

Implementing “ARRA”: Accelerating & Sustaining Oregon’s Economic Recovery

Oregon is focused on accelerating our state’s economic recovery by creating jobs and economic stability for communities throughout the state during this volatile time. Governor Ted Kulongoski’s approach is comprehensive, leveraging state and federal dollars and private investment to maximize efforts that deliver short-term stimulus and long-term economic prosperity. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”) empowers Oregon to invest in its economy by pursuing smart, sustainable, and transformational efforts – doing this the *Oregon Way*. Oregon’s strategy is to build on our track record of innovation by using this opportunity to transform the way the state approaches economic development and demonstrate to the world that through pioneering, green, and creative investments, we can deliver jobs immediately and for the long-term while also reducing energy costs and our carbon footprint – wins for our economy and environment.

What ARRA Means for Oregon

President Obama signed ARRA into law on February 17, 2009. This \$787 billion national economic recovery initiative will provide \$2.4 billion to Oregon over the next three years, in addition to making \$37 billion in competitive grants available to all states. The Governor, working with the state legislature, is targeting the \$2.4 billion to assist schools, help meet rising demands for social services, increase unemployment benefits, and create jobs through capital construction projects statewide. Equally important, the competitive grant programs in ARRA represent opportunities for Oregon to demonstrate how smart investments can create new long-term capacity in our communities and spark sustainable economic activity throughout the state.

The *Oregon Way* Project Criteria

By [executive order](#), Governor Kulongoski established six criteria that will serve as core priorities for efforts to identify and pursue projects that put federal stimulus dollars to work in Oregon:

- **Job Creation:** Achieve significant immediate job creation across all regions of the state.
- **Local Sourcing:** Enhance the regional economy and American manufacturing leadership by emphasizing Oregon-based companies and building the supply chain through partnerships.
- **Workforce Development:** Build long-term workforce capacity through on-the-job training and skills development.
- **Energy Impact:** Reduce our carbon footprint, improve energy efficiency, and promote Oregon’s sustainability, renewable energy, carbon reduction, and green development goals.
- **Integration:** Integrate the work of public/private and local/state/federal partners.
- **Applied Innovation:** Apply Oregon-grown innovation at a system-level scale, in order to enhance our potential to attract federal dollars through block grants and other sources.

All state agencies receiving federal stimulus funds through the ARRA will report to the Governor by mid-April on opportunities they identify for spending federal stimulus money in these ways, so as to create a short-term and long-term benefit to Oregon and enhance our chances of obtaining future federal investments.

The Oregon Way Advisory Group & Signature *Oregon Way* Projects

The Governor believes that a key to Oregon's success in implementing ARRA will be establishing public-private partnerships to guide our efforts. To that end, the Governor created the Oregon Way Advisory Group, made up of public and private sector leaders with sustainability expertise, who will assist state agencies, local governments, and others seeking competitive federal stimulus grants by identifying, developing, and prioritizing proposals that meet the *Oregon Way* criteria; promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction; and above all, create sustainable quality jobs for Oregonians. Biographies of the members of the Oregon Way Advisory Group can be found on Oregon's recovery [Web site](#). It is chaired by Dick Pedersen, director of Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality and Wally VanValkenburg, a managing partner of the Portland office of Stoel Rives LLP.

Economic Recovery Executive Team

The Governor also established an Economic Recovery Executive Team dedicated to coordinate and track the infusion of federal stimulus dollars into Oregon. In addition to a finance manager and technology manager who will advise state agencies on implementation of ARRA, this "war room" team will include program managers who will facilitate and track Oregon's economic stimulus efforts across state agencies in the following areas: Education, Transportation & Public Safety, Human Services, Natural Resources, and Housing & Economic Development. The team will report directly to the Governor's Office and be in regular contact with project managers throughout state government who are on the ground implementing the federal stimulus package.

Transparency & Accountability Measures

Governor Kulongoski is committed to ensuring that Oregonians know exactly how every dollar of federal economic recovery money is being spent, and can be confident that those dollars are producing results. Oregon is deploying a comprehensive statewide stimulus tracking database, gathering information ranging from project details, costs, timelines, and project manager and contractor contacts, to jobs created, energy saved, and carbon emissions reduced. This economic recovery tracking database will use innovative GIS technology and incorporate employment and workforce data, enabling Oregon to strategically target federal stimulus money to those localities where it will have the most significant impact. Information in the database will be available to everyone online at the governor's economic recovery website (<http://www.oregon.gov/recovery>), so that communities have access to regular progress reports on stimulus projects throughout the state.

To contact the Economic Recovery Executive Team, please call 503-378-6929 (503-378-"OWAY"), email Oregon.Way@state.or.us or visit Oregon's Economic Recovery website at: <http://www.oregon.gov/recovery>.