



Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT PIPELINE™

Your source for state and local government news and contracting opportunities

Volume 1, Issue 21

September 9, 2009

Don't overlook the option of presenting an 'Unsolicited Proposal'



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Many governmental organizations are receiving stimulus funds before they have projects that are "shovel ready." In fact, some public sector entities are receiving federal dollars before they have even had time to begin the planning process. If ever there was a time when unsolicited proposals are welcome, this is it.

Keep in mind, though, that unsolicited proposals should tie to a known need, a current problem or an obvious benefit in order to catch the attention of public officials. Good and well-developed proposals are often picked up by elected officials or other individuals with enough authority who become champions because of the obvious benefit the proposal provides.

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USDOT unveils program to assist with bonds

Aimed at helping small, disadvantaged businesses compete for contracts

Small and disadvantaged businesses will be ensured the best opportunity to participate in U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) thanks to the newly created Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Bonding Assistance Program. The program will allow small and disadvantaged businesses to apply to be reimbursed for bonding premiums and fees incurred while competing for or performing transportation infrastructure projects funded by the ARRA.

The funding dollars are expected to level the playing field for companies that might not otherwise have had the tools and resources they need to compete for these projects. It will be of particular interest to businesses with less working capital than larger companies.

To be certified as a DBE, a firm must be a small business owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. The assistance will be in the form of bonding fee cost reimbursement and applies to either a subcontractor or prime contractor at any tier in the construction project. USDOT will reimburse DBEs the premiums paid to the surety company for performance, payment or bid/proposal bonds. The premium fee ranges from 1-3 percent of the total bond amount. If a bond guarantee is obtained from the Small Business Administration's Surety Bond Guarantee Program, USDOT will also reimburse the DBE for the small business concern (principal) fee of .729 percent of the contract price.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

USDA announces loans, grants in 24 states

Additional \$172 million allocated for rural water projects

Water and environmental projects in 24 states will soon get off the ground following the allocation of another \$172 million in Recovery Act funding announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). To date, USDA has announced \$1.64 billion in loans and grants for similar projects.

Among the most recent projects are a \$3.3 million loan through USDA Rural Development to Louisa, Virginia, to expand its wastewater treatment plant's processing capabilities and improve local water quality. The city of Emmonak, Alaska, has been approved for a \$3.2 million loan and a \$1.4 million grant to construct a new landfill facility. Additionally, the city of Shelton, Washington, will receive a \$20.3 million loan and an \$8.4 million grant to upgrade two major sewer facilities.

To view the complete list of award recipients, 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

ARRA provides loan guarantee for renewable energy company

A loan guarantee of \$535 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help finance construction of the first phase of Solyndra, Inc.'s new manufacturing facility. The company produces cylindrical solar photovoltaic panels for production of renewable energy. The loan guarantee is the first under the Recovery Act and Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and is the first issued by DOE since the 1980s.

In addition to providing enough power for 24,000 homes per year, the new plant will mean construction contracts and 3,000 construction jobs and then later provide contracting opportunities for installation of solar panels on rooftops throughout the country.

Dayton International Airport to get online baggage handling system

A new online baggage handling system for the Dayton (Ohio) International Airport will be paid for with \$10 million in Recovery Act funding. The system will feature enhanced explosive detection technology that will help speed up the passenger check-in process and enhance airport security.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will administer the funds, which will be used to replace five screening machines. The inline explosive detection systems mean passengers will no longer have to carry their checked baggage to a screening location and wait before going on to the security checkpoint.

Since June, more than \$354 million in Recovery Act funding has been spent for explosive detection systems in airports in California, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia. The Ohio funding is part of more than \$240 million announced for 10 airports for inline baggage handling systems.

What the states are doing

More than 20 projects of the **Missouri** National Guard are being funded by some \$3 million in Recovery Act funds. Some of the projects include renovations at the Kingshighway Readiness Center in St. Louis, at an aviation facility in Springfield and at the Guard's training facilities near Jefferson City and Fort Leonard Wood.

Three **New York** counties will share \$15.4 million in Recovery Act funding for projects that will improve drinking water in their areas. The Chaffee Water Works Co. in Erie County will receive \$800,000 for improvements to the existing well source, addition of a new backup source, replacement of an existing storage tank, upgrades to the hydro-pneumatic system, automated treatment controls, tank level alarms and more. Caneadea in Allegany County has been allocated \$8.3 million for a new well source to meet standards for supply capacity, a new transmission main, new water mains and more. Erwin in Steuben County has been awarded \$6.3 million for a new storage tank, distribution system and new interconnections.

The City of Laredo, **Texas**, is a big winner in Recovery Act funding, garnering \$131.5 million. It includes \$31.5 million for the Cuatro Vientos roadway that is being planned, \$48.1 million to the utilities department for such items as a renovation of a water treatment plant and replacement of select water lines in the city. One of the city's airport runways will be upgraded with \$10.5 million in stimulus funds as well. Another \$13.4 million will be available to create a citywide wireless Internet system.

Facilities upgrades in the Palo Alto, **California**, school district will benefit from up to \$25 million in Qualified School Construction Bond tax credits, which allows federal income tax credits to lenders who purchase bonds from school districts. That generally covers the amount of interest the district would have owed a lender. The district is currently undergoing an overhaul of facilities at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The district must enter into contracts using 10 percent of the bond proceeds within six months.

New library facilities and rehabilitating homes for the elderly are a couple of the possibilities being explored in 12 counties in **Kansas**, which are expecting to benefit from \$500,000 in stimulus funds that has been awarded to the Southeast Kansas Community Action Program. County officials also are exploring whether the funds can be used for improvements to sidewalks and buildings to make them comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Project proposals will be studied by a committee and awards made from the funding.

Four **Minnesota** counties are seeking Recovery Act funds as part of a grant to store water in the Mustinka River system. The project would also change the road elevations on the 25 road crossings over the river. The costs are expected to be between \$18 million and \$25 million and will be competing with other grant requests from across the country.

The National Mall in **Washington, D.C.**, will get a facelift thanks to Recovery Act funding. Within the next year, a major renovation of the Lincoln Memorial grounds and reflecting pool should begin as well as repairs to a seawall in front of the Jefferson Memorial. The two projects have a combined price tag of nearly \$50 million. At the Lincoln Memorial, new walkways, lighting and security barriers will be built and at the Jefferson Memorial, the long reflecting pool will be refurbished.

Highway 89 at Lake Tahoe, **California**, will see its rehabilitation budget increase approximately \$25 million from the Recovery Act. The highway project calls for widening of the roadway's shoulders and erosion control measures to improve water quality in the basin area.

A general contractor is likely to be sought by next spring for the \$3.8 million multifamily project on the Puyallup Tribe reservation in Tacoma, **Washington**, funded by \$3 million in Recovery Act money. The project will include 10 units in a 7,800-square-foot building, a 720-square-foot maintenance storage building, a sweat lodge enclosure with a fire pit and park improvements. Improvements also will be made to an existing gym.

Seven **California** projects have drawn funding in excess of \$517 million from the Recovery Act, opening up a myriad of contracting opportunities. The money, distributed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will include \$8.5 million to seven California Indian tribes for improved access to water services, including upgrades to wastewater treatment and sewer connections, \$15.5 million for a cooperative agreement with the California State Water Resources Control Board for assessment and cleanup of underground storage tank petroleum leaks, \$25.4 million to replace, repower and retrofit engines in buses, heavy-duty trucks, locomotives, agricultural vehicles and cargo handling equipment in Southern California and the Bay area and \$3.3 million to clean up Brownfields sites contaminated by chemicals or pollutants.

Taos, Las Cruces and the Santa Fe, Grant, Dona Ana and Sandoval counties in **New Mexico** will share \$1.3 million in energy efficiency grants as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funds can be used for energy audits, building retrofits, building code changes, inspections and financial incentives for energy efficiency improvements.

Building a new "green" storm water system just got \$1.3 million easier for the residents of Ohio's **Pennsylvania**. That's how much Recovery Funding is headed toward the town of only 74. The funds will not only be used for the town, but will benefit the 1.5 million visitors to the Ohio's Park and another popular tourist attraction. The funding will improve parking, sewage, energy and storm water management. The storm water will also be filtered to rain gardens.

Funding from the Recovery Act has been secured for the city of Live Oak, **California**, including a \$10 million grant and a \$6 million low-interest loan to build a new wastewater treatment plant. The new plant is expected to use less energy than similar sized plants. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2011.

Other national news

\$13 million headed to renewable energy projects in 38 states

Loans and grants totaling \$13 million will fund 233 renewable energy projects in 38 states, thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

Although not part of the Recovery Act, these funds can be used for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies and energy audits. For instance, a Charleston, Illinois, firm was granted \$20,000 to replace a grain dryer that is a quarter of a century old. The new dryer will use technology that makes it more efficient and reduces energy consumption.

Additionally, a Story City, Iowa wind energy company has been named the recipient of a \$1.8 million guaranteed loan and a \$500,000 grant to build a wind turbine for energy generation. The turbine is expected to produce nearly 3.3 million kilowatts of electricity each year and generate more than \$200,000 in electricity to be sold to the local utility company.

To view the complete list of REAP recipients, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

Tribal colleges to use funding for infrastructure improvements

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Tribal College Grant program will distribute \$4.7 million to 22 tribal colleges in nine states for infrastructure improvements.

Among the awards - a \$220,000 grant for remodeling and expanding the cafeteria at the United Tribes Technical College in North Dakota, an expansion of 3,500 square feet and replacement of small appliances with more energy efficient ones and a \$199,500 grant to the White Earth Tribal and Community College in Mahanomen, Minnesota. That grant will be used to purchase and renovate a building the college is currently renting, including accessibility improvements, interior door replacements, bathroom upgrades, electrical system upgrades and classroom space expansion.

To view the complete list of recipients of the awards, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

Orleans Parish to purchase publications, furniture, IT, equipment, supplies

The Orleans Parish School Board in New Orleans will use \$8.4 million in federal funding to repair or replace contents - publications, furniture, information technology and school equipment and supplies - damaged or lost during Hurricane Katrina. The funds are being provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Louisiana Recovery Authority. The funding will be combined into one grant, rather than following previous procedures of awarding grants by project.

FEMA has provided the school board with more than \$76 million in public assistance funding to date to deal with the problems associated by Katrina.

EPA awards more than \$7 million to the La. Dept. of Environmental Quality

More than \$7.45 million has been awarded to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The funds will be used by the State of Louisiana to provide loans and other types of financial assistance to local communities and interstate agencies for wastewater improvements.

The funds are used to help improve water quality in streams, lakes, rivers and bays and thus benefit aquatic life and experience as drinking water sources and to help eliminate health hazards that could result from raw sewage discharges.

Tulane library gets additional funding to mitigate future storm damages

An additional \$16 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding is headed to Tulane University's Howard Tilton Memorial Library. These funds are obligated for mitigating future storm damages. The university only recently received \$32.9 million in federal funds for Hurricane Katrina-related expenses related to repair work across the university's campuses. Numerous buildings on the Tulane University campus were flooded during the hurricane, including the library building.

The library's basement housed the library's mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment, which was submerged in flood waters for the duration of the storm and the days that followed, suffering severe damages. This new grant is to help the university alleviate future damages by elevating critical equipment to a new rooftop facility built out for this purpose. The rooftop space will include two additional floors totaling more than 62,000 square feet.

Calendar of events

Boston site of public-private partnership workshop

The Council for Public-Private Partnerships and the Federal Transit Administration will host a workshop on "The Implementation of PPPs for Transit" on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 16 and 17, at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge in Boston. Topics of interest include: Language of Public-Private Partnerships; Statutory and Regulatory Requirements; Case Studies; Guidelines for Surface Transportation Authorization; Financing Transit PPPs; Preparing an RFP (Request for Proposal); Lessons Learned from a Penta-P; and ARRA and Implications for Transit Projects. For more information and to view the agenda, click [HERE](#). For registration form, click [HERE](#).

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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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The State and Local Government Pipeline is a free, weekly, national e-newsletter detailing important happenings throughout the country and the premier source for state and local government news and contracting opportunities.

Publisher: Mary Scott Nabers

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