University of **Minnesota** Duluth thanks to the infusion of stimulus funds. University officials say they used stimulus funds to buy down tuition. In fact, those who pay in-state tuition rates will actually pay less in tuition next year thanks to the stimulus funds and other aid.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in **Connecticut** will get a \$15.4 million boost from the Recovery Act. The state's energy program will use some of the funds to expand fuel cell initiatives, assist homeowners and businesses in reducing their energy costs with alternative technologies and improve energy efficiency in state-owned buildings. After demonstrating it has successfully implemented its plan, the state will receive more than \$19 million in additional funding for a total of more than \$38 million.

More than 450 teachers, paraprofessionals, bus monitors and clerical staff in **Georgia's** Richmond County school system have the Recovery Act to thank for being allowed to keep their jobs. The county used \$14.8 million from the stimulus act to fill holes in its budget to save the jobs, but once the stimulus funds run out, those employees could be facing the same fate as earlier. The \$3.2 million that saved the jobs will not be available after two years.

Five major **Nebraska** highway projects will compete for federal expansion of I-80 from fouring, according to state officials. Four of the projects are in eastern Nebraska, including expansion of I-80 from four to six lanes. Funding is also sought for projects that include resurfacing and expanding of lanes on several highways. Funding is available only for those projects that can be completed by early 2012, while city and county stimulus road projects have been delayed until next year because of adjustments to changing federal regulations and requirements.

Keller, **Texas**, city officials have approved a grant application for federal stimulus funding for \$155,000 toward purchase of several yet-to-be-identified energy saving projects. The funds could be used for retrofitting Town Hall, the police building and senior center with LED lights - an energy saving measure identified in a previous facility analysis. Also under consideration is \$4,300 worth of energy conserving window film on The Keller Pointe and \$36,700 in retrofitting lights in that recreational facility. Solar powered outdoor lights also could replace existing street lighting.

Troubled youth in **Colorado** are benefiting from the Recovery Act thanks to a \$1.3 million stimulus grant to a community health clinic. Part of the funding is being used to pay for mobile dental and medical clinic visits once a month to treat runaway youth in a shelter in Colorado Springs. Health centers that serve the poor are priority for stimulus funding. \$2.5 billion of which was dedicated for free and low-cost health clinics.

**Massachusetts** plans to use \$20 million in stimulus funds for solar installations on top of the terminals at Logan International Airport, at nine state water facilities, two housing projects and a residence hall at a college. The solar installations on each of the airport's four commercial terminals total 2.75 megawatts. Bids will be taken and the projects are expected to begin this fall. Some could be completed in six months.

A total of \$1 million in seed money has been allocated to a **Kentucky** county to plan, design and start up a biofuels facility that will turn wood into electricity. The project is one of 30 in 14 states that together received \$57 million in funding. The electricity created in Trigg County will likely supplement the electrical supply to Trigg County Hospital. The plant is expected to use waste and low-valued wood to generate electricity.

New lighting and heating and air upgrades are planned in facilities in Jasper County, **Missouri**. More than \$292,000 will provide upgrades at the Jasper County Courthouse, the old bank building, the health department and the Jasper County Jail.

**Other national news**

**Columbus airport authority finds other sources of funding**

Although unsuccessful in its attempts to garner federal stimulus money set aside for airports, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority found other funding sources. The stimulus bill dropped \$29.2 million on other Ohio airports, while the Columbus facility depended on other stimulus sources for environmental and infrastructure projects. Not being "shovel ready" prevented the Columbus airport from getting any of the funds. However, the airport did qualify for a \$5 million forgivable loan toward building a \$7 million de-icing fluid recycling plant that could result in a savings of \$400,000 to \$600,000 per year. The airport authority also garnered \$14 million through the transportation part of the stimulus bill to widen the highway that provides access to the cargo airport and its intermodal center. Some projects used to apply for funding which were not shovel-ready included \$12 million to relocate the airport's south runway and \$4.7 million to expand an apron.

**CARS program offers rebates for buying more fuel-efficient vehicles**

A new buyer incentive program - the Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS) - has been approved and will be implemented by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The program will help consumers pay for new, more fuel efficient vehicles when they trade in a less fuel efficient car or truck. Officials are hopeful the measure, signed into law last week, will boost motor vehicle sales while putting vehicles on the road that are safer, don't pollute as much and get better fuel economy.

The program will pay consumers as much as \$4,500 toward the purchase or lease of a new car or truck that meets the program's criteria. Passenger cars being traded must be drivable and have a fuel economy rating of 18 miles per gallon or less, must be registered and insured for the full year prior to trade-in. To get the maximum rebate, the new vehicle must cost \$45,000 or less, and have a fuel economy rating of at least 10 miles per gallon more than the car being traded in. A rebate of \$3,500 would be allowed for the same car being traded in for one that gets at least four miles per gallon more. Most vans, SUVs and pickups qualify for a \$3,500 rebate if they have a fuel economy of 18 miles per gallon or less with the new vehicle getting at least two miles per gallon more. A \$4,500 rebate on the same trade-in is available if the new vehicle gets at least five miles per gallon better mileage. The rebate would go to the dealer, who then reduces the purchase price by the same amount. The final offer for an eligible purchase or lease will be Nov. 1. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**USDA \$25 million loan aimed at expanding advanced biofuels**

A \$25 million loan by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to a Minnesota biodiesel facility will help that company diversify its operations and expand the production of advanced biofuels. The company had recently ceased production of its operations - a victim of the struggling economy. SoyMorr Biodiesel's \$25 million loan will allow the company to buy equipment to convert multiple types of feed stocks, including refined corn oil waste product from nearby ethanol facilities, into biodiesel. The plant currently only can process soybean oil.

The loan is the second from USDA Rural Development through the Biorefinery Assistance Program of the 2008 Farm Bill. The loan will help the company restore more than two dozen jobs. The company opened in 2005, but suspended operations in spring 2008. It has an annual capacity of 30 million gallons. The Biorefinery Assistance Program promotes development of new and emerging technologies that produce fuels from non-corn kernel starch biomass sources.

**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](#).

**STRATEGIC GOVERNMENT SALES WORKSHOPS**

**A program designed specifically for Government Contractors by former Government Executives and C level decision-makers**

- Gathering insider information
- Overcoming all obstacles
- Finding upcoming opportunities
- Capturing time with decision-makers
- Positioning your solutions to solve business problems

**Contact: Richard Hartmann**  
**Ph: 512.531.3928**  
**rhartmann@partnerships.com**

**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

**For more information contact:**

**Strategic Partnerships, Inc.**  
Mary Scott Nabers, President  
Ph: 512.531.3900  
[mnabers@partnerships.com](#)  
[www.spartnerships.com](#)

**MultiState Associates Inc.**  
Steven Markowitz, Chairman  
Ph: 516.466.0266  
[smark@multistate.com](#)  
[www.multistate.com](#)

**Publisher: Mary Scott Nabers**  
6034 W. Courtyard Dr. #100  
Austin, Texas 78730  
Ph: 512.531.3900  
[www.spartnerships.com](#)

SPI also partners with CJIS GROUP, Inc., a firm that specializes in criminal justice, public safety and homeland security market research and advisory services.

**CJIS GROUP CJIS GROUP, Inc.**

P. J. Doyle, President  
Ph: 850.926.9800  
[PJ@cjisgroup.com](#)  
[www.cjisgroup.com](#)

For information about SPI's products and services: [sales@spartnerships.com](#)

**Forward email**

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to [cleonrod@spartnerships.com](#) by [editor@spartnerships.com](#).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).