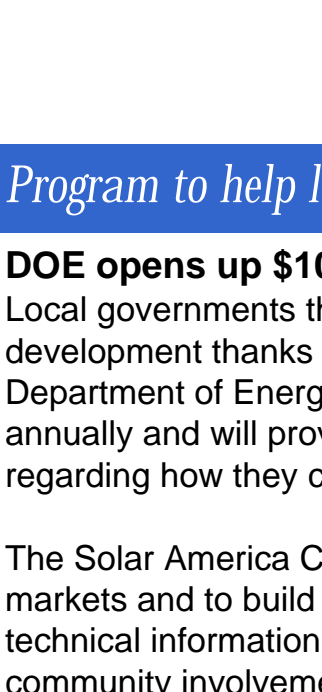


Interested in broadband opportunities?

IN THIS ISSUE



Mary Scott Nabers
President/CEO
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The federal departments of Commerce and Agriculture have finally formally announced the first phase of stimulus broadband funding. The total amount available is \$4.2 billion. While lobbying at the federal level is prohibited if it relates to stimulus funding, that is not the case at the state and local levels of government.

A funding stream this large flowing into any state will generate extreme competition. That competition will exist between public entities, regional coalitions, state interests and government contractors. Most decisions made will be highly charged and some will be controversial.

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Program to help local entities speed solar energy adoption

DOE opens up \$10.5 million educational funding opportunity

Local governments throughout the country can speed up their solar energy adoption and workforce development thanks to a \$10.5 million educational funding opportunity announced Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The five-year awards, for which local governments can apply, will be allocated annually and will provide solar energy education for government entities. The program will provide information regarding how they can increase solar energy use.

The Solar America Cities program provides outreach to local governments on how to increase their solar markets and to build solar infrastructures to sustain that energy source. The education program will provide technical information and guidance with emphasis on policies and regulations, financial incentives, training and community involvement. The program involves 25 large American cities committed to making solar energy a major part of their energy portfolios. DOE provides both financial and technical assistance to support these cities.

The first phase of the project runs three years and includes \$6 million. The second phase is two years and includes \$4.5 million. DOE plans to partner with outreach organizations to ensure information relating to establishing and maintaining solar energy production gets into the hands of local government officials and other stakeholders.

DOE sees solar energy for local governments as not only a production issue, but also workforce development and green jobs training. It also sees the funding leading to governments being able to add to the local economy by investing in a local solar industry and offering financial incentives for residents of the community who make investments in solar energy in their day-to-day lives and at home.

Applications for funding from the program are due by Oct. 15 and selection should be completed by Dec. 15.

The Solar America Cities are removing barriers to solar energy use and encouraging adoption of solar energy technologies locally. Thirteen cities were chosen for the program in 2007, with 12 more added in March of last year. These cities are expected to serve as models for cities around the nation seeking to add solar energy to their energy sources.

The funding is part of the \$467 million in Recovery Act funding set aside to expand and accelerate the development of solar and geothermal energy throughout the country.

\$4 billion in broadband loans, grants announced

Infrastructure to bring high-speed technology to unserved, under-served areas

Loans and grants to the tune of \$4 billion will be made available to bring broadband service to unserved and under-served areas of the United States. The recent funding announcement is the first round of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money being made available to help bridge the digital and technological divide that exists between certain parts of the country.

Officials have noted that access to high-speed Internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for competing in a global economy. In addition to providing high-speed Internet access, the broadband initiative also is aimed at expanding public computer center capacity and encouraging sustainable adoption of broadband service.

The ARRA includes a total of \$7.2 billion for the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The funds are to be used to ensure that areas of the country without high-speed infrastructure will be served and to deliver broadband capabilities for public safety agencies. RUS will invest \$2.5 billion to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas of the country. Applications will begin being accepted July 14. The second round of broadband funds are likely to be released in the fall while the final round is set for spring 2010.

Loan, grant and combination applications will be accepted by NTIA and RUS. This marks the first of three rounds of funding the USDA and Department of Commerce will provide. Workshops are slated this month in Boston, Mass.; Charleston, W.Va.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Memphis, Tenn.; Lonoke, Ark.; Birmingham, Ala.; Billings, Mont.; Albuquerque, N.M.; and Los Angeles, Calif. Dates have not been announced.

Rural area community facilities qualify for \$66.4 million

Nearly 350 projects in 33 states to share ARRA funding

Community facilities in 33 states will soon be receiving their share of \$66.4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This marks the third allocation of such funds by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Community Facilities program. The funds are made available for childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

Nearly 350 projects are being funded from the allocations announced today, Wednesday. The recipients also have raised an additional \$45 million from other sources for these projects.

The funds will be used for projects such as the Whitman County, Washington, Rural Library's renovations and improved access for persons with disabilities. The project has qualified for a \$550,000 loan from Rural Development. To view the list of projects by state that have qualified for funding, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

Follow the money

Seven states to share additional \$288 million for weatherization projects

Another \$288 million in Recovery Act funding is headed to seven states as part of the act's weatherization assistance program. The states - Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota and New Hampshire - plan collectively to weatherize more than 91,000 homes while creating jobs. Up to 20 percent of the funding can also be used to hire and train workers. The states already have received 10 percent of their allocation and this week's allocation of 40 percent more brings them to 50 percent of their totals. The final 50 percent will be allocated once Recovery Act milestones are met.

The weatherization program is available to families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or approximately \$44,000 a year for a family of four. The projects help them save money by making their homes more energy efficient. States expect to spend approximately \$6,500 to weatherize each home.

Massachusetts plans to weatherize 16,900 homes, but will also create jobs by increasing the number of auditors and other professionals needed to meet the demand for services. In Michigan, homes will receive a unique energy audit that could lead to anything from installation of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs to replacing energy-consuming refrigerators and water heaters.

For information on the seven states and their proposals to aggressively expand their weatherization efforts, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

\$153 million being distributed for energy efficiency, renewable energy projects

Funding to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects throughout the country continues to flow from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as seven states and territories this week were named recipients of more than \$153 million for their respective projects. The funding will go toward projects in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, New York and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They each will receive 40 percent of their State Energy Program funding. Added to the 10 percent they have already received, they have each received 50 percent of their allocations. The remaining 50 percent will be allocated when the states have met reporting, oversight and accountability requirements of the Recovery Act.

The types of projects eligible for SEP funding have been expanded by the U.S. Department of Energy. They now include energy audits, building retrofits, education and training efforts, transportation programs that will increase the use of alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles and new financing mechanisms that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy investments.

From this week's funding, New York plans to fund programs that will accelerate the introduction of alternative-fuel vehicles into its communities, boost the energy efficiency of buildings across the state, increase compliance with the state's energy codes and expand the use of solar power. Georgia will use a large portion of its funding to implement the State Utilities Retrofit Program, which proposes using \$65 million to retrofit state government facilities.

The State Energy Program has been allocated \$3.1 billion from the Recovery Act to help promote energy efficiency, help conserve energy, reduce pollution and help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign energy sources.

To view the allocations by state, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

Community health center allocations listed by state, grantees

Last week, more than \$850 million in Recovery Act funding was announced to help more than 1,500 community health centers throughout the nation to be used for capital improvements. These health centers serve more than 17 million patients, some 40 percent of whom do not have health insurance.

Since then, a complete listing of funding not only by state, but also by grantee has been released.

To view the funding by state and grantee, 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

New Yorkers can track \$27 billion in stimulus funds

The state of New York has launched a new Web site to allow citizens to track the \$27 billion in federal stimulus funds headed to the state. Included in the Web site at www.openbooknewyork.com is the ability to search by state agency, payee, major category of spending and federal program title. This new Web site is in addition to a searchable database of active existing state contracts and spending for nearly 100 state agencies and more than 3,000 units of local governments.

Texas pushes deadline but files for recovery funds

Texas was the last state to file an electronic application for its share of Recovery Act funds states are using to make budget ends meet. The states were all vying for some \$48 billion in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds - the majority of which can be used to prevent cuts at schools and the remainder for general state services.

Some states have submitted their applications and have already received their funding. But Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who was opposed to the stimulus plan from the outset, waited until the last day (July 1) to apply for his state's funding. A spokesperson for the governor's office said the governor was waiting until the legislative session ended before applying for the funds, which by then would have been appropriated by the legislature.

The U.S. Department of Education has announced states could get more of their money soon than they expected, with some two-thirds of the funding coming out initially and the remainder in a second phase later. Now comes word that the department will be handing out an additional \$2.7 billion during the first phase. Those funds can be used for whatever services the states think most important.

Oncar seeking smart grid stimulus funding

Oncar, a Texas-based utility, is seeking \$317 million in stimulus funding for a smart grid program. In doing so, it became one of the first utility companies to set a price tag on its project list. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced its guidelines for distribution of \$3.9 billion in funding for projects that add two-way communication and controls to the nation's electric grids. Utilities are seeking 50 percent matching funds for both commercial and experimental projects.

DOE notes that there will be a \$200 maximum for requests for commercial-scale projects, with two-fifths of that amount for projects under \$20 million. Oncar is seeking \$200 million to help defray the costs of its smart meter deployment. The company already has installed 250,000 of 3.4 million of the meters. The company also is seeking funds for telecommunications and networks for its smart grid projects and funding for distribution projects.

DOE has also set aside \$615 million for smart grid demonstration projects to advance current technologies. These projects can qualify for a maximum of \$100 million per proposal.

Coalition will use funds to cut emissions

The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management, a coalition including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut, has been allocated \$2.7 million to help cut diesel emissions on the water and in a railroad yard.

Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont plan to replace old diesel engines on five ferries and three tugboats. New Haven, Connecticut, will replace a diesel engine on a switcher locomotive.

What the states are doing

A low-cost medical care provider in Boseman, **Montana**, will expand its services to treat more people with the \$800,000 in stimulus funds it has received. Community Health Partners will expand its coverage to those without insurance. Approximately \$560,000 of the funds will be used to put the organization's electronic medical records in all its branch facilities. Two dental centers will be expanded and more staff will be added to meet the increased demand for services.

A Baltimore, **Maryland**, planned development that has been put on hold for lack of funding could see new life as a result of stimulus funding. The project was planned to redevelop a poor area of the city, adding a high-rise office building, homes and retail stores to a 43-acre site. The first phase of the project would require approximately \$25 million and officials are a hopeful stimulus funding can be used for Recovery Zone Economic Development bonds for necessary infrastructure. The federal government pays 45 percent of the interest on the bonds.

Pasco County, **Florida**, has submitted an application for \$4.2 million in recovery funds for energy efficiency projects. Most of the funding would pay for improving energy efficiency in government buildings through HVAC improvements. Other possible projects being studied include installation of sensing switches to shut off lighting when no one is in the room, solar arrays in county parks and solar hot water heaters in recreation centers.

A **Massachusetts** nonprofit, Boston Community Capital, is seeking \$50 million in Recovery Act funds to expand assistance to residents of cities who are facing home foreclosures. The funds would be targeted for low and moderate income residents in cities hit hardest by foreclosures. The nonprofit would hope to assist homeowners before they are forced to move out of their homes. If approved, the funding would be allocated in the fall by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Recovery Act dedicated \$1.93 billion to offset the impact of foreclosures.

Stimulus funds will replace an aging boiler in the Manhattan, **Montana**, School District. The circa 1950s boiler will be replaced with a more efficient model that requires less maintenance and thus will be a long-term cost savings. The boiler used \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year for maintenance and repairs. Nearly \$275,000 would be paid by the school district and then repaid with stimulus funds.

California's College of the Canyons has been awarded a two-year, \$400,000 grant from the Recovery Act to fund its Medical Lab Technician (MLT) program. MLTs assist with collecting and running lab specimens. They earn a two-year associate of science degree in a program expected to start in January.

Deferred maintenance projects and tuition relief will both be made possible from \$2.8 million in stimulus funds headed to Fort Hays State University in **Kansas**. The school plans a Tuition Incentive Program that will reduce tuition for students in good academic standing and scholarships for workers who have lost their jobs and want to return to school. The deferred maintenance projects are expected to create local jobs.

Minnesota construction projects resulting from federal stimulus funds are going to both create jobs and bring back to life projects that were halted for lack of funding, according to officials there. A Highway 169 project will be among the first projects to begin from the \$4 billion in recovery funds headed to the state.

Fifty-five school districts in **Wisconsin** have submitted applications worth a total of \$550 million to the state Department of Public Instruction for a share of federal stimulus funding headed to the state. The school districts are seeking to borrow interest-free money and their requests are nearly six times more than was allocated to the state. The funds are part of the Qualified School Construction Bond program in which the federal government pays the interest on the loans. New construction, maintenance costs and other projects that involve academics, health and safety are among the projects seeking funds.

Colorado banked almost \$500,000 after completing its first highway project with federal stimulus funds. A one-mile paving project in Littleton was finished in a month and cost only approximately half of the \$1.2 million projected cost. The money saved will be added to other money saved in the Denver area and spent on other stimulus-related projects.

Michigan State University has submitted some 200 grant proposals for federal stimulus funding for research projects. The university is seeking its share of more than \$15 billion in Recovery Act funds that will be awarded to research institutions nationwide. The institution has provided a Web site, stimulusfunding.msu.edu, that tracks funding awarded to MSU researchers, has press releases, information on the focus of the research and how the grant money is being used.

Eight community health centers in **Vermont** will address facility and equipment needs with some \$4.5 million in federal stimulus funds headed their way. The centers provide primary care, dental care, mental health services and low-cost prescription drugs at affordable prices. The funding includes: \$877,690 for Community Health Centers of The Rutland Region in Boromeese; \$485,900 for Little Rivers Health Care of Bradford; \$699,995 for Community Health Center of Burlington; \$717,500 for Community Health Services of the Lamoille Valley in Morrisville; \$462,310 for The Health Center of Plainfield; \$519,220 for the Richford Health Center in Richford; \$881,820 for Northern Counties Health Care in St. Johnsbury; and \$250,000 for Springfield Medical Care Systems in Springfield.

Missouri's statewide plan for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects has garnered an allocation of \$22.9 million in economic recovery funds in the first round of funding. The state will use the money to expand its Energy Center program that includes a variety of home efficiency programs, building energy codes and education and training initiatives. The state will focus on energy efficiencies in five industrial and manufacturing areas: aluminum, chemicals, food products, metal casting and forest products, including paper. This program will include energy audits, rebates and low-interest loans, workshops and a Web-based audit tool. Workers will also be trained regarding energy-efficiency techniques.

The **Delaware** Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has been awarded \$19.2 million to help state and local governments finance improvements to wastewater projects that will protect both the public and the environment. The funds, which will be allocated through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, will be in the form of low-interest loans for water quality protection, wastewater treatment, pollution control and watershed and estuary management.

Folks in **Mississippi** are looking forward to recovery funds being used to pave streets in the Mississippi Delta area. Some streets in that area have not been resurfaced in 30 to 40 years, often because the local government could not match federal grant funds. Nearly three-dozen stimulus-funded projects are on the drawing boards in the Delta region.

Minnesota residents are looking forward to a new "flyover" bridge on I-90 as well as three other bridges, thanks to federal economic stimulus funds. Minnesota will receive approximately \$959 million for infrastructure from the Recovery Act. The bridge project would have taken three years to complete without the federal funding, said officials, but now should be completed by September of next year.

Homeless students in Monterey County, **California**, will benefit from more than \$300,000 in federal stimulus funds that will be used by the school districts in that county for pre-school-age homeless children, before- and after-school programs, mentoring and summer programs. Some of the funding also may be used to track and obtain records of homeless children.

A clean coal project in **North Dakota** has been awarded \$100 million from federal stimulus funds. Basin Electric Power Cooperative's project will capture carbon emissions from coal-based power plants and inject that carbon dioxide into the ground to create more energy sources such as oil and methane. The project is expected to cost a total of \$300 million. The remainder will be paid by a loan.

The **New Hampshire** Coastal Program at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is expecting to garner \$500,000 in federal stimulus funds for the Winnicut River Dam removal project. The project calls for the removal of the dam and installation of a fish passage structure under an upstream bridge, allowing for the reopening of nearly 40 miles of habitat.

Police in Grand Junction, **Colorado**, and the Mesa County Sheriff's Department will split more than \$250,000 in recovery funds and will use the money to buy a new county-wide, computer-aided dispatch and records management system.

Community health centers in **Utah** will receive more than \$6.4 million in Recovery Act funds to address facility and equipment needs that will allow them to serve more residents who can ill afford health care. Funds will be used for construction, repair and renovation.

Overtime pay for police and sheriff's department officers in **Maryland** will be paid from economic stimulus funding. The additional boots on the ground will help reduce the backlog of warrants. Officials hope to clear more than 4,000 outstanding warrants.

The Fisher Slough project in Mount Vernon, **Washington**, will be the recipient of \$5.2 million in stimulus funds toward the \$7.6 million project. The funds will come through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The project is expected to help restore the salmon habitat, protect property owners from floods and sustain local farmers. The project will include floodgate replacement, draining ditch relocation, levee setback and creek and marsh restoration.

Other national news

Los Angeles-Las Vegas high-speed rail corridor to be extended

California and Nevada have reached an agreement that will extend the California High-Speed Rail corridor from the Los Angeles area to Las Vegas. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood called the agreement another example of regional cooperation "which will be critical to transforming travel in America and the creation of a national system of high-speed rail lines." Similar partnerships will be encouraged throughout the country.

Developing rail infrastructure across the country and a high-speed rail service in corridors that connect communities throughout the nation are a goal of the current administration. In fact, \$8 billion was set aside from Recovery Act funding for High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail programs. President Barack Obama also proposes continued funding of \$1 billion each year thereafter. The goal is less traffic congestion, improved air quality and less dependence on foreign energy sources.

States to receive additional \$201 million disaster recovery funding

More than \$201 million in disaster recovery funding is being made available to states throughout the country that suffered road and bridge damages due to natural emergencies and catastrophic events. "Restoring transportation routes is vital for communities recovering from disaster," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "It is the first step to getting peoples' daily lives back on track."

Fifteen states, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and federal lands agencies will benefit from the funds, which will be used to pay for damages from storms, flooding and other disasters and events such as winter storms and hurricanes. The funds will reimburse states to repair or replace highways, bridges and other roadway structures such as traffic signals and signs, guardrails and lighting. Also eligible are costs associated with detours, debris removal and other measures necessary to restore traffic flow in impacted areas.

To view the funding by entity, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

Additional funding available to help insure more children

More uninsured children throughout the country may soon be provided health insurance. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius this week announced that up to \$40 million in grants will be available to help families whose children qualify for but are not yet enrolled in state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP). The funds are part of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA).

Sebelius said millions of children who are eligible for health insurance coverage don't take advantage of their state health care programs. The grants announced this week, she said, will help "reach out to children and families to ensure more children get the health care they need."

This week's announcement of grant funding is the first cycle of outreach funding under CHIPRA, which provides \$100 million for campaigns to reduce the number of low-income, uninsured children. The grants will eventually total \$80 million, with the remaining funds for other outreach efforts. Applicants must be a state, a local government, an Indian tribal consortium or other tribal organization, a federal health safety net organization, a national, state, local, or community-based public or nonprofit private organization, a certified faith-based organization or consortium, an elementary or secondary school or a consortium composed of two or more of these entities.

Click [HERE](#) for applications for the first cycle of funding.

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All 50 states have own recovery Web sites

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

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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

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Procurement consulting and advocacy services

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

For more information contact:

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