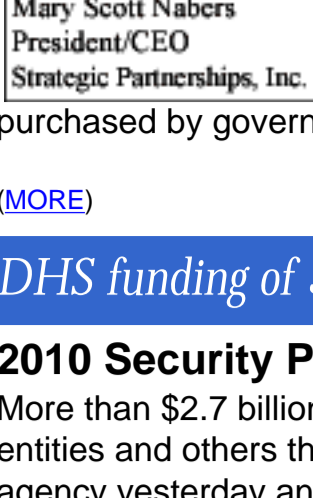




'Green' projects opening up variety of government contracting opportunities

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Mary Scott Nabers
President/CEO
Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

Government contracting firms interested in capturing new business should focus on green projects being funded daily from the stimulus fund. There is an abundance of opportunities and the contracts are not all that hard to capture.

The concept or practice of "going green" has moved beyond being politically correct. It is now the norm in most parts of the country. And, it is much more than purchasing energy-efficient bulbs and/or recycling trash. Almost everything being purchased by government today is either green or green equivalent.

(MORE)

Strategic Partnerships, Inc. provides opportunity identification for all 50 states. Click here for more information.

DHS funding of \$2.7 billion available in 13 programs

2010 Security Preparedness Grants opportunities cited

More than \$2.7 billion in 13 different programs is up for grabs for state and local governments, private sector entities and others through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Grants(DHS). The federal agency yesterday announced the 2010 funding opportunities that are aimed at strengthening the United States' ability to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, disasters and other emergencies.

Grant applicants can choose from a baker's dozen grant programs with available funding. Each of the 13 grant programs can be used to fund a variety of activities including planning, organization, equipment purchases training and exercises.

Following is a breakdown of the 13 grant programs:

- Homeland Security Grant Program** - \$1.78 billion - five programs for states or urban areas.
 - **State Homeland Security Program** - \$842 million for state and local governments to implement the state homeland security goals and objectives. States must dedicate 25 percent of the funds to law enforcement terrorism prevention-oriented planning, organization, training, exercise and equipment activities.
 - **Urban Areas Security Initiative** - \$832.5 million to enhance regional preparedness in 64 high-threat, high-density urban areas across the country.
 - **Operation Stonegarden** - \$60 million to enhance law enforcement and border security operations in states that border Canada (including Alaska) or Mexico and states and territories with international water borders.
 - **Metropolitan Medical Response System Program** - \$39.3 million for 12 jurisdictions for comprehensive regional mass casualty incident response and preparedness capabilities.
 - **Citizen Corps Program** - \$12.4 million to include citizens in community preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery activities.
- Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program** - Up to \$10 million available to eligible tribal applicants to mitigate terrorist attack risks.
- UASI Nonprofit Security Grant Program** - \$19 million to support target-hardening activities at nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist attack.
- Emergency Management Performance Grants Program** - \$329 million to assist state and local governments in all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
- Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program** - \$48 million to assist governments in carrying out initiatives and improving interoperable emergency communications among agencies and entities.
- Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program** - \$33.6 million to enhance catastrophic incident preparedness in high-risk, high-consequence urban areas and their surrounding regions and support coordination of regional all-hazard planning for catastrophic events.
- Emergency Operations Center Grant Program** - \$57.6 million for construction or renovation of Emergency Operations Centers.
- Buffer Zone Protection Program** - \$48 million for safeguarding critical infrastructure sites and key resource assets.
- Driver's License Security Grant Program** - \$48 million to improve security of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.
- Port Security Grant Program** - \$288 million to protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, to protect against improvised explosive devices and non-conventional weapons, conduct training and exercises and implement the Transportation Worker Identification Credential.
- Intercity Bus Security Grant Program** - \$11.5 million to support security measures for fixed-route intercity and charter bus services.
- Freight Rail Security Grant Program** - \$15 million to protect critical freight rail systems infrastructure from acts of terrorism and major disasters.
- Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak)** - \$20 million to protect surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public.

Further information on preparedness grant programs is available [HERE](#). To view the funding available by state/territory, 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.

Health care centers, health technology to benefit

President to announce \$600 million in construction, IT funding

An announcement of nearly \$600 million in Recovery Act funding to support major construction and renovation projects at 85 community health centers across the country is expected today, Wednesday. The announcement, to be made by President Barack Obama this afternoon, also will address part of the funding that will be used to assist networks of health centers in adopting Electronic Health Records (EHR) and other Health Information Technology (HIT) systems. Estimates are that the initiative will help provide health care for more than half a million additional patients in under-served areas of the country. Also expected is an announcement of a new demonstration initiative to support delivery of advanced primary care to Medicare patients through community health centers.

To qualify, health centers must be a federally qualified "community" health center. Grants of \$508.5 million will be provided through the Facility Investment Program (FIP) to address health center facility needs while up to \$88 million will be earmarked for Health Center Controlled Networks to improve operational effectiveness and clinical quality in health centers by providing management, financial, technology and clinical support services.

The demonstration project - "medical home" - will evaluate the impact of the primary care practice model in relation to access, quality and cost of care for Medicare recipients who use community health centers for their health care. Up to 500 health centers are expected to participate.

Another stimulus boost could be on horizon

TARP funds could provide more transportation, energy spending

The return of billions of dollars from the federal government's bailout of financially troubled banks from its Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) fund could provide another stimulus of sorts for the country. President Barack Obama this week suggested that Congress use some of the funding to address unemployment in the country by helping small businesses expand, increasing transportation infrastructure spending and adding incentives, with an emphasis on consumers, to invest in energy efficiency retrofits in their homes.

Regarding another investment in transportation infrastructure, President Obama is seeking additional investments in highways, transit, rail, aviation and water. He also suggests new ways of investing in that infrastructure - including using merit in the selection process and leveraging grants and loans as was done in the Recovery Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) transportation grant program. New incentives for consumers who seek to improve energy security and save money through energy efficiency retrofits could be in the form of rebates for such projects by consumers.

Some administration officials estimate that another investment in transportation infrastructure could range from \$50 billion to \$200 billion. The \$200 billion figure is the amount projected to be returned from the TARP program because of lower-than-expected losses in the program.

Follow the money

Projects will help produce fuel from biomass feedstocks

Pilot, demonstration and commercial-scale integrated biorefinery projects will share up to \$564 million in Recovery Act funding being administered by the U.S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture. Some 19 projects in 15 states will use the funding to produce advanced biofuels, biopower and bioproducts using biomass feedstocks.

Of the \$564 million awarded, up to \$483 million will go to 14 pilot-scale and four demonstration-scale projects. The remainder of the \$564 million will be used to speed up construction of a biorefinery project that was the previous recipient of funds. The projects also will be matched with more than \$700 million in private and other funds, bringing the total investment to nearly \$1.3 billion.

The biofuels produced are expected to help increase the country's energy independence while expanding new technologies and markets for agricultural and environmental waste materials.

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

Health IT will benefit from \$235M in Beacon Community Program

In an effort to speed up the use of health information technology expected to transform local health care systems, improve performance of health care providers and keep Americans healthy, \$235 million in Recovery Act funding is being set aside for the Beacon Community Program.

The program includes \$220 million in grant funds to build and strengthen health IT infrastructure and health information exchange capabilities. It also will have at its heart strong privacy and security measures for data exchange within 15 communities. Another \$15 million for technical assistance to those communities is also being provided.

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to 15 nonprofits or government entities representing diverse geographic areas, including rural and under-served areas. Applicants must build on existing health IT infrastructure and exchange to show an increased level of care and cost savings, have rates of electronic health records adoption higher than published national estimates and coordinate with the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology programs for Regional Extension Centers and State Health Information Exchange to develop a set of best practices that support national goals.

Stimulus news briefs

Ohio targeting ready for rebates for new appliances

Consumers in Ohio will soon qualify for part of \$11 million in federal stimulus funds the state will award to those who purchase energy efficient appliances for their homes. The state expects to provide approximately 90,000 rebates to those who scrap older appliances and replace them with Energy Star-rated refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers, gas heaters and electric heat pump water heaters.

Ranging from \$100 to \$250, the rebates will become available to consumers during the first quarter of next year.

Florida Legislature passes commuter rail system bill

A bill to create a commuter rail system in central Florida has cleared the State House and Senate and is headed to the governor's desk. Supporters of the commuter rail system note that the state was not likely to qualify for federal Recovery Act funding for high-speed rail - some \$2.6 billion of which is available nationwide - without its own commuter rail system in the Orlando area.

The importance of the bill forced a special session of the state legislature. The Senate voted on the bill Tuesday. A similar bill failed twice. Supporters say the system will create jobs, reduce traffic congestion and stimulate business. Opponents are worried the costs of such a project, noting that expenditures would start with the \$432 million expected to have to pay a freight hauler for more than 60 miles of track.

Estimates of costs of the system are \$2.66 billion over 30 years, with the state, the federal government and local governments each contributing \$775 million. The remainder would be made up from fares.

USGS awards \$7 million to universities, state agencies

Fifteen universities and state agencies across the country will share \$7 million in Recovery Act funding from the U.S. Geological Survey. The funds will be used to modernize the equipment in volcano monitoring networks, to produce high-resolution maps of high-threat volcanoes for modeling volcanic hazards for at-risk populations and to analyze data from recent eruptions.

Among the universities receiving funding are the University of Utah, University of Wisconsin, University of South Florida, University of Wisconsin, University of Alabama, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, California State University at Fullerton, Boise State University, Northern Arizona University and Southern Methodist University. State agencies receiving funding include the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Wyoming State Geological Survey, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

Pennsylvania to use leftover funds for more projects

Bids coming in lower than expected have left the state of Pennsylvania with enough money to fund nearly three dozen more highway and bridge projects across the state. The savings were from the nearly 300 Recovery Act-funded projects approved in the state.

Pennsylvania has been approved for \$1.026 billion in stimulus funding for highway and bridge projects, with contracts totaling \$849 million awarded for 272 projects through the end of October. Fifty-seven of those projects are already completed. Bids have been averaging 11 percent below original estimates. Some of the additional projects address resurfacing and ramp relocations.

Ground broken for wind turbine blade testing facility

State and federal officials were on hand for the recent ground breaking of a \$40 million facility in Massachusetts to test large wind turbine blades. Some \$25 million of the funding came from Recovery Act funds administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

It will be the only American test center that can test blades up to 90 meters long for land-based and North America that can perform full-scale testing of large wind turbine blades. Each blade must meet design standards, reduce the cost of wind energy and reduce technical and financial risk of installation of mass-produced models. The new facility to support the DOE lab was necessary because of the increased demand for wind energy and the growth in wind turbine size. Massachusetts is contributing \$13 million to the project. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

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