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Washington ,DC 20515
(202) 225-3731

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Clarks Summit, PA 18411
(570) 585-9988

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175 Pine St, Suite 103
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Shamokin, PA 17872
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GUIDE TO THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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INTRODUCTION

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (AARA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. It is designed to provide relief to the ailing American Economy by providing \$787 billion in a combination of Tax Relief and Government Spending. Government spending is further broken down into two components; funding to states and direct federal spending through government agencies. There are no earmarks included in the “Recovery” bill.

This Guide is designed to be a source of information to anyone interested in the details of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. It provides detailed information on many of the State and Federal programs that received funding under the Act. Included you will find grant descriptions and contact information for the provisions that have an impact on the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Not all programs included in the AARA are covered in this guide. For complete information got to:

<http://recovery.gov/>

<http://www.heretohelp.pa.gov>

<http://www.recovery.pa.gov>

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress

Section I Transportation & Infrastructure

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 allocates more than \$45 billion for our nation's highways, bridges and transit systems. Nearly all of these funds will be distributed to the states based on existing formulas. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is estimated to receive more than \$1.3 billion as its federal share. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn DOT) will administer the transportation funds. Approximately \$1 billion of the Commonwealth's share is for highways and bridges and \$340 million is for transit systems. Below is a summary of some of the federal and state programs that will receive funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Federal Programs

National Surface Transportation System

\$1.5 billion

Discretionary grants to be awarded to state and local governments or transit agencies on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Eligible projects include highway and bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail projects, and port infrastructure investments.

U.S. Department of Transportation

<http://www.dot.gov/>

http://www.dot.gov/citizen_services/grants_loans/

Commonwealth Programs

Highway Improvement Programs

Highways & Bridges \$1 billion

For transportation projects including resurfacing and pavement preservation projects, traffic signal system upgrades, bridge projects, transit projects and intelligent transportation systems. Funds are distributed by formula, with a portion of the funds within each State being sub allocated by population areas. Due to existing federal law, Penn DOT is required to distribute a certain percentage of federal transportation funds to different areas of the state based on population. Knowing the Commonwealth will receive at least \$1 billion in highway and bridge funding and based on current estimations, Penn DOT is required to spend \$181 million in urbanized areas, \$102 million in areas with populations between 5,000 and 200,000, \$24 million in areas with populations under 5,000 and \$687 million in any area that meets its requirements.

Transit Capital Assistance \$343 million

These funds will be used to purchase buses and equipment needed to provide additional public transportation service and to make improvements to intermodal and transit facilities. Funds are distributed through the existing urban and rural transit formulas - 80% of the capital assistance funds are to be distributed through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) urbanized formula; 10% through their rural formula; and 10% through their growing states and high density formula.

Transportation Contacts

Penn DOT Engineering District 4-0

55 Keystone Industrial Park

Dunmore, PA 18512

Phone: (570) 963-4061

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/penndot/districts/district4.nsf/>

Penn DOT Engineering District 3-0

715 Jordan Avenue

Montoursville, PA 17754-0218

Phone: (877) 723-6830

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/penndot/districts/district3.nsf/>

Northeastern Pennsylvania**Alliance RPO**

Mr. Alan Baranski

Phone: (570) 655-5581

Email: abaranski@nepa-alliance.org**SEDA-COG RPO**

Mr. Steve Herman

Phone: (570) 524-4491

Email: Sherman@seda-cog.org

<http://www.seda-cog.org/>

**Northern Tier Regional Planning
& Development Commission-RPO**

Mr. Kevin Abrams

312 Main Street

Towanda, PA 18848

Phone: (888) 868-8800

<http://www.northerntier.org>

Section II Water & Environmental

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriates nearly \$14 billion for Water related projects Environmental cleanup. Most of these funds are distributed to states based on existing formulas but the federal government will administer some of the funds through a competitive grant and loan program. \$600 million for Hazardous Superfund Waste Cleanup will be limited to the 1,255 sites on the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) National Priority List. The EPA is also allocated \$100 million for Brownfield cleanup, \$300 million for Diesel Emission Reduction, and \$200 million for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust. The Bureau of Reclamation is allocated \$1 billion for the Clean Drinking water fund. Grants will be awarded based on a priority ranking system.

Federal Programs

Rural Water and Waste Disposal \$1.38 billion

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Department administers a grant and loan program for water and wastewater infrastructure projects in rural areas, cities and towns with populations of 10,000 or less. This program will receive \$1.38 billion in Recovery Act funding. Eligible projects include but are not limited to drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities. Public entities or non-profit organizations may qualify for assistance. Grants are also made to non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste problems.

For more information about this program, you can visit the USDA Rural Development website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> or <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa/>.

**US Army Corps of Engineers
Construction and Maintenance
\$4 billion**

\$2 billion was included for COE construction activities. Funding is allocated for ongoing projects, no new projects will be funded. This provision provides public engineering and construction services for navigation, flood and storm protection, ecosystem restoration, environmental protection, and an array of other purposes.

\$2 billion was also included for COE operation and maintenance activities. Funding will be provided to existing Corps projects. Work to be accomplished consists of dredging, repair, and operation of structures and other COE facilities.

**Watershed Infrastructure
\$340 million**

Priority based grants for watershed improvement programs. Funds are used to design and build flood protection, water quality projects, repair aging dams, and purchase conservation easements in river flood zones. The program is administered by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

More information can be found on the NRCS recovery website at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/recovery/implementation.html>

Commonwealth Programs

**Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
\$222 million**

Funding provided to states is used to makes loans to communities, individuals, and others for high-priority water-quality activities. Commonwealth funds are administered by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (Penn VEST). \$156 million of the federal share is allocated for Clean Water projects and \$65 million is allocated for Clean Drinking Water projects. The program is designed to provide relief to communities by requiring a greater Federal share for clean and drinking water projects and greater flexibility for States to reach communities that would otherwise not have the resources to repay a loan with interest. Loans are used to build or improve wastewater treatment plants; agricultural, rural, and urban runoff control; estuary improvement projects; wet weather flow control, including storm water and sewer overflows; alternative treatment technologies; and water reuse and conservation projects.

Water & Environmental Contacts

PENNVEST Region IV

Mike Gallagher

Phone: (717) 783-4488

Fax: (717) 787-0804

E-mail: mgallagher@state.pa.us**US Army Corps of Engineers**

US Army Engineer District, Baltimore

P.O. Box 1715

Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

(410) 962-2809

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/>**EPA Region 3**

1650 Arch Street (3PM52)

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(800) 438-2474

www.epa.gov/recovery/**Brownfield Program Coordinator:**

Mr. Tom Stole

U.S. EPA Region 3

Phone: (215) 814-3129

Stole.tom@epa.gov

EPA's Region 3 Homepage:

www.epa.gov/region03/index.htm

Brownfields Grant Homepage:

www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bf-lr/bf-grants.html**PENNVEST Region I**

David Henning

Phone: (717) 783-4490

Fax: (717) 787-0804

E-mail: dahenning@state.pa.us**USDA Rural Development**

Wyoming Area Office

One Hollowcrest Complex

Tunkhannock, PA 18657

(570) 836-5111

Lycoming Area Office

542 County Farm Rd, Suite 205

Montoursville, PA 17754-9209

(570) 433-3006, ext. 4

www.usda.gov/rus/www.usda.gov/rus/water/states/usamap.htm

Section III Energy

The American Recovery and Investment Act represents the largest investment in Clean and renewable energy in our Nation's history. Over \$100 billion in grants, loan guarantees, and tax-credit bonds are leveraged to expand alternative energy research & production and to assist in efforts to make our country more energy efficient. Becoming energy independent is vital to our national security.

Many of the details about potential funding opportunities for energy related projects have not yet been released. I encourage you to visit www.energy.gov

Federal Programs

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy \$16.8 billion

The US Department of Energy is allocated \$16.8 billion to provide funding through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). These competitive grants are allocated to 10 energy programs including the Biomass Program; Building Technologies Program; Federal Energy Management Program; Geothermal Technologies Program; Hydrogen, Fuel Cells & Infrastructure Program; Industrial Technologies Program; Solar Energy Technologies Program; Vehicle Technologies; Wind & Hydropower Technologies Program; and Weatherization & Intergovernmental Program

EERE funding includes the follows:

Biomass Program	\$800 million
Geothermal Technologies Program	\$400 million
Advanced Battery Manufacturing	\$2 billion
Alternative Fueled Vehicle Pilot Program	\$300 million
Transportation Electrification	\$400 million
Vehicle Technologies	\$400 million

These funds are distributed directly by the DOE or through the State via a sub-grant depending on eligibility. For more information the EERE web site at:

www.eere.energy.gov/

Fossil Energy Research and Development Program
\$3.4 billion

Research and Development programs include competitive grants for pollution control innovations for traditional power plants, including mercury reduction; improved gasification technologies; advanced combustion systems; development of stationary power fuel cells; improved turbines for future coal-based combined cycle plants; and creation of a portfolio of technologies that can capture and permanently store greenhouse gases.

For more information go to: www.fossil.energy.gov/

Advanced Research Projects Agency
\$400 million

The Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA-E) grants awards to institutions of higher education, companies, research foundations, trade and industry research collaborations, or consortia of such entities, which may include federally-funded research and development centers. These grants are designed to support high-risk, high-payoff research to accelerate the innovation cycle for both traditional and alternative energy sources and energy. More information can be found at www.energy.gov

Clean Renewable Energy Bonds
\$1.6 billion

Created under The Energy Policy act of 2005 these tax credit bonds create interest-free financing for certain renewable energy projects. Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) pay the bondholder by providing a credit against their federal income tax. They are available to State/local/tribal governments, public power providers, and electric cooperatives. For more information on this program go to: www.irs.gov/taxexemptbond/index.html or http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/news_detail.cfm/news_id=12249

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds \$2.4 billion

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds are tax-credit bonds issued for capital expenditures. They cover broad parameters for energy conservation projects including capital expenditure in public buildings, green community programs, renewable energy production, various R&D applications, mass commuting facilities, energy-related demonstration projects, and public energy efficiency education campaigns. They are structured similar to CREBs.

Commonwealth Programs

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) \$3.2 Billion

These grants are designed to reduce fossil fuel emissions, decrease overall energy consumption, and improve energy efficiency. They assist state and local governments in implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions. Activities eligible to receive funding include: conducting residential and commercial building energy audits; establishing financial incentives programs for energy efficiency improvements; grants to non-profits organizations to perform energy efficiency retrofits; developing/implementing programs to conserve energy used in transportation; developing and implementing building codes and inspections services to promote building energy efficiency; installing light emitting diodes (LEDs); and developing, implementing, and installing on or in any government building onsite renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable sources.

Details for implementation of this program have yet to be released by the Commonwealth. For more information visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> or www.energy.gov

State Energy Efficiency Program
\$3.1 billion

The State Energy Efficiency Program (SEP) provides funding to state energy offices . These grants are determined via formula and are designed to address energy priorities and program funding to adopt emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. They are delivered from the EERE and administered by PA DEP.

The primary program used by the Commonwealth for these federal funds is the Energy Harvest Grant (EHG) Program. The EHG program provides funding for renewable energy deployment; biomass energy project; coal-mine methane, waste coal reclamation for energy; implementation of innovative energy efficiency technologies; or clean distributed generation infrastructure improvements. The Commonwealth has some discretion on how to use these funds and its estimated that Pennsylvania will receive \$100 million as its federal share. For more information go to the DEP office of Energy & Technology Deployment [Website](#).

Weatherization Assistance Program
\$5 billion

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides energy efficiency measures in the homes of qualifying homeowners free of charge. Provisions of the AARA expanded the eligibility of low income households for the WAP and increasing the funding assistance level per dwelling from \$2,500 per dwelling to \$6,500. For more information about eligibility you should check with your county office. Further information or to find your county contact go to: www.newpa.com/strengthen-your-community/redeveloping-your-community/housing/weatherization/index.aspx

Section IV Housing & Community Development

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides nearly \$19 billion for housing and community development in an effort to ease the effects of the economic downturn and spur community investment. Below are some of the federal and state programs designed to assist those in need and rebuild and upgrade the nation's communities.

Federal Programs-US Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) \$1 billion

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development administers formula grants to entitled states, cities and counties to develop viable communities. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocates \$1 billion for this program. Communities receiving CDBG funds are permitted to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services.

Priority will be given to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days. For more information about eligible CDBG activities, you can visit the following website: www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/library/stateguide/ or www.hud/recovery/cdblock.cfm

Contacts

Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)

Beverly A. Hutzell

Grant Manager

Commonwealth Keystone Building

400 North Street, 4th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Phone: (717) 720-7412

www.newPA.com | www.visitPA.com

www.newpa.com

Lackawanna County

Office of Economic & Community Development

Scranton Electric Building

507 Linden Street, 5th Floor

Scranton, PA 18503

Contact: Glenn Pelino, Executive Director

Ph: (570) 963-6830 / Fx: (570) 963-6878

Bradford County

Ray Stolinas

North Towanda Annex No.1

RR1 Box 179A

Towanda, PA 18848

Phone: (570) 268-4193/Fax: (570) 268-4171

Sullivan County

Michael Hufnagel, Director

Sullivan County Planning Office

Sullivan County Courthouse

Laporte, PA 18628

570 946 5207

570 946 4244 Fax

mhufnagel@sullivancounty-pa.us

Tioga County

James F. McRath, Executive Director
Tioga County Housing Authority
4 Riverside Plaza
Blossburg, Pa 16901
570 638 1813
570 638 2156 Fax

Wayne County

Jacqueline Young, Executive Director
Wayne County Redevelopment Authority
218 Willow Avenue
Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-4882
570-253-8932 Fax
jyoung3@choiceonemail.com

Pike County

Christine Obser,
Director Human Development Office
County Administration Building
506 Broad Street
Milford, PA 18337
(570) 296 3434
(570) 296 3436 Fax
cobser@pikepa.org

Luzerne County

Andrew Reilly, Director
Department of Community Development
54 W. Union St.
Wilkes Barre, PA 18711
Phone: (570) 824-7214

**Lycoming County, Union County, Snyder
County, Montour County, Northumberland
County**

SEDA-COG

Bill Seigel, Program Manager
201 Furnace Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone (570)-524-4491
bseigel@seda-cog.org

Susquehanna County

Wyoming County

Neighborhood Stabilization Program \$2 billion

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is similar to the CDBG. Most of these funds are administered by The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The program is designed to help communities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed, vacant properties in order to create more affordable housing and reduce neighborhood blight. See page 13-14 for contacts.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program \$2.25 billion

HOME provides formula grants to States and localities that communities use, often in partnership with local nonprofit groups-to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people. HOME is the largest Federal block grant to State and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$2.25 billion to support the HOME Investment Partnership Program. These funds are administered in fashion similar to the Community Development Block Grants. To apply for these funds, you will need to contact the community agency that receives these federally-allocated funds. You will find a list of those agencies on page 13 and 14 of this guidebook.

Rural Community Facilities \$130 Million

Community Programs, a division of the Housing and Community Facilities Programs, is part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development mission area. Community Programs administers programs designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through its Community Programs, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program. Go to : www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm for more information.

Section V

Small Business and Economic Development

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides funding for Small Business and Economic development. In addition, there are provisions to assist those who are suffering from the economic downturn in the form of training and employment services. Small businesses along with the American worker are the backbone of our economy. Only through programs that strengthen these vital interests will we see a resumption of growth in our economy. Below are some of the programs designed to meet this goal.

Small Business Administration - 7(a) Loan Guarantee Program **\$375 million**

Under this program, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is directed to collect no fee or reduce fees to the maximum extent possible for the 7(a) loan program. SBA may guarantee up to 90% of 7(a) loans. It is designed to ensure small businesses maintain or have access to 7(a) loans that may be used to establish a new business or to assist in the operation, acquisition or expansion of an existing business. For more information on the programs go to the SBA website at:

www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbaloantopics/7a/
www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/index.html

Small Business Administration- 504 Loan Program **\$375 million**

The 504 loan program is a long-term financing tool for economic development within a community. The 504 Program provides growing businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets, such as land and buildings. A Certified Development Company (CDC) is a nonprofit corporation set up to contribute to the economic development of its community. CDCs work with the SBA and private-sector lenders to provide financing to small businesses. There are about 270 CDCs nationwide, with each covering a specific geographic area.

Typically, a 504 project includes a loan secured with a senior lien from a private-sector lender covering up to 50 percent of the project cost, a loan secured with a junior lien from the CDC (backed by a 100 percent SBA-guaranteed debenture) covering up to 40 percent

of the cost, and a contribution of at least 10 percent equity from the small business being helped.

Proceeds from 504 loans must be used for fixed asset projects such as: purchasing land and improvements, including existing buildings, grading, street improvements, utilities, parking lots and landscaping; construction of new facilities, or modernizing, renovating or converting existing facilities; or purchasing long-term machinery and equipment. The 504 Program cannot be used for working capital or inventory, consolidating or repaying debt, or refinancing. For more information go to: www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbaloantopics/cdc504/index.html or www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/index.html

Business Stabilization Program
\$225 million

This program is designed to provide loans on a deferred basis to viable small business concerns that have a qualifying small business loan and are experiencing immediate financial hardship for more information got to: www.sba.gov

Economic Development Assistance
\$150 million

The Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA) will allocate funds in a competitive grant process for economically distressed areas 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. For more information go to the EDA website at: www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Investments.xml

Community Development Financial Institutions
\$100 million

Through monetary awards and the allocation of tax credits, the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund helps promote access to capital and local economic growth in urban and rural low-income communities across the nation. Through its various programs, the CDFI Fund enables locally based organizations to further goals such as: economic development (job creation, business development, and commercial real estate development); affordable housing (housing development and homeownership); and community development financial services (provision of basic banking services to underserved communities and financial literacy training). To learn more about the various programs go to:

www.cdfifund.gov/recovery/

Micro-Loan Program
\$6 million

The SBA Micro-Loan Program provides very small loans to start-up, newly established, or growing small business concerns. Under this program, SBA makes funds available to nonprofit community based lenders (intermediaries) which, in turn, make loans to eligible borrowers in amounts up to a maximum of \$35,000. The average loan size is about \$13,000. Applications are submitted to the local intermediary and all credit decisions are made on the local level. For more information go to:

www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbaloantopics/microloans/index.html
www.sba.gov/recovery/index.html

Section VI

Job Training and Unemployment

Pennsylvania Workforce Development Systems

\$3.9 billion

Through PA Workforce Development, an unemployed individual can search for a job, get vocational rehabilitation, create a resume, research careers and find training. Employers can find skilled workers, post job openings, screen applicants and research the labor market. Several different state agencies administer the [PA Careerlink](#) program, which is designed to be a one-stop resource for business and job seekers alike.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$3.9 billion for training and employment services for activities under the Workforce Investment Act. These funds will be distributed by existing formulas and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will receive an estimated \$90 million as its federal share.

For information about careers in demand, education & training, PA competitive industries and work statistics, you can visit the following website www.paworkforce.state.pa.us.

To find a job, certified training programs and providers and additional local workforce development opportunities, you can visit the following website www.cwds.state.pa.us.

For further information about what specific workforce development services are available in your area, you will need to contact your local PA Careelink.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

\$120 Million

SCSEP goals are the enhancement of employment opportunities for older Americans and the promotion of older workers as a solution for businesses seeking a trained, qualified, and reliable workforce. You can find additional information by visiting the U.S. Department of Labor Senior Community Service Employment Program website at <http://www.doleta.gov/seniors/>.

Formula funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for this program are distributed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which in turn provides the funds to the County Area Agencies on Aging. You can view the Pennsylvania Department of Aging website <http://www.aging.state.pa.us/>. For information about specific programs available in your area, you should contact your local office at the following contact information:

Lackawanna

Lackawanna County Office Building
200 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
Tel: (570) 963-6740
Fax: (570) 963-6401
Web site: www.lackawannacounty.org
E-mail: osbornet@lackawannacounty.org

Luzerne, Wyoming

Luzerne, Wyoming Counties Bureau for Aging
111 N. Pennsylvania Boulevard
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
Tel: (570) 822-1158
Fax: (570) 823-9129
Web site: www.aginglw.org
E-mail: gdelivery@aging.luzerne-wyoming.org

Pike

Pike County AAA
150 Pike County Boulevard
Hawley, PA 18428
Tel: (570) 775-5550
Toll free: (800) 233-8911
Fax: (570) 775-5558
Web site: www.pikeaaa.org
E-Mail: svanorden@pikepa.org

Northumberland

Northumberland County AAA
322 North Second Street
Sunbury, PA 17801
Tel: (570) 495-2395
Toll free: (877) 622-2251
Fax: (570) 495-2396
Web site: www.northumberlandco.org
E-mail: prumberger@norrycopa.net

Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga

Area Agency on Aging for the Counties of
Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga
220 Main Street, Unit 2
Towanda, PA 18848
Tel: (570) 265-6121
Fax: (570) 265-5680
Web site: www.aaaseniors.org
E-mail: bfarley@bsstaaa.org

Lycoming, Clinton

Lycoming/Clinton Bi-County Office of Aging
P.O. Box 3156
2138 Lincoln Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
Tel: (570) 323-3096
Toll Free: (800) 332-8555
Fax: (570) 322-6869
E-mail: flshrimp@stepcorp.org

Union, Snyder

Union/Snyder County Agency on Aging, Inc.
116 N. 2nd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Tel: (570) 524-2100
Fax: (570) 524- 5999
Web site: www.usaaa17.org
E-mail: info@usaaa17.org

Wayne

Wayne County AAA
323 Tenth Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
Tel: (570) 253-4262
Fax: (570) 253-9115
Web site: www.co.wayne.pa.us

Columbia, Montour

Columbia/Montour Aging Office, Inc.
702 Sawmill Road, Suite 201
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-7727
Tel: (570) 784-9272
Toll free: (800) 598-5001
Fax: (570) 784-3678
Web site: www.cmaaa15.org
E-mail: info@cmaaa15.org

Federal Workforce Development Programs

**Dislocated Workers Assistance National Reserve
\$200 Million**

The Office of National Response administers three discretionary grant programs for eligible entities serving areas of high unemployment or high poverty and experiencing major economic dislocations.

National Emergency Grants: Temporarily expands service capacity at the State and local levels through time-limited funding assistance in response to significant dislocation events. <http://www.doleta.gov/neg/>

Trade Adjustment Assistance: Designed to assist individuals who have become unemployed as a result of increased imports from, or shifts in production to, foreign countries. <http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/>

You can contact your local Trade Assistance Coordinator at the following information:

Michael Kaufhold
Trade Coordination Services Supervisor
Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
Labor and Industry Building
13th Floor
651 Boas Street
Harrisburg, PA 17121
Phone: 717-783-8050
E-mail: mkaufhold@state.pa.us

Robin Lawson,
TRA Coordinator
Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
Office of UC Benefits Federal Programs Unit
Labor and Industry Building, Room 604
651 Boas Street
Harrisburg, PA 17121
Phone: 717-772-8823
Fax: 717-772-0378
E-mail: roblawson@state.pa.us

Youth Build
\$50 million

Youth Build provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 while constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. Youth split their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they earn their GED or high school diploma, learn to be community leaders, and prepare for college and other postsecondary training opportunities. Youth Build includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement. Funds are administered by the US Department of Labor by competitive grants.

http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/

Green Jobs Training
\$500 million

The U.S. Department of Labor via the Employment & Training Administration provides competitive grants for projects that prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy as described in the Green Jobs Act of 2007.

<http://www.doleta.gov/>

Job Corps Program
\$250 million

The U.S. Department of Labor via the Office of Job Corps is allocated funds to support construction and modernization of a network of residential facilities serving at-risk youth.

<http://www.jobcorps.gov/>

Section VII Health

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$86.6 billion to state governments to increase federal matching funds received for Medicaid. This is done by formula to assist states as they experience budget shortfalls due to the weakening economy. In addition to this funding, the ARRA allocates funds for health services and training under the following programs:

Community Health Center Infrastructure Grants

\$1.5 billion

Funds are delivered through the Bureau of Primary Health Care-Health Resources and Services Administration. These are competitive grants for existing Grantees. They are designed to renovate clinics and make health information technology improvements. For more information go to:

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/apply.htm>

<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm>

Community Health Center Services Grants

\$500 million

Community Health Center Services Grants provide ongoing competing continuation funding for service areas currently served by health center grantees. Both currently funded section 330 grantees whose project periods have expired and new organizations proposing to serve the same areas or populations being served by existing section 330 grantees may apply. For more information go to: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/apply.htm>

Community Health Center Services Grants - New Access Point Grants

\$155 million

New Access Points Grants provide funding to support new service delivery sites that will provide comprehensive primary health care and access to oral and mental health services. Applicants can be existing grantees or new organizations that do not currently receive section 330 grant funds.

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/healthcentergrants.html>

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/applicant.html>

National Health Service Corps

\$300 million

National Health Service Corps

Department of Health and Human Services - Health Resources and Services Administration

Competitive Grants, Scholarships, and Loan Repayment

To fund training for primary healthcare providers in specific health professional in underserved communities through the National Health Service Corps

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/applications/>

Health Care Workforce

\$200 million

Bureau of Health Professions

Health Resources and Services Administration

Competitive Grants, Scholarships, and Loan Repayment

To provide for training of health professions

<http://www.hrsa.gov/help/healthprofessions.htm>

<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm>

Biomedical Research

\$8.7 billion

Office of the Director

National Institutes of Health

Competitive Grants

To expand jobs in biomedical research to study diseases.

http://www.nih.gov/about/director/02252009statement_arra.htm

University Research Facilities

\$1.3 billion

National Institutes of Health - National Center for Research Resources

Competitive Grants

To renovate and equip university research facilities.

Funding will be used for the construction and renovation of extramural research facilities and for the acquisition research equipment.

<http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/>

Prevention and Wellness Program

\$950 million

Included for the Center for Disease Control for evidence based clinical and community prevention and wellness programs.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Competitive Grants

Funds to support state and local efforts to fight preventable chronic diseases and infectious diseases.

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

<http://www.hhs.gov/>

Comparative Effectiveness Health Research

\$1.1 billion

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Competitive Grants

To compare the effectiveness of different medical treatments

This funding will be used to conduct or support research to evaluate and compare clinical outcomes, effectiveness, risk, and benefits of two or more medical treatments and services that address a particular medical condition. This research will not be used to mandate coverage decisions or impose one-size-fits-all" medicine on patients. It will be designed to enable medical professionals and patients improve treatment. \$300 million will be administered by AHRQ

<http://www.ahrq.gov/>

Health Information Technology Grants

\$2 billion

Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, CDC, and Indian Health Service/States or State-Designated Entities

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Competitive Grants

To authorize the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology in order to promote the use and exchange of electronic health information.

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

Health Information Technology Improvements

\$17 billion

Designed to improve investments and incentives through Medicare and Medicaid to ensure widespread adoption and use of interoperable health information technology (HIT). Funds are administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Hospitals and Physician offices will automatically receive benefit through CMS reimbursements. Grants will be available through HHS for other medical agencies.

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

Indian Health Service

\$500 million

Department of Health and Human Services - Director of the Indian Health Services. Funds will be distributed at the discretion of the Director of Indian Health Services to modernize aging hospitals and health clinics and make healthcare technology upgrades to improve healthcare for underserved rural populations.

<http://www.ihs.gov/>

NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research

\$200 million

National Institutes of Health - Office of Extramural Research. Competitive Grants designed to support research on specific scientific and health research challenges that will benefit from significant 2-year jumpstart funds.

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award/

Section VIII Public Safety

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes \$4 billion U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant funding to enhance state, local, and tribal law enforcement. For information about DOJ's plan to administer Recovery Act funds, you should visit its website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html>. Information about programs that will receive Recovery Act funds are listed below. The ARRA also provides \$210 million in competitive grants to non-federal fire stations.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

\$210 million

Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) . Competitive Grants to provide assistance for communities to modify, upgrade or construct state and local fire stations : For more information go to:

www.firegrantsupport.com/AFG/

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants

\$2 billion

The Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Assistance provides formula funding to state and local police forces. Funds are intended to help states and local governments support activities to prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system enforcement.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html>

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/recoveryallocations.html>

Byrne Competitive Grants Program

\$225 million

The Department of Justice - Office of Justice Assistance provide additional Competitive Grants to help states and local governments support activities to prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system enforcement.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html>

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grants

\$1 billion

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Department of Justice

Competitive Grant

For hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=2108>

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/chrp/eligibilityanony.aspx>

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

\$175 million

Department of Justice- Office on Violence Against Women

Formula funding to state agency

STOP formula grants are intended for use by states and territories; state, local and tribal courts (including juvenile courts); Indian tribal governments; local governments; and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs. Recipients are required to meet one or more of 14 statutory purpose areas. These areas include, but are not limited to: training law enforcement officers, judges, court personnel and prosecutors; developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs; developing, installing or expanding data collection; and developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking.

http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/stop_grant_desc.htm

Victims Compensation

\$100 million

Department of Justice - Office for Victims of Crime

Formula funding to state agencies

Funding to support State compensation and assistance programs for victims and survivors of Federal and state crimes.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/Recoveryfunds.html>

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/Recoveryformula.html>

Rural Law Enforcement

\$125 millions

Department of Justice - Office of Justice Assistance

Competitive Grants

The funding is for grants to combat drug-related crime and other law enforcement activities in rural America.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html>

Assistance for Law Enforcement along the Southern Border and in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)

\$40 million

Department of Justice - Office of Justice Assistance

Competitive Grants

The funding is for grants to combat drug-related crime and other law enforcement activities along the Southern Border.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html>

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program

\$50 million

Department of Justice - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Formula funding to state agency

Funds to help State and local law enforcement agencies enhance investigative responses to offenders who use the Internet to sexually exploit children.

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/recoveryact.html>

Section IX Education

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides over \$100 billion for education. These funds will go to several existing education programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education, including programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Higher Education Act (HEA). The legislation also provides \$53.6 billion directly to states for an education stabilization fund to prevent education-related layoffs, upgrade, repair and modernize schools and restore harmful cuts to education funding. Governor Rendell has provided a breakdown of the State Education Funding which is included in this guide.

Pennsylvania School District Guide to the Federal Stimulus Education Investments

Pennsylvania Department of Education
March 2009

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For Questions & Additional Information

The Department of Education is available to assist you at any time. For general questions, please email ra-stimulus-pde@state.pa.us or call 717-214-5972. You will receive an initial response within 1 business day

Overview: Federal Stimulus Funding for Education

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that President Obama signed into law on February 17th includes an estimated \$2.7 billion in new education aid for Pennsylvania. This document describes the major sources of funding that will be made available directly to school districts through existing federal and state funding formulas. Stimulus funds for education include:

- \$1.6 billion from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund
- \$399 million for Title I
- \$456 million for IDEA (special education)

The Commonwealth and its school districts share an enormous responsibility for deploying these resources effectively and quickly. The Department of Education is committed to streamlining the process for getting funding out to school districts, responding to requests for information and technical assistance, and providing approvals to school districts as needed. Bureaucracy will not stand in the way of deploying these vital stimulus funds.

In making local decisions about how to most effectively and quickly draw down and invest stimulus resources, school districts are asked to consider the following:

1. Is the investment going to have a significant impact on increasing student achievement and spurring innovation?
2. Is the investment aligned with the other academic strategies that the district is already pursuing that are effectively boosting achievement of the lowest-performing students?
3. Is the investment possible within the time frames envisioned in the law?
4. Is the investment consistent with the expected duration of the funding stream?

The Department of Education will work closely with school districts to maximize their use of taxpayer dollars provided through the federal stimulus law. School districts are also advised to review the federal guidelines, which are posted at <http://www.ed.gov/recovery>.

Stimulus funding for major education programs

School districts will want to begin planning now for the estimated funding that they will receive directly as a result of the stimulus bill. Estimated direct funding to school dis-

Funding stream	How it can be used	Timeline for district use	Approximate direct allocation for all school districts and other LEAs
Total direct aid to districts			\$2.2 billion
State Fiscal Stabilization* – Distributed by Pennsylvania’s school funding formula	As specified in existing state law: Amount up to rate of inflation can be used to pay for ongoing costs of existing programs Remainder must be used for early childhood education, longer school days and more days in the school year, and to expand other proven academic programs for students	Provided through FY2009-10 and FY2010-11 basic education subsidies	FY2009-10: \$418 million increase from 2008-09 basic ed subsidy FY2010-11: \$735 million (\$317 million increase from 2009-10 basic ed subsidy)
State Fiscal Stabilization* – Grants to school districts distributed using the Title I formula	Modernization, renovation and repair of facilities Basic education Special education Career and technical education Adult and family literacy	July 1, 2009 until September 30, 2011	\$317 million
Education for the disadvantaged (Title I)	Improving reading and math instruction in high-poverty schools	Spring 2009 until September 30, 2011	\$383 million
Special education (IDEA) – Provided through the Intermediate Units	Providing special education programs and services to students with disabilities	Spring 2009 until September 30, 2011	\$384 million
Technology upgrades (Title II-D)	Integrating technology into the school curriculum and providing related professional development	Fall 2009 until September 30, 2011	\$12.6 million

This table does not include competitive grants and other non-direct aid that will be awarded by the state or federal Department of Education. For more information on these resources, please see the “Other Stimulus Investments in Education” section of this handbook.

In addition, Title I allocations awarded under the stimulus package are required to be targeted to LEAs with 5% or more census poverty – which is different than the traditional Title I requirements.

How to draw down your school district’s stimulus resources

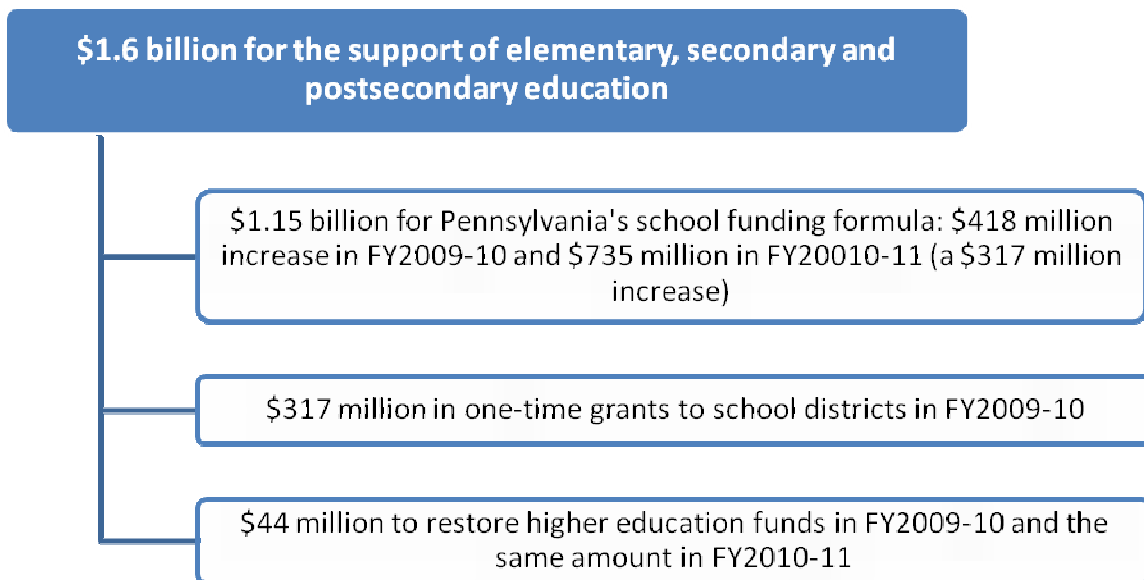
The Department of Education will minimize any additional paperwork that is required as a result of the stimulus bill. The 2009-10 Federal Programs eGrant system will be opened on April 5 for districts to apply for the supplemental Title I funds. When awarded, the supplemental Title II-D funds will be added through an amendment to the application. Districts will likewise use the existing school funding formula online application (known as PA-ACT) for the portion of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund that will support the basic education subsidy.

To ensure transparency and in compliance with the law, school districts will be required to provide information on the use of State Fiscal Stabilization Fund grants that are given directly to school districts outside of the state funding formula. As guidance becomes available about the specific information that will need to be obtained, the Department will provide details on the application process and reporting requirements online at www.pde.state.pa.us/stimulus.

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

The stimulus package includes a State Fiscal Stabilization Fund that is intended to prevent state budget cuts to critical services like education as well as to enable school districts to make critical one-time investments over the next two years that will result in a better-prepared workforce for the future.

Pennsylvania will receive \$1.9 billion in Fiscal Stabilization resources. Of this amount, \$1.6 billion is intended for education. Governor Rendell has proposed allocating the resources as follows:



Continuation of Pennsylvania's School Funding Formula

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund can be used to continue planned increases of a state's existing school funding formula. Pennsylvania's formula was enacted into law in July 2008, and provides a multi-year phase-in designed to move all school districts towards an adequate funding level based on the amount of resources needed for all students to succeed.

The Administration has proposed using the Stabilization Fund to support a \$418 million basic education funding increase in FY2009-10 and an additional \$317 million basic education funding increase in FY2010-11.

The resources will be driven out through the state's existing funding formula, and school districts will be required to use their additional funding as set forth in the state law:

Any amount that a school district receives up to the rate of inflation (equal to a 4.1% basic education subsidy increase for the 2009-10 school year) can be used as a cost-of-living-adjustment for the general operating costs that school districts face, with no restrictions; and

If a school district receives an increase higher than inflation, at least 80% of the additional amount must be used to expand programs and services to students from a menu of specific proven academic programs. These priority investments include:

- Making sure that 100% of the school district's incoming cohort of kindergarten students has access to pre-kindergarten, Head Start or high-quality early childhood education through a community provider with at least a STAR 3 rating;
- Extending the school day to increase instructional time for students;
- Extending the school year to increase instructional time for students, such as by adding weekend instruction or lengthening the school year;
- Tutoring students who are struggling in reading and math;
- Providing full-day kindergarten to all students;
- Reducing class size;
- Offering intensive, proven training to improve teachers' instructional practices and content knowledge; and
- Implementing new curricula and offering advanced courses.

School districts that receive basic education funding increases above the rate of inflation will continue to be required to submit their investment plans to the Department of Education for review to ensure that funds are used for proven programs and targeted to address the needs of the lowest-achieving students; academically challenged districts must receive Department approval on their basic education subsidy investment plans.

The FY2009-10 proposed school funding formula allocations are posted on the Department of Education's website. The funding formula will be run again for FY2010-11 in February 2010 using updated data.

While some portions of the stimulus – such as the State Fiscal Stabilization grants and the Title I, IDEA and Title II-D increases – are time-limited funds, the Department of Education advises that districts consider the basic education subsidy increase as being built into the state's funding base. As a result, PDE recommends that districts budget these resources for ongoing programs and services that will provide core academic support to students and to expand innovative programs that are achieving the greatest student learning gains.

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund grants to school districts

In addition to the continuation of the state's school funding formula, the Stabilization Fund includes \$317 million in grants to school districts that will be made available in FY2009-10. These funds can be used for any of the following purposes:

Modernization, renovation and repair of school facilities

Basic education: Any activity authorized by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (which includes No Child Left Behind)

Special education: Any activity authorized by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Career and technical education: Any activity authorized under the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

Adult and family literacy: Any activity authorized under the federal Adult and Family Literacy Act

In deciding how to allocate these resources, the Department of Education recommends that school districts fund one-time expenditures that can be funded within two years and do not need to be sustained in the future. School modernization and basic and special education expen-

Strategically Investing Non-Recurring Federal Funds

Major components of the stimulus package have been described as one-time increases in federal funding designed to avoid state and local budget cuts and to spur investment during the national recession. In making decisions about how to spend stimulus funds, school districts are advised to consider that the following direct grants have a specific and limited time horizon:

1. One-time grants to school districts provided out of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund
2. Increase in Title I funding
3. Increase in IDEA (special education) funding
4. Increase in Title II-D (educational technology) funding

Unless the law changes, these funds will no longer be available after the existing appropriations are exhausted. As a result, the Department of Education recommends that school districts use the additional funding in the above categories to fund one-time expenditures that can be spent in the next two years and that do not need to be sustained in the future.

In evaluating potential funding uses, PDE recommends that school districts: First, inventory their short-term needs – which could, for example, include additional textbooks, technical expertise or facility upgrades like a new heating system that drives down future building operating costs; and Second, rank those needs based on what investments are most important to increasing student learning for the lowest-achieving students – including by considering what strategies are most effective at spurring innovation and increasing achievement that are aligned with the school district's other academic improvement efforts that are underway and working.

Combining the four one-time funding streams, the Department of Education advises that school districts use their one-time funds as follows: after deducting funds needed to avoid layoffs and make up for revenue shortfalls, an estimated 1.5% might be used for operational costs and the balance – 98.5% – invested in the following menu of items.

These uses will increase innovation, boost the achievement of low-achieving students and change the way school districts operate over the long-term by increasing efficiency to drive more resources into the classroom:

Academic Investment	Estimated cost per unit	Funding Stream			
		Title I	SFSF*	Title II-D	IDEA
1. Make up for lost local tax revenue to avoid teacher layoffs and other budget cuts due to the recession					
2. Complete Classrooms for the Future deployment in high schools and extend to middle schools (see notes below)	\$34,000 per classroom for Apple; \$22,400 per classroom for PC				
3. Improve science labs in middle and high schools (see notes below)	\$285,000 per lab				
4. Purchase elementary school science exploration kits, replicating the state's successful Science: It's Elementary program	\$500 per classroom				
5. Provide recruitment bonuses					
6. Implement a pilot program of principal incentives and/or building-based teacher incentives to determine whether it is effective					
7. Invest in career and technical education equipment based on needs identified by regional employers (see notes below)					
8. Create a PreK-12 school safety plan with technical assistance, and purchase any necessary school safety resources					
9. Increase materials in libraries (see notes below)					
10. Purchase adolescent literacy curricula and training, and provide literacy services to students					
11. Tutoring and other extended learning opportunities, with a focus on hardware, software and other one-time purchases (see notes below)	If computers are needed: \$280,000 to \$300,000 over 3 years for 30 workstations; if computers are already in place: \$5,500 per year plus \$44 per student				
12. Early childhood education (see notes below)					

Academic Investment	Estimated cost per unit	Funding Stream			
		Title I	SFSF*	Title II-D	IDEA
13. Obtain state-of-the art assistive technology devices and provide training in their use to enhance access to the general curriculum for students with disabilities					
14. Provide specific professional development (see notes below)					
15. Develop or expand the capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning					
16. Train teachers in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate curricula to launch new classes	\$2,300 to \$7,300 per classroom depending on the subject area				
17. Modernize and upgrade school facilities (see notes below)					

* State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) sub-grants

The use of Title I funding is limited to Title I buildings or specifically to buildings designated as “school-wide” Title I participants. The use of IDEA funds is restricted based on whether eligible students with disabilities are being served by the expenditure. The Department of Education is ready to help school districts identify appropriate funding streams to meet academic priorities.

The Department of Education is already developing new tools that will be made available at no cost to school districts and that school districts therefore do not need to fund, including a volunteer model curriculum in reading, math, science and social studies; diagnostic tools to identify students’ individual learning needs; student longitudinal data systems; and tools to analyze data at the school district and school level. If school districts are interested in developing tools to analyze data at the classroom level, the Department of Education will also create a consortium of districts with similar goals and collaborate on the project.

In addition, and as described below in greater detail, where a number of school districts plan to purchase the same materials and services, the Commonwealth will work to create state- level contracts with vendors in order to aggregate school district purchasing power and achieve the lowest possible costs.

The following notes refer to individual programs from the table on the prior pages:

Classrooms for the Future

Classrooms for the Future is Pennsylvania's successful initiative to transform high school teaching and learning through the use of laptops on student desks and intensive teacher training. It is a proven strategy for increasing student motivation, and school districts can choose to use a portion of their stimulus grants to expand its reach. Governor Rendell has proposed \$22 million in Classrooms for the Future funding in FY2009-10, but given the state's economic situation it is not possible to predict whether the General Assembly will agree to this amount; in addition, the FY2010-11 budget will face similar challenges, and even if fully funded the program would not reach all high school classrooms. Stimulus funds can enable school districts to more rapidly deploy Classrooms for the Future technology, to reach more high school classrooms, and to extend the program to earlier grades.

The Department of Education will continue to offer a single statewide PC contract and a single statewide Apple contract for equipment and technical support from which school districts can purchase.

Science lab equipment

Research shows that student interest in pursuing high-demand science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers is often dampened by the fact that students spend high school in classrooms with outdated, irrelevant technology. Stimulus funds can enable middle and high schools to upgrade their technology and labs to increase student engagement. School districts that choose to invest in this area are advised to couple their equipment purchases with teacher training to ensure that instructional practice is simultaneously upgraded.

Career and technical education

The stimulus funds represent a significant opportunity to upgrade not only career and technical education equipment, but more importantly the programs offered by school districts and by their Area Vocational Technical Schools (AVTS).

Specifically, career and technical education upgrades are most effective when school districts take the following steps:

1. Analyze current and projected labor market data to determine where there is a need for new career and technical education options for students;
2. Involve regional businesses in designing, evaluating and updating the programs;
3. Align curriculum, equipment and teacher selection and training to industry standards; and
4. Ensure that industry credentials are awarded to students who successfully complete the program.

In addition, school districts can hire transition coordinators to work with employers in the community to develop job placements for youths with disabilities.

School libraries

School library investments are a wise use of stimulus funds because they are one-time purchases that can have a long-term impact on student literacy, research skills and interest development. School districts can expand both their print collections and material available through software.

In order to best use these limited funds, the State Librarian recommends that school districts not purchase online resources that are already available through the POWER Library, which can be viewed at www.powerlibrary.net. Likewise, it is advised that research materials that are frequently updated, such as encyclopedias, almanacs and directories, not be purchased in print format.

Tutoring and other extended learning opportunities

School districts can use grant funds to support tutoring and other programs that provide more learning time for struggling students. For example, a district can:

- Purchase hardware and software that provide individualized lesson support in reading and math;

- Provide new opportunities for Title I school wide programs for secondary school students to use high-quality, online courseware as supplemental learning materials for meeting mathematics and science requirements; and

- Establish or expand fiscally sustainable extended learning opportunities for Title I- eligible students in targeted assistance programs, including activities provided before school, after school, during the summer, or over an extended school year.

Early childhood education

Providing high-quality early childhood education is one of the most effective strategies to increase achievement over a student's lifetime. While increasing the number of pre-kindergarten slots is best supported with ongoing funding streams, there are a number of one-time expenditures that support increased access to and quality of pre-K programs:

- Strengthen and expand early childhood education by providing resources to align a district-wide Title I pre-K program, along with other school district and high-quality community provider programs, with state early learning standards and state content standards for grades K–3;

- Expand the availability and range of inclusive placement options for preschoolers with disabilities by developing the capacity of public and private preschool programs to serve these children;

- Provide joint professional development for school district and community personnel from PA Pre-K Counts sites, local Head Start Grantees, and STAR 2,3 and 4 child care programs;

- Focus on improving the transition into pre-kindergarten and from pre-K to kindergarten, including through resources for Community Engagement Group Transition Teams, visitation for parents and children, and other school readiness services;

Expand the use of the Work Sampling assessment to additional early childhood students and into kindergarten and first grade;
 Conduct joint registration campaigns for all high-quality pre-school programs; and
 Provide parent leadership support and training for parents in the early education programs.

Professional development

Using stimulus funds for professional development is a good idea if the school district has a specific strategic need – based on student learning data – that can be addressed within two years.

For example:

Establishing a system for identifying and training highly effective teachers to serve as instructional leaders in Title I schoolwide programs and modifying the school schedule to allow for collaboration among the instructional staff;

Establishing intensive, year-long teacher training for all teachers and the principal in a Title I elementary school in corrective action or restructuring status in order to train teachers to use a new reading curriculum that aggressively works on improving students' oral language skills and vocabulary or, in some other way, builds teachers' capacity to address academic achievement problems;

Providing professional development to teachers in Title I targeted assistance programs on the use of data to inform and improve instruction for Title I-eligible students;

Using reading or mathematics coaches to provide professional development to teachers in Title I targeted assistance programs;

Providing intensive district-wide professional development for special education and regular education teachers that focuses on scaling-up, through replication, proven and innovative evidence-based school-wide strategies in reading, math, writing and science, and positive behavioral supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities; and Providing training to all middle school teachers in adolescent literacy based on analysis of middle and high school reading data

PDE recommends that professional development funded through the stimulus focus on the data-driven needs of schools in Improvement and Corrective Action, as identified in the "Getting Results" tools that are part of school improvement planning, and that all professional development funded with stimulus resources be concentrated on improving instructional practice and content knowledge.

School modernization

The federal stimulus law allows school districts to invest their one-time Stabilization Fund grants in facility modernization. Improving infrastructure is an important investment because it creates immediate jobs while setting the stage for improved long-term performance.

Early childhood education. Because of the relationship between age-appropriate facilities and student learning outcomes for young children, the Department of Education advises school districts to use a portion of their funds for modernization projects that support early childhood education. These projects can be carried out in both district-owned facilities and the

facilities that are owned and operated by high-quality community providers that serve children in partnership with the school district, including Pre-K Counts and Keystone STARS 3 and 4 operators. For example, existing space can be renovated into developmentally and educationally appropriate activity centers and furnished, and school districts can fund playground improvements. More information is available at the PDE stimulus website.

Sustainable facilities and energy use. School districts are highly encouraged to invest in “green” and sustainable products and materials as part of modernization efforts. These upgrades can save school districts money by improving the efficiency of buildings and thereby cutting energy and operating costs. A first step in this process is having an energy audit completed by an Energy Service Company (ESCO).

An ESCO can make it possible for school districts to implement energy conservation measures in existing buildings without investing significant capital funds up-front. School districts instead finance the cost of the project and the annual energy savings pays both the cost of borrowing and the ESCO – while still saving money for the district in the long-run.

For additional information on ESCOs, please contact: Bruce Stultz
New Energy Management Coordinator
Pennsylvania Department of General Services
414 North Office Building Har-
risburg, PA 17125 (717) 787-
5996

To contact an ESCO directly, please refer to the Department of General Services’s list of qualified companies available at the following link or from the PDE stimulus website: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1300&&PageID=269159&level=4&css=L4&mode=2>

In addition to ESCO projects, school districts may wish to consider other capital improvements that can help reduce energy usage and conserve natural resources. The Department of Education will be partnering with other agencies and statewide educational associations to provide extensive information on these types of investments. Information on this initiative, including dates of upcoming regional meetings, will be available at <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stimulus>.

The Department of Education will also work to collect information from school districts that are considering the purchase of windows, roofing and other material and try to aggregate orders and achieve the best price, in accordance with the School Code bidding provisions.

School districts that are interested in achieving recognition through a green building rating system are advised to pursue a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) rating through the United States Green Building Council. Additional information on state incentives for green building is available on the PDE stimulus website.

Allowable uses. The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund in the stimulus law specifies that funds can be used for “modernization, renovation or repair of public school facilities, including modernization, renovation and repairs that are consistent with a recognized green building rating system.”

Funds cannot be used for: Construction of a new school; Payment of maintenance costs;

Stadiums or other facilities primarily used for athletic contests or exhibitions or other events for which admission is charged to the general public;

Purchase or upgrade of vehicles; and

Improvement of stand-alone facilities whose purpose is not the education of children, including central office administration, operations or logistical support facilities.

The Department of Education recommends that school districts ensure that they are maximizing their e-rate funding before they use any stimulus grants on Internet wiring or other covered items. If a school district does pursue these expenditures, it is advised to use Title I funds for an applicable school or Title II- D funds rather than Stabilization funds where possible.

State reimbursement for eligible repair and renovation projects. School districts that pursue significant renovation projects using their stimulus grants will need to decide whether to also seek state reimbursement for a portion of the construction costs. The advantage to foregoing state reimbursement is that school districts can start construction more quickly by avoiding the PlanCon process; the disadvantage is that school districts would be unable to draw down eligible state funding. Please note that the Department of Education is unable to say in what fiscal year the state match would become available.

To speed the process, the Department will expedite mandate waiver and variance requests. Already filled-in mandate waiver templates are available for download at www.pde.state.pa.us/stimulus. School districts may download, sign and return these waivers as needed:

School districts can access already filled-in mandate waiver forms for completion of a district-wide facility study. PDE will approve these submissions within 24 hours of receipt;

School districts can access already filled-in mandate waiver forms for obtaining approval of all other state and local government agencies before a school district enters into a construction contract. PDE will approve these submissions within 24 hours of receipt; and

PDE will expedite requests for a variance on the “20-year rule,” which limits the ability of a school district to receive state reimbursement for projects on the same building within two decades.

For school districts that do choose to apply for state reimbursement, the Department of Education will streamline the PlanCon process and commit to a 2-day turnaround on all forms and documents submitted for approval. Please note that projects that include an addition greater

than 20% of the existing square footage of the building will require an Act 34 public hearing, regardless of whether they seek state reimbursement for a construction project.

The Department will facilitate easier school district submission of the required PlanCon forms and faster review and approval as follows:

Traditional PlanCon Process	Streamlined stimulus process for Act 34 projects	Streamlined stimulus process for non-Act 34 projects
A: Project justification B: Schematic review C: Site acquisition (if applicable)	Parts A, B and C can be simultaneously approved by the school board and submitted as a packet to PDE	Parts A, B, C, D and E can be simultaneously approved by the school board and submitted as a packet to PDE
D: Project accounting based on estimates	Must wait at least 30 days after the Act 34 hearing before approving and submitting Part D	
E: Design development	Parts D and E can be simultaneously approved by the school board and submitted as a packet to PDE	
F: Construction documents	PDE will review and approve completed paperwork within 2 days. The school district can advertise for bids, submit Part F, open bids and begin contract paperwork.	
	PDE will review and approve completed paperwork within 2 days	PDE will review and approve completed paperwork within 2 days.
G: Project accounting based on bids	After approval of Part F, the school district can enter into contracts and start construction.	
	Part G is submitted	Part G is submitted
	PDE will review and approve completed paperwork within 2 days; the school district is then informed whether the project is eligible for state reimbursement.	

School districts that do not seek reimbursement on a construction project are typically required to submit a one-page self certification. Under the Department’s expedited stimulus implementation, the necessary elements of this certification will be included in the basic information that a school district completes online to draw down its funds, and no separate certification will be required.

Bonds for school construction. In addition to the ability to use Stabilization Fund grants for school modernization, the stimulus package includes two additional programs: the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds and the Qualified School Construction Bonds tax credits. The Pennsylvania Department of Education will award Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) allocations, which enable school districts to borrow money interest-free for school construction

projects. The Department will release guidelines in April and make its first round of allocations no later than September 1, 2009. The Pennsylvania Department of Education will also allocate the new Qualified School Construction Bonds that support new construction, repairs and renovations. Additional information on the new bond program will be made available as soon as it is released by the federal government.

Investing with Transparency & Accountability

As part of Governor Rendell's commitment to ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of all stimulus funds, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will require school districts to provide additional information on the impact of the funding described in this document and the data will be made available to the public via the Recovery.PA.gov website.

School districts are advised to use public school board meetings to describe how they intend to invest stimulus resources and seek input from the community before their plans are finalized.

Measuring Performance and Providing Information to the Public

In addition to the traditional reporting that school districts submit to ensure compliance with federal rules, PDE will ask for data that measure the impact of these investments on students and taxpayers. A preliminary list of planned performance measures follows, and the Department of Education welcomes input from school districts and the public before the measures are finalized:

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Subgrants

1. Number of students served. This measure helps the public understand how many children in the school district benefit from an investment. *Data needed: Total student enrollment directly impacted by grant use.*
2. Academic improvement. The most important measure of an academic program's effectiveness is whether it results in increased student achievement. *Data needed: 1) Percent change in number of students on grade level (proficient or advanced) on the reading and math PSSA and 4sight quarterly (if administered); 2) 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress status of impacted school(s).*
3. Layoffs avoided. Two of the chief goals of the federal stimulus package are to avoid additional job loss and to accelerate the nation's academic progress; school district budget cuts that result in program elimination and teacher layoffs are therefore particularly harmful. *Data needed: 1) Total grant used to maintain existing programs divided by the average cost of teacher salary and benefits; 2) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 teacher complement in impacted school(s).*
4. Class size impact. Budget cuts that increase class size have the potential to hurt student achievement, while district strategies that reduce class size and enable teachers to individualize instruction can improve student learning. *Data needed: 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 ratio of teaching staff to students in impacted school(s).*
5. Property tax increase avoided. During this national economic crisis, significant property tax increases have the potential to inflict real harm on Pennsylvania homeowners who are

already struggling. *Data needed: Total grant used to maintain existing programs divided by 2008-09 current and interim residential real estate taxes collected.*

6. Energy efficiency. Investing one-time resources in school modernization projects that bring down energy costs is an effective strategy for keeping more funds in the classroom for years to come. *Data needed: 1) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 total kilowatt hours by month; 2) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 monthly energy bill.*

Title I Allocations

1. Number of students served. This measure helps the public understand how many children in the school district benefit from an investment. *Data needed: Total Title I student enrollment directly impacted by grant use.*
2. Academic improvement. The most important measure of an academic program's effectiveness is whether it results in increased student achievement. *Data needed: 1) Percent change in number of Title I students on grade level (proficient or advanced) on the reading and math PSSA and 4sight quarterly (if administered); 2) 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress status of impacted school(s).*
3. Layoffs avoided. Two of the chief goals of the federal stimulus package are to avoid additional job loss and to accelerate the nation's academic progress; school district budget cuts that result in program elimination and teacher layoffs are therefore particularly harmful. *Data needed: 1) Total grant used to maintain existing programs divided by the average cost of teacher salary and benefits; 2) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 teacher complement in impacted school(s).*
4. Class size impact. Budget cuts that increase class size have the potential to hurt student achievement, while district strategies that reduce class size and enable teachers to individualize instruction can improve student learning. *Data needed: 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 ratio of teaching staff to students in impacted school(s).*
5. Property tax increase avoided. During this national economic crisis, significant property tax increases have the potential to inflict real harm on Pennsylvania homeowners who are already struggling. *Data needed: Total grant used to maintain existing programs divided by 2008-09 current and interim residential real estate taxes collected.*

Special Education (IDEA)

1. Number of students served. This measure helps the public understand how many children in the school district benefit from an investment. *Data needed: Total students with disabilities enrollment directly impacted by grant use.*
2. Academic improvement. The most important measure of an academic program's effectiveness is whether it results in increased student achievement. *Data needed: 1) Percent change in number of students with disabilities on grade level (proficient or advanced) on the reading and math PSSA and 4sight quarterly (if administered); 2) 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress status of impacted school(s).*

3. Special education identification. Appropriate intervention and instruction reduces the number of students who are identified as having a disability, particularly in the case of students who are classified as having a learning disability or emotional disability. *Data needed: 1) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 number of students identified for special education (all categories); 2) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 number of students identified as having a learning disability; 3) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 number of students identified as having an emotional disability.*
4. Special education services. Pennsylvania's commitment to providing all students with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) includes increasing the opportunities for students with special needs to receive services in a regular education classroom, because inclusive teaching strategies are most effective. *Data needed: 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 percent of students with disabilities served in regular education classrooms.*
5. Pre-school services. IDEA Part-B Preschool funds are dedicated to providing young children with early access to intensive educational and support services in order to maximize their lifelong educational success and reduce the need for special education in later years. *Data needed: 1) Number of students served; 2) Percent of participants no longer requiring special education by kindergarten; 3) Percent of participants served in pre-school Early Intervention in inclusive classrooms.*
6. Layoffs avoided. Two of the chief goals of the federal stimulus package are to avoid additional job loss and to accelerate the nation's academic progress; school district budget cuts that result in program elimination and teacher layoffs are therefore particularly harmful. *Data needed: 1) Total grant used to maintain existing programs divided by the average cost of teacher salary and benefits; 2) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 teacher complement in impacted school(s).*
7. Class size impact. Budget cuts that increase class size have the potential to hurt student achievement, while district strategies that reduce class size and enable teachers to individualize instruction can improve student learning. *Data needed: 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 ratio of teaching staff serving students with disabilities to the number of students with disabilities in impacted school(s).*
8. Property tax increase avoided. During this national economic crisis, significant property tax increases have the potential to inflict real harm on Pennsylvania homeowners who are already struggling. *Data needed: Total grant used to maintain existing programs divided by 2008-09 current and interim residential real estate taxes collected.*

Education Technology (Title II-D)

1. Number of students served. This measure helps the public understand how many children in the school district benefit from an investment. *Data needed: Total student enrollment directly impacted by grant use.*
2. Number of classrooms served. This measure helps the public understand the scope of the school district's investment. *Data needed: Invoice summary report.*

3. Student engagement. Effective educational technology upgrades are integrated into classroom instruction and dramatically increase student motivation, an important predictor of achievement. *Data needed: School attendance rate compared to prior year.*
4. Hours of training given to teachers. Education technology investments create new opportunities to teach students in fundamentally different ways than the traditional chalk- and-blackboard classroom; because these are new strategies, teachers need professional education and significant support. *Data needed: Act 48 professional development reports.*
5. Hours of training given to administrators. School leadership is essential to maximizing the use of technology to improve classroom instruction, and principals and other school administrators need professional education to effectively implement these strategies. *Data needed: Act 48 professional development reports.*

Other Stimulus Investments in Education

In addition to the funds that are provided directly to school districts via established federal and state formulas, the stimulus law includes significant funding opportunities through competitive grants and other provisions.

As the Department of Education receives additional guidance from the federal government, it looks forward to:

- allocating funding to school districts and other educational providers where the stimulus bill gives the Department the authority to make funding decisions rather than relying on pre-determined formulas; and
- seeking every available resource that Pennsylvania can invest in increasing student achievement, including working closely with school districts throughout the process.

Funding streams that fall under these categories include:

Funding that school districts will be able to receive from the state...

1. *Title I school improvement:* Title I schools identified for School Improvement can receive additional funding administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These resources will be targeted to specific proven investments in schools and districts that face severe academic challenges. Awards cannot be made until 2009 Adequate Yearly Progress determinations are finalized after the school year ends; therefore, grants will be announced by September 1, 2009.
2. *Special education:* In addition to the grants that go directly to school districts, the Pennsylvania Department of Education may be eligible to maintain and administer a portion of these stimulus funds. The Department will provide additional information to school districts on its intended uses of these funds should they become available to the Department.
3. *Educational technology:* In addition to the grants that go directly to school districts, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will award nearly \$13 million for technology upgrades and related training to high-need school districts through a competitive grant process. Guidelines will be released in the near future and information will be made available in the eGrants system. Grants will be announced in Fall 2009.
4. *Education of homeless students:* The Pennsylvania Department of Education will award \$2.8 million to school districts to facilitate the enrollment, attendance and success in school of homeless children and youth. The Department will allocate these funds based on homeless child count data. Grants will be announced within 45 days of receipt of the federal guidelines.
5. *School cafeteria upgrades:* The Pennsylvania Department of Education will award \$3.3 million in equipment assistance for school cafeterias. As required by the United States

Department of Agriculture, grants to school districts will be awarded on a competitive basis with preference given to schools where at least 50% of students are eligible for free- and reduced-price lunch. The Department of Education will release guidelines within 30 days of the federal government providing additional information to states.

Funding that the state will apply for...

No later than the week of April 6, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will convene working groups including school districts and other stakeholders regarding the following competitive grants:

6. *State incentive grants:* The U.S. Department of Education will award competitive grants designed to spur progress in improving teacher quality, improving the collection and use of data, strengthening standards and assessments, and supporting struggling schools. At least 50% of each state's award must be distributed to school districts.
7. *Teacher quality enhancement:* The U.S. Department of Education will award competitive grants to states in order to reform teacher licensing and certification requirements, create alternative pathways for teacher preparation, and provide alternative pathways for state certification.
8. *Teacher and principal incentives:* The U.S. Department of Education will award competitive grants to states as well as school districts to implement performance-based compensation systems for principals and teachers.
9. *Statewide data systems:* The U.S. Department of Education will award competitive grants to states for "longitudinal data systems" that follow individual students throughout their elementary and secondary education, and into higher education and the workforce.

In addition to these two categories of funding, school districts will be able to apply directly to the United States Department of Education for certain funding, including...

10. *State innovation grants:* The U.S. Department of Education will award competitive grants to school districts that are making significant academic progress. Awards must be used to expand their work, share best practices and enter into partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations.