



## **From the Desk of Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn**

### **Reviving Delaware**

### **Weekly Stimulus Update**

### **March 27, 2009**

This week, in addition to highlighting important milestones, I also wanted to provide some more information to you about what process we are using to ensure that Delaware receives every dollar to which it is entitled to under the federal stimulus package.

There are two major categories of grants available to states from the federal government. First, there are non-competitive grants, also called “formula grants”. These are grants that states are awarded based on specifications outlined by the federal government. In the beginning of February this year, Governor Markell announced that Delaware Department of Transportation will be receiving this kind of funding from the federal government – about \$122 million for highways and bridges, and \$18.9 million for transit projects that are shovel-ready (for more info, go to [http://www.deldot.gov/information/media\\_gallery/2009/stimulus/stimulus\\_release\\_gov\\_deldot\\_combined.pdf](http://www.deldot.gov/information/media_gallery/2009/stimulus/stimulus_release_gov_deldot_combined.pdf))

Second, there are competitive grants, which states compete for (and depending on the grant may be competing with private entities or local governments). Again, the federal government comes up with the guidelines and the system for choosing which states to give funding to.

In my update last week, I referenced the Delaware State Clearinghouse Committee. A brief background on what the Clearinghouse Committee is: the committee is made up of members of the General Assembly, members of the Joint Finance Committee, representatives from the Office of Management and Budget, the Controller General’s office, the Department of Finance, and the Delaware Economic Development Office. It is required by code that federal grants being awarded to state agencies or state entities must be approved by the committee before dollars are spent. As grant deadlines approach, state agencies take their proposals to the Clearinghouse Committee for approval or disapproval. The agencies provide information to the committee on how they intend to spend dollars awarded, and how many jobs may be saved or created, and the committee gets to ask questions. These meetings are open to the public. You can find more information on their website: <http://www.budget.delaware.gov/clearinghouse/fedgrants.shtml>

Eight grant proposals came before the Clearinghouse Committee yesterday that, if awarded by the different federal government, will help us jump start Delaware's economy and help us save or create jobs.

Here is a list of the eight grants presented to the Clearinghouse Committee yesterday that Delaware has applied for or will apply for in the next few days:

- A request for nearly \$1 million for enhancing and maintaining services to help prevent and stop violence against women that will go to victim services and law enforcement efforts.
- Two requests totaling almost \$700,000 will also go to victim services and victim compensation.
- A request for \$19.5 million for drinking water enhancements for six Delaware communities.
- A request for \$19.2 million for green infrastructure projects (see <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/News/Pages/DNRECSeeksPre-ApplicationsbyApril17forGreenProjectReserveProjects.aspx>)
- A request for \$6.9 million for 32 new state troopers over three years.
- A request for \$290,000 for preserving jobs in the arts community.
- A preliminary list of new transportation projects that would be funded by a formula grant to DELDOT (referenced above)

Today, I and members of my staff and other members of the Governor's Stimulus Solutions Group are hosting the first of many forums throughout the state to allow members of the public to have their say about the use of federal stimulus funds. The full "Stimulus Suggestion Box" schedule is below:

**Friday, March 27th**

**4:00 pm**

Carvel Building, 10th Floor, Wilmington

**Friday, April 3rd**

**2:00 pm**

Delaware Tech-Owens Campus, Arts & Science Center, Room 346, Georgetown

**Thursday, April 9th**

**12:30 pm**

Tatnall Building, 3rd Floor, Dover

**Wednesday, April 15th**

**12:30 pm**

Carvel Building, 10th Floor, Wilmington

**Thursday, April 16th**

**4:00 pm**

Delaware Tech-Owens Campus, Arts & Science Center, Room 346, Georgetown

**Thursday, April 23rd**

**4:30 pm**

Tatnall Building, 3rd Floor, Dover

**RSVP is required, so that we can fit everyone in to meet with the Lieutenant Governor (or top representative).**

Please RSVP to Julia Blevins at [julia.blevins@state.de.us](mailto:julia.blevins@state.de.us) or 302-577-8158.

Also, you can always make suggestions through our web site, [www.ideas.delaware.gov](http://www.ideas.delaware.gov) and keep updated on the Recovery Package at [www.recovery.delaware.gov](http://www.recovery.delaware.gov).