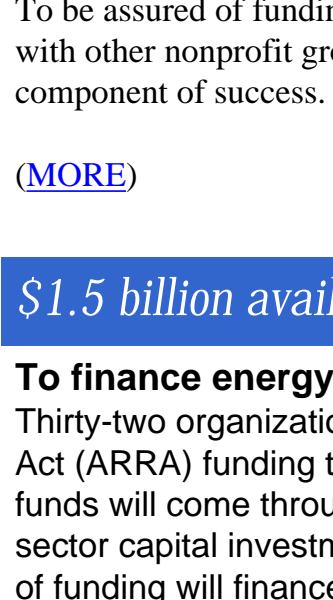


## Nonprofits to benefit from stimulus funding



Mary Scott Nabers  
President/CEO  
Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

Stimulus funding will be used to build roads, enhance education, protect the public, expand broadband to rural areas, upgrade buildings for energy efficiency and construct all kinds of buildings. It will also be used to provide benefit checks to the unemployed, give tax breaks to the middle class and dignified medical records. That is not news to most people. There has been much publicity about how the funding can be spent. What may surprise some, however, is the amount of stimulus funding that is allocated to flow to nonprofit organizations throughout the country.

To be assured of funding, nonprofit organizations should consider partnerships with other nonprofit groups, schools or coalitions. That appears to be a critical component of success.

[\(MORE\)](#)

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## \$1.5 billion available for private sector investments

### To finance energy projects, schools, health care facilities, retail centers

Thirty-two organizations throughout the country will share \$1.5 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to encourage private sector investments in communities around the country. The grant funds will come through the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program, which is intended to encourage private sector capital investment to jump-start the lending necessary for financial stability in the nation. The first round of funding will finance renewable energy projects, charter schools, health care facilities, manufacturing companies and retail centers. The awards to the entities range from \$10 million to \$90 million.

The NMTC program was established in 2000 and allows individual and corporate taxpayers to receive a credit against federal income taxes for making qualified equity investments in Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit totals 39 percent of the cost of the investment and is claimed over a seven-year period. A majority of the taxpayer's investment must then be used by the CDE to make qualified investments in low-income communities.

Some \$12 million of private sector capital has been invested through the NMTC Program into urban and rural communities and \$9 billion has been invested into approximately 2,000 businesses and real estate developments. The result is the development or rehabilitation of 68 million square feet of real estate, the creation of 210,000 construction jobs and the creation and retention of 45,000 full-time equivalent jobs at businesses in low-income communities.

Following are examples of some of the 32 entities funded, their allocation, their service area and projects they fund:

- AHC Community Development, LLC in Cleveland, Ohio, has been allocated \$55 million. The organization will make loans to fund real estate projects in higher education facilities, commercial/retail projects in urban communities and community oriented centers. The service area includes California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico and Virginia.
- SBK New Markets Fund, Inc. in Chicago has been allocated \$35 million. The company offers development of mixed-use, commercial/retail and community facility projects as well as new for-sale housing and the adaptive reuse and renovation of neglected buildings. It also supports energy efficient and alternative energy projects. The service area includes Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland.
- Enterprise Corp. of the Delta in Jackson, Miss., has been allocated \$20 million. It will offer loans from \$2,000 to more than \$2 million to microenterprises, community facilities, nonprofits, affordable housing developers, minority/women-owned companies and other businesses that promote jobs, equity and decent communities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and two counties in Tennessee.
- Pacesetter CDE, Inc. in Texas received an award of \$30 million to provide loans to businesses owned by women and minorities in Texas.
- NCB Capital Impact of Arlington, Va., has been awarded \$90 million to be spent in California, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Texas. It invests nationally in community-based schools, health care centers and long-term care facilities that serve low-income and very low-income populations.
- Commercial & Industrial Community Development Enterprise, LLC in Norwalk, Conn., has been allocated \$85 million. The entity provides loans and equity capital investments in low-income communities primarily in the Pacific Northwest, New England and the Southeast regions and will also make loans and investments in non-real estate services with an emphasis on forest products manufacturing, biomass and renewable energy. It serves Arkansas, California, Georgia, Maine, Mississippi, Montana and Oregon.

To view the complete list of recipients, their allocations and company profiles, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS.

## 'Roadmap' provides expedited funding, 600,000 jobs

### 10 projects will put teachers in classrooms, police on streets, provide jobs

The "Roadmap to Recovery," including 10 major projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), were outlined earlier this week when President Barack Obama met with Vice President Joe Biden and Cabinet members to discuss the second 100 days of the ARRA.

As a result of these projects and other ARRA funding, the president expects 600,000 American jobs to be either saved or created by the end of the summer. The list of 10 projects is expected to help keep more teachers in classrooms, put additional law enforcement officers on the streets and ensure individuals' access to healthcare - all within the next 100 days. The White House said that during the first 100 days after the Recovery Act was signed, some 150,000 jobs were created or saved, tax cuts were enacted for 95 percent of the country's working families and 4,000 transportation projects were funded.

Among the 10 projects highlighted as part of the "Roadmap to Recovery" to receive accelerated funding are:

- Funding for more than 1,100 health centers in all 50 states and eight territories to expand health care to 300,000 patients. The program also will create jobs.
- Upgrades to 90 Veterans Medical Centers in 38 states, creating jobs and improving delivery of health care to the nation's veterans.
- Funding to hire or keep some 5,000 law enforcement officers on the streets.
- Fund a Summer Youth Jobs program to give 125,000 young Americans summer jobs to introduce them to the workforce and provide job experience.
- Funding for work in 107 National Parks, creating 100 and improving national treasures.
- Providing for rehabilitation and renovations at nearly 100 airports and more than 1,500 highway locations in the United States. Projects will include runway construction at some airports to increase capacity and repaving of some interstates to help reduce congestion.
- Replace outdated water mains and build waste water treatment facilities for 200 small communities in rural areas.
- Fund 135,000 teacher, principal and support staff jobs in the country's schools.
- Fund work at Superfund sites, both creating and maintaining jobs and cleaning up sites to protect human health and the environment.
- Finance some 2,300 construction and rehabilitation projects at more than 350 military installations in the United States. The projects will enhance living quarters at the facilities and install green technologies at the various installations.

"Our measure of progress is the progress the American people see in their own lives," said President Obama. "And until that progress is steady and solid, we're going to keep moving forward. We will not grow complacent or rest. Surely and steadily, we will turn this economy around."

## Dept. of Defense pledges 2,300 projects by Labor Day

### Some 225 slated to be finished by then, others under construction

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) will be one of the first federal agencies speeding down the stimulus roadway as part of President Barack Obama's "Roadmap for Recovery," aimed at cranking up the speed at which stimulus projects are begun. The DoD plans to have construction and facility repair projects begun in 49 states, Guam and the District of Columbia by Aug. 31. Total price tag for those projects is \$1.9 billion.

DoD officials say these projects will not just be under contract, but construction will have started. Some 225 of the projects - roads, roofs, windows and air conditioning - should be completed by Labor Day. DoD officials expect 2,300 projects to be under way by Labor Day.

## First four states get funds for weatherization projects

### Arizona, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon awarded first installment of 40 percent

Arizona, Kansas, Mississippi and Oregon this week became the first states to receive weatherization funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). More than \$80 million will go to those four states from the U.S. Department of Energy for the Weatherization Assistance Program. The program will be available to certain low-income families to help them save money by making their homes more energy efficient, reducing heating bills by an average of 32 percent and reducing overall energy bills by hundreds of dollars each year.

These four states will receive 40 percent of the total funding previously authorized by the legislation. It is in addition to the initial 10 percent allocated previously for training and ramp-up efforts.

Following is a breakdown of this week's announced funding (figures are in addition to the initial 10 percent):

**Arizona** - \$22,809,311 to weatherize an additional 6,409 homes over the next three years. Ten local agencies will assist the state in providing these services, particularly to the elderly and individuals with handicaps and high energy consumption homes. Also includes training for new technicians. After demonstrating successful implementation, the state will qualify for an additional \$28 million.

**Kansas** - \$22,576,708 to reach an additional 5,820 homes. The state will rely on numerous public and private nonprofit agencies and county governments and has increased its training to ensure enough weatherization workers. The state is focusing on expanding its multi-family weatherization program to reach more low-income homes, particularly the elderly, disabled and families with children. A successful demonstration will net the state an additional \$28 million.

**Mississippi** - \$19,768,477 to reach 5,467 more families, focusing on single-family homes with priorities for the elderly and disabled, families with children and high energy consumption homes. A successful demonstration will result in \$24 million more in funds to the state.

**Oregon** - \$15,404,894 to weatherize an additional 4,635 homes by 2011, using an experienced network of local weatherization agencies focusing on low-income homes. Priority will be given to the elderly, disabled residents or families with children under age 6. A successful demonstration of the program will net the state an additional \$19 million in federal funds.

The balance of the funding for these four states will be released when they meet reporting, oversight and accountability milestones as required by the ARRA.

## Follow the money

### Applications solicited for Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants

Application period for the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will begin tomorrow, Thursday, at 9 a.m. EST. Applications for these Station Construction Grants (SCGs) must be received by Friday, July 10, at 5 p.m. EST. SCG grants will go directly to fire departments and will be awarded on a competitive basis. They can be used to build new stations or modify existing fire stations to enhance firefighters' response efforts and protect their communities. It is anticipated that 100 grants will be funded, totaling approximately \$210 million.

### Louisiana, Oklahoma funded to improve water quality, create jobs

The states of Louisiana and Oklahoma have been named recipients of Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grants are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

A total of \$435,200 has been awarded to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and a partial award of \$191,880 has been awarded to the Oklahoma Office of the Secretary of the Environment. The goal of the funding is not only to create jobs and prevent water pollution, but also to protect human health and the environment.

WQMP grants support activities that include setting standards, monitoring the quality of water, developing plans to restore polluted waters and identifying ways to protect current healthy water from becoming polluted. The state may also use these funds for other activities, such as developing plans to adapt to climate change, analyzing trends in water availability and use and creating low-impact development programs. Although the grants are awarded to state agencies, some of the funds may be awarded to regional and interstate planning organizations.

### Biden: High-speed rail funding expected late this summer

Funding for high-speed trains from the federal economic stimulus bill will be made in installments - with the first installment expected late this summer. The first payments of \$8 billion in stimulus funds were discussed by Vice President Joe Biden at a meeting with state governors recently. These trains can travel at speeds of up to 150 miles per hour.

Guidelines are expected to be issued to the states by the federal government by June 17 relating to how the funds will be awarded. The first installment will be used to improve systems where work could begin quickly with measurable results. There are 10 corridors identified as potential high-speed rail routes that could participate in the funding allocations. The president also has asked for an additional \$5 billion in high-speed rail funding in the federal budget.

A high-speed rail system, officials say, would reduce both highway and air traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and reduce energy usage, thus reducing dependence on foreign energy sources. A nationwide system of linked rail corridors is expected to be released by mid-October as part of a national rail plan. Biden said a national effort to build high-speed rail lines could have as big an effect on transportation as did building the interstate highway network. Participating in the discussion were the governors of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Also attending the roundtable session were transportation officials from New Jersey, Delaware, California, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

For information about the states and other funding opportunities, contact [Reagan Weil](#) or [Richard Hartmann](#) at 512-531-3900.

## Stimulus news briefs

### Nearly 20,000 apply for NIH Challenge Grants funded by ARRA

Nearly 20,000 applications have been received by the National Institutes of Health for Challenge Grants funded by the Recovery Act. Officials say the response is the largest in history from the scientific community, both in the number of applications and assistance with the peer review process.

The Challenge Grant program is designed to increase research and result in research dollars heading into communities throughout the United States. NIH requested applications on topics in 15 broad scientific areas that include bioethics, translational science, genomics, health disparities, enhancing clinical trials, behavioral change and prevention and regenerative medicine.

The applications will now be reviewed for compliance and then go through a two-phase approval process. More than 18,000 scientists are expected to assist with the peer review process. The Challenge Grants and other Recovery Act grants will lead to 40,000 applications this round with 28,000 reviewers. The awards will be issued by Sept. 30.

### New York adds 10 cents to each ARRA dollar to state research facilities

Seeking to leverage funding from the Recovery Act, the governor of New York this week announced a matching grant program that will provide 10 cents in state funds for every dollar in federal stimulus funds awarded to New York research facilities.

The program, called Innovative Economy Matching Grants, could leverage \$1 billion in supplemental grant money. The programs most likely to benefit from the matching grant are energy related (including smart grid), biosciences and health care, stem cell, information technology and nanotechnology research.

### Program will repay up to \$50K in student loans in health care

Repayment of student loans of up to \$50,000 is available to health care practitioners thanks to a major funding initiative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program provides for health care in needy communities while also relieving health care providers' student debt.

Close to \$200 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds are being made available to medical, dental and mental health clinicians who want to work at National Health Service Corps (NHSC) sites. Those who agree to serve for two years with the NHSC will have up to \$50,000 in student loans paid. Officials are also make awards to 3,300 eligible caregivers who serve in health centers, rural health clinics and other health care facilities that serve the uninsured and those who are under-served. They expect the offering will double the number of NHSC health care professionals already working.

NHSC has provided scholarship and loan repayments for more than 30,000 health care professionals over the last 40 years since the program began. Qualified primary care practitioners are urged to apply for the funding. To view the list of NHSC job vacancies by state, click [HERE](#) and look under RECENT REPORTS.

### \$7 million set aside for displaced workers to develop new skills

Auto industry workers and other displaced workers can benefit from \$7 million in federal stimulus grant funds that will be used by community colleges and other organizations to help adults develop new career skills. The programs can provide tutoring, academic and career counseling or can offer services that will help remove financial constraints for adults returning to school. Such services could include child care, transportation and textbook cost needs.

### S. Carolina orders governor to apply for recovery funding

A dispute over whether South Carolina would accept \$700 million in federal economic stimulus funds was settled recently by the South Carolina Supreme Court. Gov. Mark Sanford had stood staunch against the funds, but was overruled by the high court. The court issued a writ of mandamus, ordering the governor to apply for the funding.

The South Carolina State Legislature last month passed a law requiring the governor to apply for the funds. The high court ruled that the legislature has the authority to appropriate the funds and thus also could "mandate" that the governor apply for the funds.

The state's Education Department is hoping the funds will start trickling down to public schools within the next week or so, although they cannot be spent before the new fiscal year begins July 1. The governor, too, has said he will drop his lawsuit aimed at preventing the funds from being accepted.

### Sins of the past could hinder Baltimore's stimulus funds

Errors more than 10 years ago regarding reporting requirements for federal grant funds could mean that Baltimore would lose \$8.2 million in federal economic stimulus funds. The U.S. Department of Justice considers the city a high risk and may withhold the funds until the city gives an accounting for the funds from a decade ago. DOJ officials could block the funds until they receive a full accounting of the funds from 1996, 1998 and 2000, which could snuff out the city's plans to use recovery funds to hire more police and pay for other crime-fighting measures.

City officials called the discrepancy "paperwork issues," adding they are confident the funds can be accounted for. The city is expecting close to \$130 million in Recovery Act funds. Right now officials are scrambling to try to find receipts to back their spending claims. The city has had to return money twice because of incomplete paperwork. In recent years, city auditors have warned officials about the discrepancies. The funds anticipated by the city from the Recovery Act include \$5.2 million in formula-based grants that are allocated based on population and crime statistics, \$1 million in Violence Against Women grants and \$2 million in competitive Justice Department grants. Baltimore officials late last week submitted documents to the DOJ to try to have the city removed from "high risk" status. DOJ officials say processing the response will be expedited and if it is sufficient, the more than \$8 million in public safety funds the city is expecting for public safety projects could be headed to the city.

### HUD revises rules to include more housing authorities seeking grants

In an effort to ensure equal access to stimulus funds, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has revised its rules regarding allocation of some of its funding. HUD officials have lowered the threshold for public housing agencies seeking funds for roofing, plumbing and other capital improvements.

The rules originally limited eligibility for the nearly \$1 billion in funding to high performing entities, effectively eliminating housing authorities in some large cities such as New York and Los Angeles. Now only half of the money distributed in the first round of grants will go to high performers, instead of all of the funds.

## What the states are doing

**Wisconsin's** Milwaukee School Board is cutting expenditures with one hand while adding federal stimulus funds to its budget with the other. To deal with budget shortfalls, the district is cutting almost all travel funded by property taxes, freezing the filling of nearly two dozen vacant administrative positions, reducing consulting fees and cutting its busing budget. A total of nearly \$10 million in state was approved. On the other hand, the board agreed to spend more than \$3.8 million in stimulus dollars dedicated to helping low-income students and \$15.6 million for special needs students spending. The stimulus funds are expected to be used for programs to help involve parents in the education of their children, provide additional programs on Saturdays to assist the academic needs of students and expand training for teachers and principals.

**New York** towns and cities in three counties will build water treatment facilities or upgrade sewer systems thanks to Recovery Act funding of approximately \$20.5 million. That figure is part of the \$130 million being received by the state for similar uses. Greenport will renovate its water treatment plant to the tune of a \$9.4 million price tag. Another \$8.8 million will be allocated to Hudson to renovate its water treatment plant and pumping station. Granville will use \$1.3 million in federal funds to renovate its water treatment plant, \$231,000 will be used to renovate the water collection and treatment system in Catskill and another \$728,000 will be allocated for renovation of the water treatment plant in Greenville. These projects will involve contracts for plumbing, engineering, construction and manufacturing, to name a few.

In **Minnesota**, Minneapolis' Shubert Theater has been designated as the recipient of most of the city's \$3.6 million in community development stimulus act funding. Theater backers are only \$2 million short of the \$38 million needed to start reconstruction on the theater. Although some argued that the project would not create jobs, officials say more than 100 construction jobs will be created and 38 of the 41 full-time permanent jobs expected will be earmarked for applicants from low-income neighborhoods. The Shubert is a nearly 100-year-old theater that is being rehabilitated for dance and music events. An additional \$275,000 in stimulus funds will be allocated for the Fine Arts Center.

**Idaho** is in line for \$40 million in stimulus funds from the appropriation to the U.S. Forest Service to repair and replace bridges and road and to address river erosion. Most of the projects - including replacement of three bridges on the Salmon River, \$4.3 million to maintain the road to Yellow Pine and \$4.8 million to resurface 36 miles of roads and replace six bridges in the Boise National Forest - are in rural counties with high unemployment and will provide jobs there.

**Ohio** will be home to a variety of projects that have been announced to benefit from the \$6.1 million in federal stimulus funds headed to the state as part of the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. Programs in central Ohio will draw down \$1 million in funds for projects there that include \$279,500 for the Columbus school district for six school bus replacements. The Ohio Central Railroad project will garner \$809,934 for rail engine work and the Ohio Department of Transportation will be the recipient of \$572,000 for construction equipment diesel filters in several counties. The clean diesel program is part of the National Clean Diesel Campaign, which has been allocated \$300 million in federal stimulus funding.

**Hawaii** will ensure that some of its low-income residents benefit from federal stimulus funds awarded to make their residences more energy efficient. The projects will include installing compact fluorescent light fixtures and solar hot water systems for some 750 homes. Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. will be allocated \$2.5 million by the state's Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Those funds will benefit residents in counties in Maui, Hawaii and Kauai. The rest will be allocated to Honolulu Community Action Program Inc. for Oahu programs.

**New Jersey** youth in various counties will participate in a summer job program funded by the Recovery Act. The goal is to get them ready to enter the nation's workforce through on-the-job training and job experience. After receiving training, the youth (age 16 to 24) will be placed in jobs in either governmental or nonprofit agencies. Camden County is using a \$1.4 million grant from stimulus funds for its jobs program. The state received a total of \$20.8 for the program, with the remainder divided among other counties. The Camden program is open to the economically disadvantaged. Although veterans seeking short-term employment are welcome, the program is aimed at young people who are out of school and have been out of work for six months or longer.

**Pennsylvania** has \$273 million in unemployment benefits waiting as a result of the Recovery Act, but the state legislature has made no attempts to take the money, and there is no indication yet that they will. Like a few other states, some legislators in Pennsylvania believe taking the funds now will leave them open for having to continue the program after the recovery and legislators are not sure they will have the funding to do so. They estimate the cost after the recovery funding ended would be \$69 million to the state per year. So far, more than 30 states have qualified for at least a portion of the \$7 billion set aside nationwide.

**Michigan** will see \$6.8 million in recovery funds pour into the city of Ann Arbor. The funds are to be used for public safety projects, storm water projects and road improvements. Some of the funding already has been received by the city. It's a good time - the city is facing a \$7 million budget shortfall for the next two years. Funds will be used to finance a \$2.27 million road improvement project, \$1.76 million is dedicated to a storm water detention system and \$1.2 million is going to energy efficiency projects.

**Florida** may be a shining example of job retention from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The Lake County School District in Tavares could end up reinstating dozens of reading coaches and a handful of experienced administrators. The positions were targeted for cuts several months ago. The district is scheduled to receive some \$28 million in stimulus funds. The district had previously recommended almost \$25 million in budget cuts, most of them through job reductions. Among the jobs slated for cuts were 45 reading coaches. Five administrators were scheduled for demotions as well to help cut costs.

In **California**, the city of Chico is preparing a grant application for more than \$832,000 to help convert city street lights to LED lights. Energy efficiency projects are a big part of the \$877 billion recovery act. City officials are looking at the change in the lights not only as a way to stimulate the economy, but also to save the city on energy costs. They expect to do a demonstration project first to see if the amount of light generated by the LED lights is acceptable.

The **Texas** Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has accepted construction contract bids totaling \$104 million as funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The bids, for 26 transportation and construction projects, are projected to add more than 500 jobs throughout the state. The Texas Transportation Commission recently approved the contracts in its monthly meeting. TxDOT is looking to award additional contracts with ARRA funds in the coming months. Some 226 construction or maintenance projects have been awarded so far through \$378 million in ARRA funds, resulting in an estimated 3,161 jobs.

**Georgia** is already receiving part of its federal stimulus funding and has implemented a Recovery Act Implementation Team made up of officials of the planning and budget office and the state's 31 agencies, to oversee the spending. A little over \$2.8 billion of the funds have already been awarded - mostly to Medicaid, transportation and education projects. Georgia is one of 16 states that the federal Government Accountability Office will track over the next few years to ensure transparency and accountability of the spending.

## Other national news

### DHS announces \$60 million in Stonegarden grants for border states

Some \$60 million in Operation Stonegarden grants through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is being made available to 13 border states and Puerto Rico to assist federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies in securing United States borders and territories.

Texas, Arizona, California and New Mexico will account for 76 percent of the funding, up 59 percent from Fiscal Year 2008. The Fiscal Year 2009 Operation Stonegarden funds can be used for additional law enforcement personnel, overtime, travel and other related costs that increase the law enforcement presence along the border areas. This year, eligibility for Operation Stonegarden awards was expanded to include 39 applicants - 24 more than fiscal year 2008 - including states with international land and coastal borders.

State allocations include: Arizona - \$12,774,896; California - \$11,919,340; Idaho - \$229,008; Maine - \$1,524,872; Michigan - \$2,047,093; Minnesota - \$1,005,561; Montana - \$1,813,102; New Mexico - \$3,982,414; New York - \$3,558,187; North Dakota - \$1,138,829; Puerto Rico - \$529,947; Texas - \$16,719,377; Vermont - \$501,079; and Washington - \$2,257,194.

### New Jersey launches nation's largest transportation project

A third tunnel into New York City was launched this week, becoming the nation's largest transportation project. The project is expected to create 6,000 construction jobs.

Federal Transit Administration officials say the tunnel is the largest project ever funded by the agency. Some \$3 billion was being pledged by the Obama administration toward the \$8.7 billion effort. The tunnel will be dug under the Hudson River and will help facilitate the commute from New Jersey to New York City. The project is expected to be completed in 2017.

### North Carolina newspaper encourages local stimulus through local spending

North Carolina's *Gaston County Gazette* is asking its readers to each spend \$20 on June 20 to help the local economy. "The health of our local economy is one of the more pressing issues facing Gaston County. As a publisher in this community, we are pleased to do our part to jump start Gaston County's spending," said Publisher Jennie Lambert. The newspaper reports that if every adult in the county spent an extra \$20 with local retailers on one day, the collective economic impact would be \$3 million. The goal is for residents to spend \$20 locally that they would not otherwise spend on that date and to spend it in their home county. Newspaper officials say that same money will then come back to the county through paychecks for local workers and through community services funded by local sales tax revenues.

## Calendar of events

### FAA to host 'call to action' to inspect pilot training programs

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials will begin immediately inspecting pilot training programs to ensure that regional airlines are complying with federal regulations. A "call to action," including representatives of the major air carriers, their regional partners, aviation industry groups and labor, will be held June 15 with the goal of improving air safety and pilot training. The meeting will address pilot training, cockpit discipline and other flight safety issues.

The June 15 meeting is designed to address air carrier management responsibilities for crew education and support, professional standards and flight discipline, training standards and performance and mentoring relationships between mainline carriers and their regional partners.

### Don't miss out on another issue!

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## All 50 states have own recovery Web sites

All 50 of the states and the District of Columbia now have their own "recovery" sites where citizens can track where ARRA dollars are being spent in their respective states. The sites are charged with ensuring accountability and transparency in how the funds are spent and their Web sites show the projects being funded and the amount of ARRA funds allocated. For links to each of the state and District of Columbia recovery Web sites, click [HERE](#).

## The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an unprecedented infusion of \$787 billion into a flailing United States economy. The ARRA is designed to create or save millions of jobs and to address pressing needs throughout the country, from education to infrastructure. To view the bill as passed by the U.S. House and Senate and signed by President Barack Obama, click [HERE](#).

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### Procurement consulting and advocacy services

Strategic Partnerships, Inc. (SPI) and MultiState Associates Inc., the leading companies in the state and local government procurement and government relations world, have teamed to offer a timely client-customized service that helps companies find and capture state and local government contracts arising from the recently enacted federal stimulus package. [Click here](#) for procurement consulting and advocacy services