



State of Delaware  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

# NEWS

**For Immediate Release: Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

**Contact: Julia Blevins**  
**302-577-8158**  
**302-547-7164 (cell)**

## **Denn Outlines what the Stimulus Bill Means for Nonprofit Organizations at Town Hall Meeting**

*Denn highlights newly announced Strengthening Community Fund as an opportunity for nonprofit collaboration*

*Newark* – Today, speaking at a town hall meeting with over 100 nonprofit organizations, Lt. Governor Matt Denn, Delaware’s “Stimulus Implementation Czar,” explained new grant opportunities from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (or, “Stimulus Bill”) nonprofits, including a newly announced federal competitive grant called the Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF).

The SCF will select 34 programs from all applicants nationwide, up to \$1 million each per program. The fund is a “nonprofit capacity building program” designed to help strengthen the management and operations of nonprofit organizations. The fund does not seek to help organizations provide services. Instead, the purpose is to expand the capabilities of the staff, board of directors and volunteers. Specifically, the SCF will help non-profits with organizational issues like board governance and management; program



State of Delaware  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

implementation and evaluation; and there is a particular focus on disseminating information to the community about available government benefits.

“The Strengthening Community Fund is a highly competitive process especially since there will only be 34 awards nationwide and lots of organizations are eligible to apply,” Lt. Governor Denn said. “We are encouraging collaboration and partnership among nonprofits in Delaware because this is the only way we can compete nationally.”

The grant allows multiple organizations to partner together, with one lead organization applying for funds. The lead organization will be a funding intermediary or pass-through and can be a state or local government or a large nonprofit. The lead organization will, in turn, distribute the majority of the grant funds to smaller non-profits—especially those targeted at vulnerable populations—to build their own capacities.

“One of the things that I especially like about this grant is that it is targeted at smaller non-profits,” Denn said. “We have many non-profits in this state, a significant number of them faith-based, that are doing an awful lot with very little, and need help simply equipping themselves to operate as competitive organizations. This grant, if we receive it, will help them to do that.”

The free and open to the public town hall meeting provided a forum for Delaware nonprofits to share and discuss the possible economic impact the stimulus bill will have on Delaware; challenges and opportunities facing Delaware’s nonprofits; and opportunities to best utilize federal stimulus funds for short term and lasting impact. Further information including a full video of the town hall meeting and the handouts will be posted on the State’s Recovery Website, [www.recovery.delaware.gov](http://www.recovery.delaware.gov).

The town hall meeting was hosted at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Newark and organized by the Delaware Association of Nonprofit Agencies and Lt. Governor Matt Denn’s Office. Various state agency representatives including the Division of Health and Social Services, the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, the Department of Education, the State Housing Authority, the Criminal Justice Council, the First State Community Action Agency and the Office of U.S. Senator Tom Carper offered information about stimulus funding opportunities.



State of Delaware  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

**More information about the Strengthening Community Fund:**

Lead organizations will assist nonprofit organizations working in distressed communities with capacity building activities that support economic recovery. Specifically, lead organizations will assist grassroots organizations working in distressed communities with capacity building activities in five critical areas:

- 1) organizational development,
- 2) program development,
- 3) collaboration and community engagement,
- 4) leadership development, and
- 5) evaluation of effectiveness.

Capacity building activities are designed to increase an organization's sustainability and effectiveness, enhance its ability to provide social services, and create collaborations to better serve those in need.

**Eligible Applicants for the Strengthening Community Fund:**

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education
- Indian/Native American Tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Indian/Native American Tribal governments (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS status (other than institutions of higher education)
- Private institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations (other than small businesses)
- Small businesses
- Special district governments



State of Delaware  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Foreign entities are not eligible under this announcement.

Faith-based and community organizations are eligible to apply

For more information on the Strengthening Community Fund, visit  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/scf/index.html>

**Important Recovery Act Websites:**

Research the details of American Recovery & Reinvestment Act for Delaware and see State Grant Applications at <http://www.recovery.delaware.gov/>

Federal Recovery Act Website - [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)