



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

### **Reviving Delaware Weekly Stimulus Update April 24, 2009**

As chairman of the Governor's Stimulus Solutions Group, I am writing to give you an update on our activities as we try to help revive Delaware's economy, ensure that Delaware gets every dollar to which it is entitled from the federal stimulus bill, and carefully monitor that money as it flows into Delaware.

Since my last report, the state's Clearinghouse Committee (a body composed of legislators and other state officials who must sign off on all applications for federal funds) has given approval to 14 different federal stimulus grants that state agencies will be submitting to apply for some of the federal stimulus monies. These grant applications, when they are approved by the federal government, will bring important new services and new jobs to Delaware. Some of the major grants are:

- Two requests totaling \$485,000 to increase funding for elderly nutrition programs, both at senior centers and delivered to the home.
- An application for over \$1.2 million to clean up leaking underground storage tanks throughout the state.
- A request for more than \$2.1 million for the state's Birth to 3 Program, which helps families identify whether their children may have disabilities which require early intervention and treatment.
- Two requests for nearly \$34 million for special education programs for our schoolchildren.
- Four applications for over \$9 million for low income housing programs and homelessness prevention.

We now estimate that the federal stimulus bill will bring more than \$1 billion to Delaware over the next 2-3 years, including grants to state agencies, grants to counties and municipalities, money spent by federal agencies in Delaware (such as the Amtrak railroad car refurbishment), and grants to private non-profit agencies like Westside Health in Wilmington. A listing of all the funding that we know of coming to Delaware can be found on our state stimulus website, <http://recovery.delaware.gov>.

Some of the money awarded to Delaware is already on hand and being spent for important purposes. For example, more than \$90 million in funding for Delaware's Medicaid program has been received. Medicaid is a program that provides health care to over 155,000 low income, elderly, and disabled citizens. The extra federal money allows us to avoid cutting off beneficiaries from their health care, as many other states have had to do.

Don't forget that even if you were not able to attend one of the "Stimulus Suggestion Box" sessions we held throughout the state, you can still offer your thoughts on how we should spend stimulus money through our website.

In addition, the Delaware Economic Development Office is hosting a series of forums statewide to promote the stimulus opportunities available to small businesses – below is the schedule:

**May 6, 2009**

[Delaware State Chamber of Commerce](#), Board Room

8:00am - 9:30am

Governor Jack Markell will deliver opening remarks 8am to 8:15am

Contact: [Sharon Reardon](#) at (302) 655-7221.

**May 11, 2009**

Rehoboth Beach Convention Hall, Rehoboth Beach, DE

9:00am - 10:00am

Contact: [Carol Everhart](#) at (302) 227-6446

Hosted by [Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce](#)

**May 13, 2009**

Hilton Garden Inn, 1706 N. Dupont Highway, Dover, DE

8:00am

Contact: [Judy Diogo](#) at (302) 678-0892

Hosted by [Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce](#)

The small business forums intend to:

- Outline the Small Business Association (SBA) Programs that may provide direct and immediate assistance to small businesses
- Outline the Delaware industries/agencies expected to have expanded opportunities in Delaware due to the influx of other projected stimulus funds
- Identify stimulus funded programs that may have some potential for small businesses in the short term within DeIDOT, Department of Education, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Ensure attendees are aware of DEDO's new Small Business Stimulus Limited Investment for Financial Traction (LIFT) Program
- Provide available details on the new TARP provision attempts to revitalize the secondary market for SBA loans

At these forums, there will be representatives from DelDOT, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the Small Business Development Center and the Small Business Administration.