

## ARRA Update

Several federal agencies have been releasing guidance and grant opportunities, deadlines and general information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

A large number of opportunities are becoming available as federal agencies implement the ARRA. You can search, monitor and review grant opportunities at [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov); contract opportunities at [FedBizOpps.gov](http://FedBizOpps.gov); and loan opportunities at [GovLoans.gov](http://GovLoans.gov). To learn if you are eligible to receive government benefits, visit [GovBenefits.gov](http://GovBenefits.gov).

Below is an updated list organized by federal agency of opportunities and information most relevant to NARC members. Remember to visit [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) for ARRA general federal updates, tracking, accountability, etc.

## Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA Recovery webpage - [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA\\_ARRA](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA_ARRA)

### **Broadband**

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, Acting Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Copps and U.S. Department of Commerce Senior Advisor and Acting Chief of Staff Rick Wade kicked off the joint broadband initiative under ARRA, holding a series of public meetings to help shape the broadband program.



Congress appropriated \$4.7 billion to establish a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for awards to eligible entities to develop and expand broadband services to unserved and underserved areas and improve access to broadband by public safety agencies. Of these funds, \$250 million will be available for innovative programs that encourage sustainable adoption of broadband services; at least \$200 million will be available to upgrade technology and capacity at public computing centers, including community colleges and public libraries. Up to \$350 million of the BTOP funding is designated for the development and maintenance of statewide broadband inventory maps.

### **Public Comment Opportunity:**

The coordinating federal agencies are accepting public comment to inform accelerating broadband deployment from ARRA in unserved, underserved, and rural areas, and to strategic institutions. The request for information issued jointly by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) and Rural Utility Services (RUS), solicits comments from interested parties on a wide range of topics (see below) critical to the design and implementation of NTIA's grant program and the Rural Utility Service's grant and loan program, including the establishment of selection criteria for grant awards, grant mechanics, the role of various stakeholders, and coordination between NTIA and RUS. The request for information also seeks comment on the creation of a national broadband map. All of these efforts should help inform the cross-agency work on the national broadband plan that will shortly be initiated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Comments will be received up to 30 days (Deadline of April 12) after publication of the RFI in the Federal Register. Comments may be submitted via the Web, email or mail. Commenters are strongly encouraged to file via the website, [www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants). All material sent via the U.S. Postal Service (including overnight or Express Mail) is subject to delivery delays of up to two weeks due to mail security procedures. Detailed requirements regarding submissions are set forth in the RFI. People submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be posted on the public Web site at [www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants).

*NARC will be submitting public comment on these grants and the overall development of this program.*

## Rural Business Enterprise Grant Programs (RBEG)

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the USDA Rural Development mission area will solicit applications under the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program when funds become available. The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. Applications submitted for ARRA funding may be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office until funds are depleted or until a date to be published in Fiscal Year 2010, whichever occurs earlier.

**Funding Opportunity Number: RDBCP-09-RBEG-ARRA**

**Total Funding: \$20 million**

**Approximate Number of Awards: Estimate 200**

**Average Award: \$99,000**

**Anticipated Award Date: Ongoing as projects are funded.**

### Applicant Requirements:

Applicants eligible for RBEG funds are public bodies and private nonprofit corporations, such as States, counties, cities, townships, and incorporated towns and villages, boroughs, authorities, districts and Indian tribes on Federal and State reservations which will serve rural areas. "Rural area" for this program is defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less, other than an urbanized area immediately adjacent to a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants. Applications will only be accepted from eligible entities. Applications will not be considered for funding if they do not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility or are missing required elements.

Assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include on-site technical assistance to local and regional governments, public transit agencies, and related non-profit and for-profit organizations in rural areas; the development of training materials; and the provision of necessary training assistance to local officials and agencies in rural areas.

[Click here](#) for the grant announcement.

## Department of Commerce (DOC)

DOC Recovery webpage - <http://www.commerce.gov/Recovery/>

### Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants

The principal objective of these NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants is to provide Federal financial and technical assistance to "ready-to-go" (shovel-ready) projects that meet NOAA's mission to restore marine and coastal habitats and that will result in near-immediate stimulation of local United States (U.S.) economies through the creation or retention of restoration-related jobs for work in U.S. jurisdictions.



**Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2009-2001709**

**Estimated Total Program Funding: \$170 million**

**Award Ceiling: \$20 million**

**Award Floor: \$500,000**

**Closing Date: April 6, 2009**

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. Territories, and state, local and Indian tribal governments.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## EDA Recovery Act Funding

Under this federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcement, EDA is soliciting applications for the EDA ARRA Program under the auspices of PWEDA. Specifically, the FFO pertains to applications for funding under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs only. Under this FFO, EDA will give priority consideration to those applications that will significantly benefit regions "that have experienced sudden and severe economic dislocation and job loss due to corporate restructuring," as stipulated under the Recovery Act. EDA provides financial assistance to distressed communities in both urban and rural regions.

Such distress may exist in a variety of forms, including high levels of unemployment, low income levels, large concentrations of low-income families, significant declines in per capita income, large numbers (or high rates) of business failures, sudden major layoffs or plant closures, trade impacts, military base closures, natural or other major disasters, depletion of natural resources, reduced tax bases, or substantial loss of population because of the lack of employment opportunities

**Funding Opportunity Number: EDA03102009RECOVERYACT**

**Closing Date: June 30, 2010. Funds are available for obligation until September 30, 2010; however, it takes a minimum of 90 days from EDA's receipt of a complete application until award, when funds are obligated.**

Eligible Applicants include:

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- District Organization
- Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes
- State, a city or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
- institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education
- public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State

[Click here](#) for the full funding announcement.

## **Department of Energy (DOE)**

DOE Recovery webpage - <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/>

### **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (Formula Grants)**

The ARRA appropriates funding for the DOE to issue/award formula-based grants under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. DOE's authorization for this program is set forth in Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007.



With the total \$3.2 billion that will be allotted through the EECBG Program, its purpose is to assist eligible entities in creating and implementing strategies to:

- reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;
- reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; and,
- improve energy efficiency in the building sector, the transportation sector, and other appropriate sectors.

Cities and counties will receive nearly \$1.9 billion. States and territories will receive nearly \$770 million. More than \$54 million will flow directly to tribal governments. States will receive and administer funds for those counties and cities that are not large enough to qualify for direct DOE funding. In addition, up to \$456 million will be made available for local energy efficiency projects under a separate competitive solicitation to be released at a later date.

**Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0000013**

**Closing Date: June 25, 2009**

**Expected Number of Awards: 2200**

Eligible applicants include:

- states
- U.S. territories
- units of local government
- Indian tribes

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Clean Cities FY09 Petroleum Reduction Technologies Projects for the Transportation Sector**

Under this Area of Interest funds are being offered for cost-shared projects that expand the use of alternative fueled vehicles and advanced technology vehicles. The installation or acquisition of infrastructure necessary to directly support an alternative fueled vehicle or advanced technology vehicle is also eligible. Operation and maintenance of vehicles, infrastructure and other associated equipment acquired through the program are also allowable within specified limits.

**Funding Opportunity Number: DE-PS26-09NT01236-04**

**Closing Date: May 29, 2009 (Round 1) and September 30, 2009 (Round 2)**

**Expected Number of Awards: 20**

**Estimated Total Program Funding: \$300 million**

**Award Ceiling: \$15 million**

**Award Floor: \$5 million**

**Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: Yes**

Eligible applicants include:

- State or local governments
- metropolitan transportation authority
- combinations of the above
- must have a designated Clean Cities Coalition in order to apply to the program funding.
- Any of these four entities may be the lead applicant.

[Click here](#) for more information on grant application procedures.

[Click here](#) for more general information on the program.

### **Weatherization Assistance Program (Formula Grants)**

ARRA appropriates funding for the DOE to issue/award formula-based grants under the Weatherization Assistance Program. The purpose of the Weatherization Assistance Program is to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential expenditures, and improve their health and safety. [Click here](#) to see how the formulas are allocated.

**Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0000051**

**Closing Date: May 12, 2009**

[Click here](#) for more information.

## **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

HUD Recovery webpage - <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/>

### **Neighborhood Stabilization Program**

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), round 2 will award competitive grants for activities eligible under division B, title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-289, NSP round 1), to address home foreclosure and abandonment and for the provision of capacity building and support for NSP grantees. For programmatic funding, rating factors will include grantee capacity to execute projects, leveraging potential, and concentration of investment to achieve neighborhood stabilization. HUD must issue a NOFA with application requirements no later than May 3, 2009. Grantees will prepare an application and complete citizen participation before submitting to HUD. Applications will be due to HUD not later than 150 days after enactment. HUD will review applications and make awards shortly thereafter. Grantees must expend at least 50 percent of each grant within 2 years and 100 percent within 3 years of grant award. HUD may also utilize a portion of available funding for a competitive technical assistance program to assist NSP grantees.



**Funding Opportunity Number: HUD-RA-04**

**Closing Date: September 01, 2009**

**Estimated Total Program Funding: \$1.98 billion**

Eligible applicants include:

- States
- units of general local government
- nonprofit entities
- consortia of nonprofit entities, which may submit proposals in partnership with for profit entities

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Community Development Block Grants**

[Click here](#) for more information

### **Homelessness Prevention Fund**

[Click here](#) for more information

## **Department of the Interior (DOI)**

DOI Recovery webpage - <http://www.doi.gov/recovery/index.html>



## **Department of Labor (DOL)**

DOL Recovery webpage - <http://www.dol.gov/recovery/>

### **Department of Labor ARRA Competitive Grant Opportunities**

The ARRA provides \$750 million for a program of competitive grants for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industry sectors. Of that amount, \$500 million is targeted for research, labor exchange, and job training projects that prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy as defined in the Green Jobs Act: energy efficient building, construction, and retrofitting; renewable electric power; energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicles; biofuels; deconstruction and materials use; energy efficiency assessment for residential, commercial, or industrial sector, and manufacturing of sustainable products using



sustainable processes. The remaining \$250 million will be for projects in other high growth and emerging industry sectors with a priority for projects that prepare workers for careers in the health care sector and projects that are tied to industry sectors where jobs are being created as a result of ARRA investments such as infrastructure investments.

The Department of Labor (DOL) is collaborating with other Federal agencies and developing a multi-pronged investment approach with these funds. DOL plans to issue Solicitations for Grant Awards (SGA) no later than June 30, 2009. The SGA will provide specific requirements for use of the funds, certification, data reporting, performance measures, and other necessary information.

DOL will be publishing the grant opportunities on Grants.gov. Information on grant opportunities will also be available on DOL's Recovery Web site: <http://www.dol.gov/recovery/>. This synopsis is for information purposes only.

**Formula Block Grant Allocations:**

Senior Community Service Employment and Native American Employment and Training Programs

[\[MS Excel\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Workforce Investment Act and Employment Service / Wagner-Peyser Funded Activities

[\[MS Excel\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Senior Community Service Employment Program

[\[MS Excel\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

**Department of Transportation (DOT)**

DOT Recovery webpage - <http://www.dot.gov/recovery/>

FHWA Recovery webpage - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>

FRA Recovery webpage - <http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153>

FTA Recovery webpage - [http://www.fta.dot.gov/index\\_9440.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9440.html)

- FTA [Federal Register Notice](#) of allocation of funds.

FAA Recovery webpage - <http://www.faa.gov/recovery/>

- [ARRA guidance](#) (PDF)
- [ARRA Questions and Answers](#)
- [Airport Projects by Category](#) (PDF)
- [FY 2009 Cumulative Approved ARRA Grants](#) (MS Excel)



**Corps of Engineers (Corps)**

Corps Recovery webpage - <http://www.usace.army.mil/recovery/Pages/default.aspx>



## **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

EPA Recovery webpage - <http://www.epa.gov/recovery/>

### **Brownfields Job Training Grants**

EPA is soliciting applications from eligible governmental entities and non-profit organizations to provide environmental job training projects that will promote job creation and economic development by facilitating the assessment, remediation, or preparation of brownfields sites. Total funding allotted for this program is \$5 million, with a project ceiling \$500,000. EPA expects to award ten projects.



**Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-ARRA--OSWER-OBLR-JT.**

**Deadline for submission: April 20, 2009.**

Eligible applicants must identify and propose to serve a community that currently receives, or has received, financial assistance (federal, state, or tribal) for brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund, cleanup, site-specific work carried out by state or tribal response programs, and/or targeted brownfields assessments performed directly by EPA. Furthermore, under this opportunity, the Agency is soliciting applications for projects that can be started expeditiously by applicants who can demonstrate the ability to contribute to economic recovery through the creation and/or preservation of jobs. The full RFA is expected to be posted by March 19, 2009. Once it is issued, this synopsis will be modified to include the link to the full announcement.

[Click here](#) for more information on the grant program.

[Click here](#) for application guidelines.

### **SmartWay Clean Diesel Finance Program**

The EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign and SmartWay Transport Partnership are announcing the availability of funding assistance through the ARRA, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005). Under the ARRA and EPA 2005, EPA's SmartWay Clean Diesel Finance Program is soliciting applications for projects that can be commenced expeditiously and that reduce diesel emissions and maximize job creation and preservation through the creation of national, state or local innovative financing program(s). Innovative financial projects include, but are not limited to, those where the loan recipient receives a unique financial incentive (i.e., better than regular market rates or conditions) for the purchase or of retrofitted vehicles or equipment.

The program provides \$30 million in new funding to support projects that reduce diesel emissions and maximize job creation and preservation through the creation of national, state or local innovative financial program(s).

**Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-ARRA-OAR-OTAQ-09-04**

**Closing Date: April 28, 2009**

**EPA evaluations: May 2009**

**Project review and award: May/June 2009**

**Project implementation: June 2009 to September 30, 2011**

Eligible applicants include:

- U.S. regional, State, local or tribal agencies or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality
- Nonprofit organizations or institutions that:
- represent or provide pollution reduction or educational services to persons or organizations that own or operate diesel fleets; or
- have, as their principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality
- School districts, municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), cities and counties are all eligible entities under this assistance agreement program to the extent that they fall within the definition above.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program

The EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign is announcing the availability of funding assistance through the ARRA and the Energy Policy Act of 2005, (EPAAct 2005). Projects must be able to commence expeditiously and reduce diesel emissions and maximize job creation and preservation through a variety of diesel emission reduction strategies. Eligible projects must include one or more of the following diesel emissions reduction solutions: verified emission control technologies including retrofit devices, cleaner fuels, and engine upgrades, idle reduction technologies; certified engine repowers; and/or certified vehicle or equipment replacement. Eligible vehicles, engines and equipment may include but are not limited to: buses; medium-duty or heavy-duty trucks; marine engines; locomotives; and non-road engines or vehicles used in: i) construction; ii) handling or cargo (including at a port or airport); iii) agriculture; iv) mining; or v) energy production.

Although this is a National competition, applicants must submit applications to the EPA Region in which the project will take place. Assistance agreements funded under this announcement will be evaluated and awarded by each of [EPA's ten Regional Offices](#).

**Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-ARRA-OAR-OTAQ-09-06**

**Closing Date: April 28, 2009**

**Expected Number of Awards: 150**

**Estimated Total Program Funding: \$156 million**

**Award Ceiling: \$10 million**

**Award Floor: \$250,000**

Eligible applicants include:

- U.S. regional, State, local or tribal agencies or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality
- Nonprofit organizations or institutions that:
  - represent or provide pollution reduction or educational services to persons or organizations that own or operate diesel fleets; or
  - have, as their principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality.
- School districts, municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), cities and counties are all eligible entities under this assistance agreement program to the extent that they fall within the definition above.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## State Revolving Funds

[Click here](#) to access EPA guidance.

## Water Quality Management Plans

[Click here](#) for access EPA guidance.