



**Arkansas Recovery Hotline: 1-877-682-1515**

Thursday, April 16, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

To: State of Arkansas

From: Arkansas Recovery Office

Re: Update on Arkansas's implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

In the past few weeks, money has begun to flow into Arkansas through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In addition, grant programs that are part of the ARRA are accepting applications for additional funding opportunities. The Arkansas Recovery Office has conducted weekly meetings with directors and personnel of various state agencies to ensure that ARRA funds are being handled properly and in accordance with guidelines set by the federal government.

Agencies that are now seeking program applications include the following:

**Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality**

*National Clean Diesel Campaign*

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has allocated \$26 million to the Blue Skyways Collaborative for projects in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. ADEQ is now requesting applications for viable projects pertaining to diesel engine retrofits, re-powering, replacement, engine upgrades and idle reduction technologies. Additional information can be found at:  
[www.blueskyways.org/funding/cleandiesel.html](http://www.blueskyways.org/funding/cleandiesel.html).

**Arkansas Natural Resource Commission**

*Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program*

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) is soliciting water and sewer projects for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs. Projects selected will be funded in whole, or in part, with funds from ARRA. In addition to traditional water and sewer projects, ANRC is soliciting green infrastructure projects, including storm water and non-point-source pollution clean-up projects, as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The deadline for submission is 4:30 p.m. on April 20, 2009. Additional information can be found at:  
[www.anrc.arkansas.gov](http://www.anrc.arkansas.gov).

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

*Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative*

The United States Department of Agriculture is offering up to \$52.3 million in financial assistance for competitive grants to protect the nation's natural resources through the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative. Proposals for state projects must be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's State Conservationist by April 23, 2009. Additional information can be found at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/).

## **U.S. Department of Justice**

### *Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program*

The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program will distribute one-billion dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to local law-enforcement agencies. Recovery Act Funds distributed through this program will provide law-enforcement agencies with 100 percent of the entry-level salary and benefits to each officer for three years. All receiving entities must agree to retain COPS-funded officer positions for at least one year after the grant money ends. Additional information can be found at [www.justice.gov/recovery/](http://www.justice.gov/recovery/).

## **ALLOCATIONS**

Arkansas agencies have begun allocating funds through the programs mentioned below. Some of these allocations also create new opportunities to apply for funding.

## **Arkansas Department of Education**

### *Part A of Title I Education for Disadvantaged Kids*

Title I is a federal entitlement program that provides funds to school districts with high percentages of children who are disadvantaged to ensure that they have fair, equal, and significant opportunities to obtain high-quality educations. Part A of this program is called Targeted Grants and Education Finance Incentive Grants. Arkansas's allocation is calculated by the U.S. Department of Education. Fifty percent of the estimated \$111,143,080 Arkansas has been allotted under this program has been released to the Arkansas Department of Education and will be sub-allocated to Local Education Agencies.

### *Part B of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Funding*

Nationally, the Recovery Act has provided \$11.3 billion for Part B state grants. Arkansas is set to receive an estimated \$112,177,929. Fifty percent of these funds have been made available to our State with the remainder set to be released between July 1, 2009, and October 1, 2009. These funds are allocated to the State and then sub-allocated to Local Education Agencies by a statutory formula. To receive these funds, a state must prove that it has a policy in place to provide free appropriate public education to disabled children between the ages of 3 and 21. They must meet other requirements pertaining to due process, the ways in which these students are served, and how the federal grant funds are used.

### *State Fiscal Stabilization Fund*

Arkansas is set to receive \$341.1 million under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. The money will be distributed using the formula for Title I funds, but the funds can be invested for any expense authorized under ESEA, IDEA, Perkins and Adult and Family Literacy Act. Stabilization funds may also be used for new construction, modernization, renovation and repair.

### *School Lunch Equipment*

The School Lunch Equipment program will provide funding to improve the health of children by providing meals that have been prepared on safe equipment at schools. Under the ARRA, an additional \$1,024,000 in funding will be provided to this program.

### **Arkansas Department of Human Services**

In addition to the specific programs listed below, the Arkansas Department of Human Services has identified various projects that will utilize recovery funding. These projects range from roof replacements at human-development centers to purchasing vehicles for foster-care client transportation to enhancing community-based juvenile treatment services. A full list of the approved projects from DHS can be found on the Arkansas Recovery Web site.

#### *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*

On April 1, 2009, recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Federal Food Stamp Program, received a 13.6% increase in their monthly benefit amount under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For example, most four-person households will receive an \$80 increase in their monthly SNAP allotment. Clients do not have to do anything to receive these additional benefits. The additional funds will be added to their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards automatically for clients to use to purchase food at local stores. The estimated increase in benefits to participating Arkansans in the first month of the stimulus funding is \$7,385,000. Although SNAP benefits are not taxed at the grocery store, the dollars generate twice their value in taxable revenue in the local economy each year.

#### *Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)*

Arkansas received an increase in our food grant level of \$1,091,708 as part of the ARRA package. States were required to place their food orders for 2009 from a special surplus-commodities list no later than March 27, 2009. The items ordered included: 3,000 cases of chicken, pork, and ham; 4,860 cases of canned fruits; and 2,880 cases of peanut butter. These products, most to be received in June, will be shipped to local food banks, food pantries, and mass distribution centers throughout the State.

### **Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department**

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department will utilize an estimated \$335,832,190 of recovery funds to advance highway and transportation projects across the State of Arkansas. The list of projects to be advanced by recovery funds have been chosen by the Arkansas Highway Commission. As of April 8, 2009, the Arkansas Highway Commission had open bids on various projects that utilize recovery funds. Additional information can be found at [www.arkansashighways.com](http://www.arkansashighways.com).

### **Arkansas Department of Workforce Services**

#### *Increase in Unemployment Compensation Benefits*

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services has already begun to provide increased benefits to all eligible individuals receiving regular Unemployment Insurance, Emergency Unemployment Compensation or Trade Readjustment Allowance benefit payments. The funding will increase payments by \$25 each week for eligible recipients. DWS began to make these increased payments to individuals on March 5, 2009, and those payments have been made daily since that date. As of Monday, April 6, 2009, the Department of Workforce Services had made 391,342 payments totaling \$9,865,213.

#### *Arkansas JobLinks*

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services currently runs Arkansas JobLink, a service that provides free job matches and workplace information for job seekers. Arkansas is set to receive an estimated \$3.3 million in recovery funds to expand the services currently offered.

## **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

### *Watershed Rehabilitation Program*

Nationally, \$45 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Funds will be distributed through the Natural Resources Conservation Service to rehabilitate aging flood-control structures across the nation. The projects receiving funding were chosen by the USDA because they were both cost-effective and because failure to act presented great risk of infrastructure failure and threat to life and property. Of the limited projects that were chosen, Arkansas was allocated \$1,495,000 for the Poteau River 5 project. Additional information can be found at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/recovery/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/recovery/).

## **U.S. Department of Energy**

### *Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program*

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$20,117,400 to Arkansas for the ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. The Department of Energy has allocated \$10,523,900 directly to cities with over 35,000 in population and counties with populations over 200,000. These recovery funds will assist communities in implementing energy efficiency and conservation strategies, as well as in reducing total energy use. The Arkansas Energy Office will establish a mechanism to distribute the remaining \$9,593,500.

## **U.S. Department of Justice**

### *Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program*

Through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, the Bureau of Justice Assistance has allocated \$2 billion in Recovery Act funding. Of that national figure, Arkansas will receive \$22,192,057. Based on a formula based on population and violence statistics, more than one-hundred local law-enforcement jurisdictions in Arkansas will receive awards totaling \$8,423,832 directly from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The remaining funding will be awarded to state and local providers through a competitive grant solicitation process to support all components of the criminal justice system, including multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces, crime prevention and domestic violence programs, as well as courts, corrections, treatment, and justice-sharing initiatives. This program will allow states and local governments to support a vast range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system.

### *STOP Violence against Women Grant Program*

To combat violence against women, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women, will award Arkansas \$1,589,942.00 in STOP recovery funds. Applications for funding are being accepted by the Office of Intergovernmental Services, Victim Justice and Assistance Program, until May 1, 2009.

### *Victim of Crime Act Recovery (VOCA)*

Arkansas is expecting \$689,000 in Victim of Crime Act Recovery (VOCA) funds to assist the State in continuing to provide services to crime victims, including reimbursement for crimes and assistance programs. Service providers interested in applying for funds may do so from now until May 1, 2009.

## **U.S. Department of Labor**

### *Workforce Investment Act Funding*

Stimulus allotments have been set for Arkansas to supplement previous allotments for WIA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Activities Programs. The purpose of the funding is to provide the public workforce-investment system with means to begin a vast array of employment and training programs that help Americans acquire new skills that will get them back to work.

WIA Title I Adult and Dislocated Workers funds are allocated to local areas in order to provide core, intensive, and training services through a one-stop delivery system. Activities offered should include customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training and other employment-related services to employers on a fee-for-service basis in addition to labor-exchange services available under the Wagner-Peyser Act.

WIA Adult funds are for individuals who are 18 years of age or older, who meet citizenship and/or resident-alien requirements, and selective-service requirements. Priority for intensive services is given to low-income adults.

WIA Dislocated Worker funds are available for individuals who have been terminated, laid off, or who have received a notice of termination from their employer. Funding is also available for those who are eligible for or have exhausted unemployment insurance, were self-employed, or who are displaced homemakers no longer supported by another family member.

WIA Youth funds provide employment and training services to economically disadvantaged youth with specific barriers to employment. The program focus is on comprehensive youth services consisting of ten program elements that can be grouped around four major themes: (1) improving educational achievement; (2) preparing for and succeeding in employment; (3) supporting youth; and (4) offering services intended to develop the potential of future citizens and leaders.

Tentatively, the allotments for Arkansas are as follows: \$5,072,930 for WIA Title I Adult; \$7,518,483 for Dislocated Workers; and \$12,065,555 for Youth Activities Programs. Additional information can be found at [www.doleta.gov/](http://www.doleta.gov/).

### *The Wagner-Peyser Program and Employment and Reemployment Services*

Currently, \$3,309,854 has been allotted to Arkansas for the purpose of helping provide one-stop delivery services to workers, job seekers, and businesses. Assistance in these centers includes job-search assistance, job referral, placement assistance for job seekers, re-employment services to unemployment insurance claimants, and recruitment services to employers with job openings. Money through this program will be distributed after the Department of Workforce Services receives the required approval to hire individuals who will run these programs. Additional information can be found at [www.doleta.gov/](http://www.doleta.gov/).

### **U.S. Department of Transportation**

The Federal Aviation Administration received one-million dollars to distribute to qualified airports on a discretionary basis. Funding determinations were made based on a project priority system that considered airport safety and security, infrastructure, runway safety, increased capacity, and mitigation of environmental impacts. On March 17, 2009, it was announced that both the Little Rock National Airport and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport would receive approximately \$4.8 million and \$7.8 million respectively. Additional information can be found at: [www.faa.gov/recovery/programs/](http://www.faa.gov/recovery/programs/)