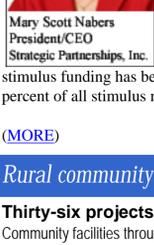


Heard of companies too large to fail...here's a marketplace too large to be ignored!



Mary Scott Nabers
President/CEO
Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

Last week the federal government released new data pertaining to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The information listed contracts that had been awarded and it was all posted on www.recovery.gov.

Thousands of individuals went to the site and it was apparent that billions of stimulus dollars have been spent by government entities. However, one of the more interesting facts to come out of the first reporting period is that less than 25 percent of the \$787 billion in stimulus funding has been paid out. The federal government is still holding 75 percent of all stimulus money.

[\(MORE\)](#)

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Strategic Partnerships, Inc. provides opportunity identification for all 50 states. [Click here for more information.](#)

Rural community facilities get \$30M boost

Thirty-six projects nationwide will be funded in 22 states

Community facilities throughout the country will have access to more than \$30 million in Recovery Act funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to a recent announcement. A total of 36 community facility projects in 22 states will share the funding. The goal of the program is to ensure that rural areas have access to the same quality of health care and critical care as more suburban areas. In addition to the \$30 million that USDA Rural Development is awarding for these 36 projects, recipients will invest \$19.6 million from other sources.

As an example, Pioneer Home, Inc., a nonprofit health care provider in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, was awarded a \$10.75 million direct loan to build a new 105-bed nursing home. The facility will feature modern equipment for staff and a common area for residents. In addition to the Recovery Act direct loan, Pioneer Home is receiving a \$10.75 million non-Recovery Act guaranteed loan, also through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program.

The program helps finance hospitals, health care and assisted-living facilities, child care centers, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Funds are available to public bodies, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes. The grant amounts range from thousands to millions of dollars. To view the list of the grant recipients and the amounts allocated, click [HERE](#).

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

Stimulus briefs

Propane refueling network being planned with \$12.9M in funding

Houston, Chicago, Denver, Atlanta and Sacramento have been named as the five cities involved in a retail rollout of the nation's first liquid propane refueling network. Some \$12.9 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds have been provided for the project of retrofitting nearly 200 gas stations across the country. These stations will provide a propane alternative for commercial fleet vehicles. It is part of the Recovery Act goal to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign energy products and increase the use of renewable energy.

Commercial vehicles will be converted to fuel that is clean-burning and cheaper than gasoline and diesel fuels. The problem in the past was that if a public or private sector fleet was switched to another type fuel, that there were not enough refueling stations in the area.

The second phase of the project will include Dallas, Austin/San Antonio, the Louisiana Interstate 10 corridor of New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lake Charles, Oklahoma City, Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, St. Louis, Kansas City and Seattle.

Grant funding for technology will enhance border security

Enhancing border security is the goal of \$88 million in Recovery Act funding set aside by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) equipment. The equipment will help the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to scan commercial traffic for contraband through both x-ray and other imaging technologies.

There will be eight contracts awarded for NII technologies for both fixed and mobile detection equipment to be placed at and between United States ports of entry. Shovel-ready projects will be given priority. Of the \$1 billion awarded to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the General Services Administration from the Recovery Act, \$100 million was set aside for NII technologies.

University-led consortiums to study wind power research, development

Wind power has the potential to provide 20 percent of the nation's electricity while creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, according to officials of the U.S. Department of Energy. The department thus has announced new investments in wind energy research facilities. Three university-led wind energy research facilities will be involved in the testing and production of the most advanced and efficient wind turbines.

The three will be awarded a total of up to \$24 million to support these research and development programs and will partner with private industry, state and local governments and other universities. Their goal is the continued generation of clean energy and the development of a long-term clean energy workforce.

During the next two years, they will acquire utility-scale and prototype wind turbines for researchers and students involved in research and development. To view the list of projects selected and the amount awarded, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

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What the states are doing

Duval, **Florida**, schools are taking their stimulus dollars to the people. They have launched a Web site asking residents how they think the \$43.7 million from the Recovery Act should be spent. The district has developed a survey asking the parents and stakeholders to prioritize if it should use the money to achieve equity in teacher distribution and teacher quality, improve the collection and use of data, enhance academic standards and assessments or support schools in need of assistance.

Some \$42 million in stimulus funds is headed to American Indian tribes in the Dakotas. **South Dakota's** Oglala Sioux Tribe will garner \$14.7 million and the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe is getting \$1.8 million for water projects. Three Affiliated Tribes in **North Dakota** will get \$6.4 million and the Standing Rock Sioux are allocated \$6.4 million.

One of the nation's largest private fleets of alternative-fuel vehicles will be expanded with \$4 million in economic development funds. The money also will be used by recipient ComEd to test solar-powered vehicle charging infrastructure. The **Illinois** company will get \$1.5 million from the City of Chicago's \$15 million in Recovery Act funds. This will expand the company's fleet to 14 new hybrid and plug-in electric hybrid vehicles over the next two years. The company's fleet already consists of 63 percent green vehicles.

Residential and commercial installation of solar-powered heating systems in **Connecticut** will benefit from \$4 million in stimulus funding. The funds, part of the Solar Thermal Incentive Program, will cover costs for some 600 residential and 120 non-residential systems.

Two public works projects in Kannapolis, **North Carolina**, will be aided by \$1.7 million in stimulus funds. Those funds will pay for half the costs to construct a pedestrian tunnel and storm water system under Loop Road and connect the N.C. Research Campus to Village Park. Four sets of downtown traffic lights will also be upgraded.

Some \$420,000 in Recovery Act funds have been set aside to change lighting fixtures and controls at two University of **Connecticut** Health Center buildings. Current incandescent lighting and fluorescent bulbs will be replaced as will magnetic or electronic ballasts. More energy-efficient lighting, wiring and fixtures will replace them.

A new fire station will be built in Tampa, **Florida**, thanks to \$1.6 million in federal stimulus funds. The new station, No. 22, will be built on Cross Creek Boulevard. The project includes building a fire station and parking lot on two acres.

Dikes along the Calcasieu River in **Louisiana** are getting repairs from \$11 million in Recovery Act funding. The Army Corps of Engineers reports that \$9.3 million is being spent on dike repair while \$1.4 million is being spent on structural analysis of navigational floodgates in Lafourche and another \$151,000 is allocated for modeling for the Morganza to the Gulf Project.

More than \$3 million in Recovery Act funding will be used by Collier County, **Florida**, for energy efficiency and conservation efforts. The block grant funds include: \$665,510 for facilities management retrofits; \$665,811 for Parks and Recreation green lighting system retrofits; \$149,000 for public utilities retrofits; \$139,960 for public utilities solar photovoltaic panels; \$542,999 for traffic signal improvements; \$473,476 for Collier County Master Mobility plan; \$250,000 for Children's Museum of Naples energy saving and renewable energy projects; and \$41,921 for green building codes inspection training. The rest of the funds will cover administrative costs.

The Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government in **Florida** plans to participate in a low-interest bond program under the Recovery Act to fund an additional \$7.4 million in projects it would have had to use conventional bonds and short-term financing. The city wants to invest \$2 million to complete Glacier Run, the zoo's exhibit that will feature polar bears, seals and sea lions. Louisville would spend \$1.5 million to open the first major park in the Floyd's Fork corridor. Also on tap would be \$3.2 million for more efficient heating, cooling and light systems in government buildings.

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The Northwest **Arkansas** Regional Airport at Highfill and the Jonesboro Airport will both benefit from Recovery Act funding. Northwest will be allocated \$821,000 to build a taxiway that will also serve as an alternate landing surface while \$338,000 is headed to Jonesboro to rehabilitate a taxiway.

A spatial needs analysis for a new municipal complex in Dade City, **Florida**, has been commissioned. The complex would include a new city hall, police station and commission chambers. The city is seeking the assessment so it will know the projected cost and how much it will need to apply for in federal grants and loans to finance the project