



Department of Commerce
ARRA

Agency Report

Source: <http://www.commerce.gov/Recovery/>

Overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

Department of Commerce
ARRA Analysis

Department of Commerce			
Bureau	Initiative Title	Grants	NonGrants \$
Bureau of the Census	Periodic Censuses and Programs		\$1,000,000,000
Economic Development Administration	Economic Development Assistance Programs (EDAP)	\$150,000,000	
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	Research Science Building Construction Grants	\$360,000,000	
	Scientific and Technical Research and Services	\$220,000,000	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Operations, Research, and Facilities		\$230,000,000
	Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction		\$600,000,000
National Telecommunications and Information Administration	Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (TOP)	\$4,700,000,000	
	Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Program	\$650,000,000	
Office of Inspector General	Office of Inspector General		\$6,000,000
	Oversight and audit of programs, grants, and activities		\$10,000,000
Grand Total		\$6,080,000,000	\$1,846,000,000

Top Initiatives by NonGrants \$

Department of Commerce		
Bureau	Initiative Title	NonGrants \$
Bureau of the Census	Periodic Censuses and Programs	\$1,000,000,000
	Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction	\$600,000,000
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Operations, Research, and Facilities	\$230,000,000
	Oversight and audit of programs, grants, and activities	\$10,000,000
Office of Inspector General	Office of Inspector General	\$6,000,000
Grand Total		\$1,846,000,000

Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

The U.S. Department of Commerce will receive \$7.9 billion to create and save jobs for American workers as part of the historic economic stimulus bill recently signed by President Barack Obama. "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the most sweeping economic recovery package in our history," said President Obama, noting it will create or save 3.3 million jobs over the next two years. "We have begun the essential work of keeping the American Dream alive in our time."

ARRA investments in Commerce agencies, which will be allocated in an open, transparent and timely manner, include funding for business development, innovative research, construction projects, expanding broadband services and other programs that will create jobs in a broad range of occupations and industries.

The Department of Commerce is implementing the Recovery Act through programs within these bureaus:

- U.S Census Bureau
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
 - Commerce's EDA Announces \$150 Million in Recovery Funds to Create Jobs and Boost Development in Areas Hit Hard by Recession
- National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) - visit the NIST Recovery Act Web page
 - NIST to Receive \$610 Million Through Recovery Act (03/03/09)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - NOAA Receives \$830 Million Through Recovery Act (03/03/09)
 - NOAA Seeks Proposals That Will Restore Coastal Habitat, Create Jobs, Stimulate Economy (03/23/09)
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
 - TV Converter Box Program Now Accepting Requests to replace Expired Coupons for Transition to Digital TV (03/24/09)

Department of Commerce
Report Date: 2009-03-13

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations: \$47,955,782
- Total Disbursements: \$3,822

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- Department-wide
- Developed response to OMB Memorandum M-09-14, Recovery Act Implementation - Improving Grants.gov and Other Critical Systems
- OIG
- The IG met individually with NTIA and EDA Recovery Act officials on OIG oversight, planned actions and fraud awareness
- EDA
- Issued press release announcing the solicitation of applications for funding under the \$150 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program.
- Published in the Federal Register (74 FR 10232) notice and request for applications for funding under the \$150 million appropriated to EDA under the ARRA
- NTIA
- NTIA jointly issued with the FCC and USDA a Press Release, "Vilsack, Copps and Wade Kick Off American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Initiative," March 10, 2009
http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2009/BTOP_RFI_090310.pdf
- March 10, 2009 a Public Meeting on the ARRA Broadband Initiative was held at the Department of Commerce. Over 600 attendees attended live, with additional attendees via Internet streaming and telephone. Covered by approximately 25 members of the press. Agenda:
http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/Agenda_090310.pdf Archived Video Transcript: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/video.html> Transcript of the Public Meeting (pdf): http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/090310/transcript_090310.pdf Transcript of the Public Meeting (txt): http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/090310/transcript_090310.txt
- March 12, 2009 a Federal Register Notice was published (Joint Request for Information and Notice of Public Meetings, March 12, 2009 (Volume 74, Number 47)). Through this notice, public input was sought on Broadband Initiative and guidance was provided as to matters to be discussed at these upcoming public meetings.
http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2009/FR_BTOP_RFI_090312.html
- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program funded 4.48 million coupons (cumulative), representing \$179,200,000 of Recovery Act funds. To date, \$48 million has been obligated, with another \$76 million expected next week and the remainder the following week.
- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program Processed requests for 1.5 million coupons funded through Recovery Act

- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program initiated First Class mail delivery for coupons using Recovery Act funds
- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program improved processing delivery time from request to receipt using Recovery Act funds
- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program began negotiating with IBM for additional services made possible by Recovery Act funds
- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program redeemed the first coupons issued from Recovery Act funds and processed payments to retailers using the Recovery Act funds

Major Planned Actions:

- Department-wide
- The Senior Advisor on Recovery Implementation will testify before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, House Committee on Science and Technology Hearing on ARRA Implementation on 3-19-09
- OIG briefing DOC Acquisition and Grants Councils
- OIG
- The IG will testify before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, House Committee on Science and Technology Hearing on ARRA Oversight on 3-19-09
- NOAA
- Release Habitat Restoration Federal Register Notice press release following DOC and OMB approval
- NTIA
- NTIA and USDA will hold Broadband Initiative Public Meetings on March 16, 19, 23, and 24, 2009. The meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. ET and will take place at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Webcast and/or transcripts of all public meetings will be made available on NTIA's Web site. Field Hearings will be held March 17, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV and March 18, 2009 in Flagstaff, AZ. Additional information can be found on <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants> and on <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/index.html>. Webcast and/or transcripts of all public meetings will be made available on NTIA's Web site.
- NTIA and USDA are seeking public input on the Broadband Initiative through April 13, 2009. Specific topics of particular interest can be found at http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2009/BTOP_RFI_090310.pdf
- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program is preparing to deploy additional system modifications and improvements
- The Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program Forecast distribution of additional 1.9 million coupons during week of March 16, 2009

Report Date: 2009-03-20

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations: \$126,492,504
- Total Disbursements: \$1,235,263

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- Department-wide
 - The Senior Advisor on Recovery Implementation testified before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, House Committee on Science and Technology Hearing on ARRA Implementation on 3-19-09
- OIG
 - The OIG Recovery Act web page is available at <http://www.oig.doc.gov/recovery/index.html>
 - The IG testified before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, House Committee on Science and Technology Hearing on ARRA Oversight on 3-19-09
- Census
 - Partnership positions were posted with active recruiting as part of decennial census outreach program
- NIST
 - Synopses for Measuring, Science and Engineering Research and Fellowship programs posted to Grants.gov
- NTIA
 - NTIA accepted requests for over 220,000 coupons with a value of \$1.3 million and cleared the backlog.
 - NTIA reimbursed retailers for almost 4,000 redeemed coupons with a value of \$147,000
 - Joint National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and USDA's Rural Utilities Service's Public Meetings were held to help shape ARRA Broadband Initiatives. Meetings were held March 16, 2009 in Washington, DC; March 17, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV; March 18, 2009 in Flagstaff, AZ; and March 19, 2009 in Washington, DC. Each meeting was webcast for transparency and to ensure maximum public participation.
- NOAA
 - Received first application for restoration funding. NOAA expects to receive majority of applications closer to April 6 closing date.
 - NOAA continued to respond to hundreds of inquiries on habitat restoration FFO including calls from Congressional staff. Meetings organized by national and regional organizations to educate their constituents on this FFO have had high participation rates and NOAA participated to respond to specific questions.

Major Planned Actions:

- NIST
 - Post construction grants synopsis on Grants.gov

- NOAA
 - Publish press release regarding availability of funding for habitat restoration
- NTIA
 - NTIA Deputy Assistant Secretary will testify on the status of the DTV Coupon Program on March 26, 2009 before the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives
 - Publish press release on DTV coupon program
 - Joint National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and USDA's Rural Utilities Service's Public Meetings will be held March 23 and March 24, 2009 in Washington, DC to help shape American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Initiatives. Each meeting will be webcast for transparency and to ensure maximum public participation.

Report Date: 2009-03-27

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations: \$189,039,903
- Total Disbursements: \$5,426,817

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- NOAA
 - Press release on ARRA funding for habitat restoration posted March 23.
- NTIA
 - DTV converter Box Coupon Program distributed 1,891,790 coupons with a value of \$75,671,600
 - DTV converter Box Coupon Program reimbursed retailers for 59,027 coupons with a value of \$2,360,867
 - NTIA and USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) jointly held the last two of six public meetings on March 23 and 24, 2009 to help shape ARRA Broadband Initiatives. The meetings were webcast for transparency and to ensure maximum public participation. Written comments in response to these meetings and a Request for Information on the Broadband Initiatives are due by April 13, 2009.

Major Planned Actions:

- NTIA
 - NTIA Senior Advisor Mark Seifert will testify before the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives on Broadband Stimulus Provisions of the ARRA on April 2, 2009.

Release: Commerce Department Receives \$7.9 Billion in Recovery Act Funding
Essential to Job Creation and Economic Growth (02/25/09)

Commerce Department Receives \$7.9 Billion in Recovery Act Funding Essential to U.S. Job Creation and Economic Growth

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Commerce will receive \$7.9 billion to create and save jobs for American workers as part of the historic economic stimulus bill recently signed by President Barack Obama.

“The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the most sweeping economic recovery package in our history,” said President Obama, noting it will create or save 3.5 million jobs over the next two years. “We have begun the essential work of keeping the American Dream alive in our time.”

ARRA investments in Commerce agencies, which will be allocated in an open, transparent and timely manner, include funding for business development, innovative research, construction projects, expanding broadband services and other programs that will create jobs in a broad range of occupations and industries.

Economic Development Administration

The Recovery Act includes \$150 million for EDA to provide grants to economically distressed areas across the Nation to generate private sector jobs. Priority consideration will be given to those areas that have experienced sudden and severe economic dislocation and job loss due to corporate restructuring. Funds will be disbursed through the agency’s traditional grant making process and will support efforts to create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs by promoting innovation and entrepreneurship and connecting regional economies with the worldwide marketplace.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Recovery Act funding for NOAA is \$830 million including:

- \$230 million slated for habitat restoration, navigation projects and vessel maintenance;
- \$430 million for construction and repair of NOAA facilities, ships and equipment, improvements for weather forecasting and satellite development;
- \$170 million to be used for climate modeling activities, including supercomputing procurement, and research into climate change.

Bureau of the Census

To ensure a successful 2010 Decennial Census, the Recovery Act includes \$1 billion to hire new personnel for partnership and outreach efforts to minority communities and hard-to-reach populations, increase targeted media purchases, and ensure proper management of other operational and programmatic risks.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Through the Recovery Act, NIST is provided a total of \$610 million, including:

- \$220 million for NIST laboratory research, measurements, and other services supporting economic growth and U.S. innovation through funding of such items as competitive grants; research fellowships; and advanced measurement equipment and supplies;
- \$360 million to address NIST's backlog of maintenance and renovation projects and for construction of new facilities and laboratories, including \$180 million for a competitive construction grant program for funding research science buildings outside of NIST;
- \$20 million in funds transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services for standards-related research that supports the security and interoperability of electronic medical records to reduce health care costs and improve the quality of care;
- \$10 million in funds is provided to help develop a comprehensive framework for a nationwide, fully interoperable smart grid for the U.S. electric power system.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The Recovery Act provides critical funding for programs at NTIA including:

- \$4.7 billion to establish a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) for awards to eligible entities to develop and expand broadband services to rural and underserved areas and improve access to broadband by public safety agencies.
 - Of these funds, \$250 million will be available for innovative programs that encourage sustainable adoption of broadband services;
 - At least \$200 million will be available to upgrade technology and capacity at public computing centers, including community colleges and public libraries;
 - \$10 million will be a transfer to the Office of Inspector General for the purposes of BTOP audits and oversight.
 - Up to \$350 million of the BTOP funding is designated for the development and maintenance of statewide broadband inventory maps.
- \$650 million for the TV Converter Box Coupon Program to allow NTIA to issue coupons to all households currently on the waiting list, to start mailing coupons via first class mail and to ensure vulnerable populations are prepared for the transition from analog-to-digital television transmission.


BTOP -- JOINT BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM Background

Section 6001 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to establish the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The Recovery Act further establishes authority for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to make grants and loans for the deployment and construction of broadband systems. NTIA and RUS will hold a series of public meetings about the new programs beginning on MAR 16 2009. In addition to the information received about the new programs during the public meetings, written comments will be accepted through APR 13 2009. Through this notice, guidance is provided as to the matters to be discussed at these public meetings and the categories of information with respect to which interested parties may submit comments.



Office of Inspector General

The Recovery Act includes \$6 million for the OIG to conduct audits and oversight of the programs and activities funded by the ARRA in addition to the \$10 million provided to the OIG for oversight of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. With such a large infusion of cash expected to be obligated within a short time frame, this oversight will be important in evaluating the effectiveness of these programs and detecting and preventing waste, fraud and abuse.



About the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

Release: Vilsack, Copps and Wade Kick Off American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Initiative (03/10/09)

Vilsack, Copps and Wade Kick Off American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Initiative

Commerce's NTIA and Agriculture's Rural Utility Services Invite Comments on the Program; Joint Request for Information Also Establishes Schedule of Public Roundtables

WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Acting Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Copps and U.S. Department of Commerce Senior Advisor and Acting Chief of Staff Rick Wade kicked off the joint broadband initiative under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act today and announced a series of public meetings that will give Americans an opportunity to help shape the program.

"President Obama's commitment to expanding broadband service to rural areas will provide rural communities with access to worldwide markets and the education, first responder, and health care resources they need to prosper and compete," Vilsack said. "The Department of Agriculture stands ready to partner with the Department of Commerce and Federal Communications Commission to support the President's goal to deploy high-speed internet service in rural and unserved communities."

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Services (RUS) today also released a Joint Request for Information and Notice of Public Meetings (RFI), which invites comments from interested parties on the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the RUS grants and loans program established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. To encourage public participation, the RFI sets a schedule of public meetings from March 16-24. That will give Americans an opportunity to discuss how NTIA and the Rural Utility Service should design and implement these programs. Each of these meetings will feature a roundtable discussion and an opportunity for public comment.

The meetings will be webcast, and as part of the effort to broaden public input, the March 17 meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nev., with the following day's meeting scheduled for Flagstaff, Ariz.

The public meetings by NTIA and RUS are an important part of the agencies' efforts to move quickly to implement the Act's Broadband Initiatives. They will inform the administration's innovative and practical approach to spurring economic growth by accelerating broadband deployment in unserved, underserved, and rural areas and to strategic institutions that are likely to create jobs or provide significant public benefits.

"President Obama believes in the power of broadband. Broadband deployment throughout the country will help drive the nation's economic recovery and growth," Wade said. "The grants represent a down-payment on President Obama's communications priority, ensuring that all Americans have access to broadband and the skills to use it. NTIA is eager to engage the public to develop grant programs that best serve the needs of targeted communities, public institutions, community educational centers, first responders, and vulnerable populations."

In connection with the new broadband initiatives, Acting Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael J. Copps said: "Without ubiquitous broadband, our citizens—our country—will lack the competitive tools necessary for success in the Twenty-first century. The FCC has been given an important role—to develop, over the next 12 months, a national broadband strategy. We look forward to working with our colleagues in the agencies of government and in the private sector to bring these essential, opportunity-creating tools to every American, no matter whom they are or where they live."

The request for information issued jointly by NTIA and RUS, solicits comments from interested parties on a wide range of topics (see below) critical to the design and implementation of NTIA's grant program and the Rural Utility Service's grant and loan program, including the establishment of selection criteria for grant awards, grant mechanics, the role of various stakeholders, and coordination between NTIA and RUS. The request for information also seeks comment on the creation of a national broadband map. All of these efforts should help inform the cross-agency work on the national broadband plan that will shortly be initiated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Comments will be received up to 30 days after publication of the RFI in the Federal Register. Comments may be submitted via the Web, email or mail. Commenters are strongly encouraged to file via the website, www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants. All material sent via the U.S. Postal Service (including overnight or Express Mail) is subject to delivery delays of up to two weeks due to mail security procedures. Detailed requirements regarding submissions are set forth in the RFI. People submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be posted on the public Web site at www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants.

The RFI solicits comments from interested parties on the following topics:

- the purposes of the BTOP program,
- the role of the States,
- eligible grant recipients,
- the establishment of selection criteria for grant awards,
- grant mechanics,
- grants for expanding public computer center capacity,
- grants for innovative programs to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service,
- broadband mapping,
- financial contributions by grant applicants,
- timely completion of proposals,
- coordination between the BTOP and Department of Agriculture's RUS grant program,
- how terms set out in the relevant sections of the Recovery Act should be defined,
- how the success of the BTOP program should be measured,
- any other issues NTIA should consider in creating the BTOP,
- the most effective ways Department of Agriculture's RUS could offer broadband funds,
- how Department of Agriculture's RUS and NTIA can best align their Recovery Act activities
- how Department of Agriculture's RUS can evaluate whether a particular level of broadband access and service is needed to facilitate economic development,
- how Department of Agriculture's RUS should consider priorities set out in the Recovery Act in selecting applications, and
- what benchmarks should be used to determine the success of its Recovery Act broadband activities.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

EDA News Articles and Releases:

Commerce's EDA Announces \$150 Million in Recovery Funds to Create Jobs and Boost Development in Areas Hit Hard by Recession

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Contact: Bryan Borlik (202) 482-4085

\$150 Million in U.S. Economic Development Administration Funds Now Available Via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Create Jobs and Boost Development in Areas Hard Hit by Recession

WASHINGTON -- As part of the U.S. Commerce Department's appropriation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 recently signed by President Obama, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) today announced the availability of \$150 million to create jobs and boost development in parts of the country hit hard by the recession. The Federal Funding Opportunity notice, which was published today in the Federal Register, may be viewed at: www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/FFON.xml.

Priority consideration will be given to those areas that have experienced sudden and severe economic dislocation and job loss due to corporate restructuring. Funds will be disbursed through EDA's six Regional Offices in the form of grants to states, local government entities and eligible non-profits to create jobs and generate private sector investment by promoting comprehensive, entrepreneurial and innovation-based economic development efforts.

"The Recovery Act reflects the Obama Administration's strong focus on job creation and EDA is uniquely positioned to help communities create jobs as a leading federal economic development agency," said Sandra R. Walters, EDA Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer. "These funds will help bring locally-devised development projects designed to spur job growth and development to fruition, providing a much needed, positive jolt to the Nation's economy."

EDA supports the economic development needs of distressed communities throughout the United States. Its mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

Additional information on how EDA investments are helping distressed communities create a positive and sustainable economic future can be accessed at: <http://www.eda.gov>.

DRAFT

National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) - NIST Recovery Act

Web page: <http://www.nist.gov/recovery/>

Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) at NIST

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides a total of \$610 million in funding to NIST. The funding includes:

- \$220 million for NIST laboratory research, measurements, and other services supporting economic growth and U.S. innovation through funding of such items as competitive grants; research fellowships; and advanced measurement equipment and supplies;
- \$360 million to address NIST's backlog of maintenance and renovation projects and for construction of new facilities and laboratories, including \$180 million for a competitive construction grant program for funding research science buildings outside of NIST;
- \$20 million in funds transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services for standards-related research that supports the security and interoperability of electronic medical records to reduce health care costs and improve the quality of care; and
- \$10 million in funds transferred from the Department of Energy to help develop a comprehensive framework for a nationwide, fully interoperable smart grid for the U.S. electric power system.

NIST News Articles and Releases:

NIST to Receive \$610 Million Through Recovery Act (03/03/09) NIST to Receive \$610 Million Through Recovery Act

Source: http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/newsfromnist_recovery.html

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will receive \$610 million in funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The agency will use the funds for programs that support U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness, key factors in spurring economic growth.

The Act provides \$220 million in direct appropriations for NIST laboratory research, competitive grants, research fellowships, and advanced research and measurement equipment and supplies. An additional \$360 million in direct appropriations is provided for construction of research facilities, half for NIST projects and half for a competitive grant program for science research facilities outside of NIST. Additional funding transferred to NIST from other federal agencies includes \$20 million for standards-related work on electronic medical records to assist in modernizing the health care system and \$10 million for collaborative efforts to develop a comprehensive framework for a nationwide, fully interoperable smart grid for the U.S. electric power system.

"With this funding, we expect to create jobs and advance the U.S. science and technological infrastructure by building critically needed research facilities, expanding fellowships and research grants, and addressing important national priorities critical to our nation's future," said NIST Deputy Director Patrick D. Gallagher.

Department of Commerce agencies receiving one-time funds through the Act are required to submit a plan to Congress with specifics on how allocations will be spent within 60 days of the legislation being enacted. Once completed, NIST's plan will be available to the public, along with directions for applying for research fellowships, grants or construction funding at the Department of Commerce's and NIST Web sites.

"We take very seriously the requirements to ensure that the Recovery Act funding is used as effectively as possible for near-term economic benefits and longer-term economic growth," said Gallagher. "We will use these funds wisely and in a manner that ensures transparency and accountability."

Requests and applications for funding will be accepted when instructions and rules are posted for specific competitions.

Once completed, NIST's plan will be available to the public, along with directions for applying for research fellowships, grants or construction funding at the Department of Commerce, NIST and Recovery.gov Web sites.

Media Contact: Ben Stein, ben.stein@nist.gov, (301) 975-3097

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Source: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/recovery/> .

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is seeking applications for projects that will restore coastal and marine habitats under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, in an unprecedented effort to jumpstart the economy, create save several thousand jobs, and restore valuable coastal and marine habitat. Congress has entrusted NOAA with up to \$170 million for habitat restoration in coastal areas including the Great Lakes. NOAA is accepting applications for a variety of habitat restoration projects - including wetlands restoration, dam removals, shellfish restoration, and coral reef restoration.

These habitats support valuable fisheries and protected resources, improve the quality of our water, provide recreational opportunities for the public's use and enjoyment, and buffer our coastal communities from the impacts of storms and sea level rise. Projects funded through NOAA have strong habitat restoration components that provide social and economic benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements.

To compete well, applicants will have to demonstrate that their project can achieve significant ecological benefits, maximize jobs creation/preservation, and are "shovel-ready." Typical investments by NOAA are expected to range between \$1.5 million to \$10 million per project. Applications are due by April 6, 2009. To read the full announcement, including information on eligibility and how to submit an application, please read the Federal Funding Opportunity below.

- NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project FFO (FFO Number NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2009-2001709)
- Apply Electronically at <http://Grants.gov>
- Supplementary Instructions at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/recovery/docs/Supplemental%20Instructions%20-%20Recovery%20Act%20-%20Habitat%20Restoration.pdf>
- Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and FONSI for Habitat Restoration
- Reporting Requirements (in development)
- **Applications due April 6, 2009**

NOAA News Articles and Releases:

NOAA Receives \$830 Million Through Recovery Act (03/03/09)

Source: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090303_recoveryact.html

The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will receive \$830 million in funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The agency will use the funds, equivalent to 20 percent of NOAA's 2008 budget, for projects that protect life and property and conserve and protect natural resources.

The act provides \$230 million for habitat restoration, navigation projects, vessel maintenance, and other activities. An additional \$430 million will be dedicated for construction and repair of NOAA facilities, ships and equipment, improvements for weather forecasting and satellite development. A total of \$170 million will also be directed for climate modeling activities, including supercomputing procurement and research into climate change.

"Whether providing grants for habitat restoration or issuing contracts for construction and repair of our facilities, these funds will create jobs while advancing our vital mission to the American people," said Mary Glackin, deputy under secretary for oceans and atmosphere. "We will ensure that the Recovery Act funding is used as effectively as possible and in a manner that will allow for maximum transparency and accountability."

Department of Commerce agencies receiving one-time funds through the act are required to submit a plan to Congress with specifics on how allocations will be spent within 60 days of the legislation being enacted. Once completed, NOAA's plan will be available to the public at the Department of Commerce and NOAA Web sites. Requests and applications for funding will be accepted when instructions and rules are posted for specific projects.

NOAA Seeks Proposals That Will Restore Coastal Habitat, Create Jobs, Stimulate Economy

Office of Habitat currently seeking project proposals from coastal and Great Lakes communities

March 23, 2009

Source: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090323_proposals.html

NOAA has begun accepting proposals for coastal habitat restoration projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The effort will foster healthy and resilient American communities while generating and protecting jobs for the thousands of people whose task it will be to restore valuable coastal and marine habitat.

NOAA anticipates that up to \$170 million may be available for coastal and marine habitat restoration; typical awards are expected to range between \$1.5 million and \$10 million.

“Restoration of coastal wetlands, shellfish, coral ecosystems and fish migration routes along coastal rivers is a significant source of green jobs,” NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco said. “Habitat restoration also provides long-term natural, health and economic benefits to communities, including improved recreational and commercial fishing, improved water quality and more resilient coastal areas.”

NOAA is formally seeking proposals through April 6 for a variety of habitat restoration projects – including wetlands restoration, removal of unsafe, obsolete dams, construction of fish passages, oyster and other shellfish restoration and coral reef restoration. To ensure relevance, readiness and accountability to the American public, the solicitation requires that projects be “shovel-ready.”

For more information about this federal funding opportunity, please visit the NOAA habitat recovery Web site at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/recovery/>.

High resolution (Credit: NOAA)

Coastal communities are America's economic engines, with more than half of the nation's Gross Domestic Product generated in coastal counties. However, these areas also face great threats related to severe storms, development, wetlands loss, and the long-term effects of climate change, including sea level rise. President Obama has shown his commitment to addressing these growing threats by investing substantial recovery funds in coastal restoration.

Restoration projects employ people with a wide range of skills, including laborers, engineers, ecologists, landscapers, hydrologists and nursery workers who provide local seedlings and other plants for wetland and coastal restoration.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

DRAFT

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

NTIA News Articles and Releases:

Press Release: Commerce's TV Converter Box Coupon Program Now Accepting Requests to Replace Expired Coupons to Assist More Americans with Transition to Digital TV

Source: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2009/DTV_ReplacementCoupons_090324.html

Program's Waiting List for Coupons Cleared as a Result of Funding Authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2009

Contact: Bart Forbes, (202) 482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov

WASHINGTON – As the June 12 deadline for the nationwide conversion to digital TV approaches, the TV Converter Box Coupon Program has begun to accept replacement requests from eligible households whose coupons expired without being redeemed. Meanwhile, money allocated to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has allowed NTIA to clear the digital converter box coupon waiting list.

"This is very good news for Americans who were unable to redeem their coupons before they expired," Acting NTIA Administrator Anna Gomez said. "With the backlog of applications now eliminated, consumers can apply for coupons and get assistance right away, allowing them to continue to receive important local television news and emergency information by purchasing a converter box at a reduced cost."

If an eligible household has redeemed one coupon toward the purchase of a TV converter box and the other coupon has expired, then it will be approved for a single replacement coupon. Consumers may apply for replacement coupons in accordance with existing program application rules by visiting www.DTV2009.gov, calling 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), mailing an application to P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208 or faxing an application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632). Deaf or hard of hearing callers may use 1-877-530-2634 (TTY).

NTIA also announced that the Coupon Program has eliminated its waiting list and is processing all coupon requests as they come in with a maximum 9 business day turnaround time.

On January 4, 2009, the Coupon Program reached its funding ceiling and placed incoming coupon requests on a waiting list, to be fulfilled as previously issued coupons expired. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided NTIA \$650 million to issue at least 12.25 million more coupons, to start mailing coupons via first class mail and to ensure vulnerable populations are prepared for

the transition from analog-to-digital television transmission. Applications are now being processed on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.

"I urge all consumers who are still unprepared for the transition to act today to get their converter boxes and resolve any technical issues well ahead of the June 12 deadline," Gomez added. "Americans can start experiencing the benefits of digital television with more programming choices and clearer reception as soon as they hook up their converter box."

Consumers can receive digital television today by purchasing and connecting a TV converter box (with or without a government coupon); buying a digital TV; or subscribing to cable, satellite or another pay service. Consumers who currently have coupons in hand should use them immediately. The coupons may not be used as a rebate and must be presented to the retailer at the time of purchase.

The DTV Delay Act established June 12, 2009, as the final date by which all full-power television stations in the country will be required to shut down analog broadcasts. However, some stations and entire markets may choose to switch before then. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced that, of the nation's nearly 1,800 full-power television stations, a total of 641 stations (36%) terminated their analog signals as of February 17, 2009. More information on the digital television transition is available by calling 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) or by going on-line to the Web site www.DTV.gov.

About the TV Converter Box Coupon Program:

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 Act originally required full-power television stations to cease analog broadcasts and switch to digital by February 17, 2009. The Act authorized NTIA to create the TV Converter Box Coupon Program, which was funded initially by airwaves auction proceeds. The Act originally funded the Program at \$1.5 billion, which included a limit of \$1.34 billion for ordered and redeemed coupons, with the remaining \$160 million covering administrative costs. Funds are obligated as coupons are issued. If coupons are not used and expire, those funds are returned to the Program to fill requests.

On January 4, 2009, the Coupon Program reached its initial \$1.34 billion obligation limit for active and redeemed coupons and established a waiting list of coupon requests. On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which provides funding to implement DTV Delay Act's extension of the Coupon Program. Specifically, the ARRA authorizes \$650 million for additional coupons and related activities.

The transition to digital broadcast television will free up the airwaves for better communications among emergency first responders and for new telecommunications services and offers consumers a clearer picture and more programming choices.

The TV Converter Box Coupon Program permits all households to request up to two coupons - each worth \$40 - toward the purchase of certified converter boxes.

Coupons may be requested while supplies last, and only one coupon can be used for each coupon-eligible converter box. Consumers can purchase a converter box at one of the more than 32,000 participating local, phone or online retailer locations. Consumers will receive a list of eligible converter boxes and participating retailers with their coupons and may search for a local retailer on-line at <https://www.dtv2009.gov/VendorSearch.aspx> . Consumers should call stores before shopping to ensure the desired converter box is available. Converter boxes generally cost between \$40 and \$80 without a coupon, and coupons expire 90 days from the date they are mailed.

When consumers receive their coupons in the mail, they should buy a converter box as soon as possible, and try the box with their television to address any potential technical issues. Some viewers watch programs over translators or other low-power stations, which may continue broadcasting analog signals after the digital television transition deadline. Those viewers may wish to select a converter box that will pass through analog signals.

Households may apply for coupons online at www.DTV2009.gov , by phone at 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), via fax at 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632) or by mail to P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000. Deaf or hard of hearing callers may dial 1-877-530-2634 (English TTY) or 1-866-495-1161 (Spanish TTY). Nursing home residents may apply with the paper application available downloadable at www.DTV2009.gov. For more information about the Coupon Program, please visit www.DTV2009.gov and for questions about the DTV transition, go to www.dtv.gov or call 1-888-CALL-FCC.

About the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is an agency in the U.S. Department of Commerce that serves as the executive branch agency principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policies. For more information about the NTIA, visit www.ntia.doc.gov .

Opportunity	Agency/Office/Location	Type ▼	Posted On ▲
Nanoparticle Size-Distribution Measurement System RECOVERY AMD-09-SS20 66 -- Instruments & laboratory equipment	Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Acquisition Management Division	Sources Sought	Mar 18, 2009
i-line Stepper Optical Lithography System RECOVERY AMD-09-SS19 66 -- Instruments & laboratory equipment	Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Acquisition Management Division	Sources Sought	Mar 17, 2009
High Resolution Scanning Electron Microscope and Focused Ion Beam Scanning Electron Microscope RECOVERY AMD-09-SS18 66 -- Instruments & laboratory equipment	Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Acquisition Management Division	Sources Sought	Mar 17, 2009
Scala Antennas RECOVERY NWWG0170-9-04736 58 -- Communication, detection, & coherent radiation equipment	Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Acquisition and Grants Office	Combined Synopsis/Solicitation	Mar 18, 2009