



**State of Arizona**

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# **Governor Jan Brewer Announces Stimulus Funding for Teach For America**

## *Brewer Remains Focused on Protecting Education*

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced the allocation of \$2 million of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) Government Services Fund, granted through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, to the national teacher training organization Teach For America (TFA). Joined by Phoenix Teach For America Executive Director Pearl Chang Esau as well as Excelencia Principal and Teach for America alumnus Damon Twist, Governor Brewer addressed a crowd of Teach For America supporters and alumni at the Excelencia School in Phoenix.

“I am pleased to announce the award of \$2 million of my discretionary funds to Teach For America,” said Governor Brewer. “Teach For America is an organization that has helped recruit, train, and support thousands of teachers for schools in low income communities. With continued advocacy and support, Teach For America will maintain its mission to end educational inequity and provide all children with the opportunity to attain an excellent education.”

“This award is a significant step toward fully funding the Phoenix program as one of Teach For America’s 35 regions and will allow it to maintain the trajectory toward building a critical mass of corps members and alumni leaders in Arizona,” said Executive Director Pearl Chang Esau. “Because of this investment, TFA will once again be able to bring up to 200 highly-talented young leaders to teach in high-poverty schools across greater Phoenix for the 2010 school year.”

Governor Brewer has chosen to allocate some of the discretionary funds to innovative education programs, as listed in the SFSF Phase I and Phase II applications. TFA’s program ensures schools are provided with highly qualified individuals as teachers and partners with districts and schools most in need of aid.

With a strong track record of success, TFA will use the funds to expand its program in Arizona, improve the quality of the Arizona education system and meet the objectives of the SFSF program. Using these funds, TFA will continue increasing the effectiveness of its teachers who are working to close the achievement gap for more than 20,000 low-income students in pre-K through 12th grade,

and bolster its efforts to reach students in high-need subject areas such as math, science, and special education. It will also be able to strengthen its work to develop the leadership of TFA's growing base of 420 alumni as they continue working for educational equity from both inside education and across other sectors.

This award comes at a critical time for Teach For America in Phoenix. As ASU's Sanford Education Project launches, it is necessary that TFA maintain its current corps size, which drives the capacity and resources available to it to engage in these types of partnerships. TFA will continue to maximize and leverage the Governor's support to increase investments from other sources. In the past, when TFA received state funding, it has been able to raise a significant return, mostly from private sources. The organization will work hard to ensure that this appropriation is a valuable investment for the state and one that has a dramatic impact on Arizona's student achievement. TFA has recruited, trained and placed more than 24,000 teachers since 1990 through its non-traditional route to teaching.

➤ ***Teach For America: Arizona***

With \$2 million dollars, TFA can have a very large impact on Arizona's K-12 school system.

TFA will use the funds in order to:

- Bring a critical mass of up to 200 new corps members in Arizona next year
- Increase the impact on students growing up in low-income communities from 20,000 to over 25,000.
- Increase alumni leadership impact, growing the number of alumni living in Arizona from 450 to 900 in three years. They will serve as outstanding career teachers, principals, charter school leaders, school board members, and leaders from every sector who will continue to improve public education in Arizona.
- Expand TFA's early childhood initiative.
- Further develop a pipeline of highly-qualified math/science and special education teachers in Arizona.
- Historically, TFA has been able to leverage state funds at a 4:1 ratio from other, mostly private sector sources. The organization anticipates continuing on the same trajectory.

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