



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

February 10, 2009

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SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT

WHEREAS, the national economy is in crisis, significant job losses have occurred, credit markets are frozen and the stability of the national economy continues to deteriorate straining the fiscal budgets and economic potential of all fifty states; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island currently has an unemployment rate of over ten percent (10%), among the worst in the nation, and is currently facing an operating deficit of over \$350 million in the Fiscal Year 2009; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the economic downturn is widespread and is impacting cities, towns and private businesses alike; and

WHEREAS, significant reductions in state government have already been implemented over the past several years and Rhode Island state employment is at its lowest point since tracking began; and

WHEREAS, President Obama, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate are in the process of developing, debating and enacting economic stimulus legislation known as the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" ("ARRA"); and

WHEREAS, once passed, the ARRA will provide supplemental funding for the purpose of preventing further job loss, job creation through infrastructure investment, the development of energy resources, education reforms invested in science and technology, assistance to the unemployed and stabilization of state and local governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island is expected to receive significant additional funding as a result of the passage of the ARRA; and

WHEREAS, the Governor will be required to certify infrastructure investments as an appropriate use of taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island will need to efficiently and effectively facilitate the allocation of additional funding to stimulate the Rhode Island economy as quickly as possible by way of "shovel ready" reformations, and will have the opportunity to maximize funding by having an appropriate infrastructure in place to approve, coordinate and track the projects that result from ARRA funding; and

WHEREAS, significant oversight, transparency and accountability are imperative in the project approval, allocation, coordination, tracking, and auditing of funding received as a result of the ARRA; and

WHEREAS, the state of Rhode Island's capacity to be the beneficiary of additional stimulus is contingent upon the effective employment and recognition of the earlier described stipulations; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the ARRA funds is not solely to stimulate the economy in the short-term, but to develop longer-term economic opportunity and infrastructure improvement for the future; and

WHEREAS, the funding will provide a significant opportunity for Rhode Island to improve its competitive advantage among the states in the northeast as a desirable location for business development and expansion;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations by the Rhode Island Constitution, Article IX, and pursuant to Rhode Island General Law Section 42-6-8, do hereby order as follows:


1. The establishment of a Rhode Island Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment ("Office") within the Office of the Governor; and
2. The Office shall be responsible for administering and complying with the ARRA, and other state and federal economic stimulus legislation, and shall provide for the establishment of processes for identifying, evaluating, tracking, and auditing of infrastructure improvement projects and other initiatives required by the ARRA or other economic stimulus legislation; and
3. The Office shall present recommendations to the Governor who shall certify and approve infrastructure improvement projects connected to the ARRA or other related stimulus legislation; and
4. The Office, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Administration, shall be responsible for transparency, tracking and accounting for funds associated with ARRA and other federal or state economic stimulus legislation and shall file reports

and information to the federal government, or to a joint legislative oversight commission to be established by the General Assembly, as required; and

5. The Office shall consist of members designated by the Governor, reporting to the Governor in his role as chief executive, and the members shall provide support for the oversight, management, and facilitation of all state activities associated with ARRA or other federal or state economic stimulus legislation; and
6. All Executive Branch agencies and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation are directed to cooperate and provide support, assistance and expertise to the Office, and to assist in the prioritization of projects for economic development and job creation; and
7. All other instrumentalities of the State, including but not limited to, cities, towns and municipal agencies, are strongly encouraged to cooperate and provide support, assistance and expertise to the Office as necessary related to the administration, compliance and reporting of the economic stimulus legislation activity.

This Executive order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof.

So Ordered:



Donald L. Carcieri

Dated: 2/10/09