



Strategic
Partnerships, Inc.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT PIPELINE™

Your source for state and local government news and contracting opportunities

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Don't give up! Billions of stimulus dollars still available for distribution in 2010



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For those who haven't gotten their share of contracts from the \$787 billion federal Recovery Act, don't give up just yet. According to the federal government, as of Jan. 15, only \$264.9 billion of the total had been paid out. That's a little less than 34 percent. It looks like there is still plenty of stimulus money out there for 2010.

Approximately \$275 billion of the \$787 billion total was allocated for contracts, grants and loans - which has led to most of the contracting

opportunities for road and bridge projects across the country, energy efficiency and weatherization projects, building rehabilitation to revitalize neighborhoods and provide housing opportunities, grants to provide equipment to aid law enforcement and homeland security efforts and more. And through Jan. 15, only \$71.5 billion, or a little over a quarter of that \$275 billion in funds, has been paid out.

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Stimulus funds address community facility needs

Hospitals, courthouses, health centers, schools, fire departments funded
Rural area community facilities such as hospitals, courthouses, health centers, schools and fire departments in 11 states will share more than \$140 million in stimulus funds administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The funds will be leveraged by \$56 million from other sources.

Among the recipients is the Dillon County School Facilities Corp. in South Carolina, which will build two new schools and renovate two existing schools in three school districts in the county. The USDA has awarded a \$35.8 million loan and a \$4 million grant. Additionally, the Pikeville Medical Center in Pikeville, Kentucky, will receive a \$44.6 million loan to build a new 112,800-square-foot medical office building and parking garage.

To view the complete list of recipients of funding, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

For information about these and other funding opportunities, contact Reagan Weil or Richard Hartmann at 512-531-3900.

High-speed rail allotments to be made tomorrow

President will announce \$8 billion in funds as follow-up to State of Union address

Announcement tomorrow of billions of dollars in Recovery Act funds for a high-speed rail system throughout corridors across the nation is expected as a follow-up to tonight's State of the Union address by President Barack Obama. Thirteen major corridors across the country will benefit from \$8 billion in stimulus funds to be

awarded. The announcement will be made Thursday at a town hall meeting in Tampa, Florida. Florida's proposal for a line to connect Orlando and Tampa is a likely winner of some of the funding.

Stimulus funds to benefit rural development projects

Contracts will be available for building, renovations, transportation, planning, etc.

Rural communities seeking to expand got a shot in the arm from \$4 million in stimulus funding they will share that could lead to a multitude of contracting opportunities. The funds will allow the businesses to access capital to help with start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and more.

For instance, a vacant building in Ohatchee in Calhoun County, Alabama, will be refurbished and become a local grocery store thanks to a \$99,000 grant. Another \$99,000 grant will allow Cleveland, Tennessee, to construct the Cleveland Bradley Energy Center to serve start-up businesses specializing in alternative energy, conservation, green businesses and in businesses developing green technologies.

To see a complete list of the recipients, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

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Another round of broadband funding announced

Fourteen projects will share total of \$313 million in unserved, under-served areas

More than \$309 million in Recovery Act funding has been allocated for 14 broadband infrastructure projects. These projects are expected to bring broadband Internet service to rural customers throughout the country. The projects have leveraged an additional \$3.55 million in private investments, bringing the total available for projects to more than \$313 million. The funds are part of the \$2.5 billion in Recovery Act funds administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that are dedicated to bringing broadband service to unserved and under-served areas of the country.

The awards support institutions such as libraries, public buildings and community centers that are the cornerstones of rural communities. As an example, BEK Communication Cooperative in Burleigh County, North Dakota, will use its \$2 million grant and \$2 million loan, coupled with \$2 million in leveraged funds, to expand its existing service. It will expand to offer fiber-to-the-premises service to more than 540 homes and anchor institutions currently under-served. The current system only serves approximately 53 percent of the area's population.

In Marion County, Oregon, the Gervais Telephone Company will benefit from a \$314,000 grant and a \$314,000 loan to extend its existing fiber network by building out from the nearest fiber splice point through the funded service area. It will allow for providing broadband connectivity to residential and business end users and four anchor institutions.

To view the complete list of award recipients, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

For information about these and other funding opportunities, contact Reagan Weil or Richard Hartmann at 512-531-3900.

Government contractor warning: Be sure federal taxes paid

Private contractors with unpaid taxes to be blocked from federal contracting

The federal government is taking steps to ensure that private contracts with unpaid taxes are not awarded federal contracts. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has been directed to review the certifications of federal contractors that they are non-delinquent on their federal taxes when they submit bids. Delinquent taxes by federal contractors cost the government up to \$5 billion, according to federal officials. A report is expected within 90 days.

The Office of Management and Budget, the Treasury Department and other federal agencies have also been directed to evaluate the practices of contracting officers and report within 90 days on any improvements that will make sure firms delinquent on taxes are not awarded federal contracts. The President has said he will include a provision in his FY 2011 budget request that would allow the IRS to recoup unpaid taxes before a federal contract can be issued.

Beating the economy:

University uses new financial tool for new facilities, lower costs

Private developers are expected to build and then lease back to the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) a \$198 million, 237,000-square-foot, five-story building. The building would house the neuroscience center at the Mission Bay campus and represents a new kind of financial deal that would allow for more low-cost building projects for the university.

Expected to be completed in spring 2012, the building would consolidate eight UCSF locations and 600 employees for neuroscience research, including as many as 100 investigators. Initial construction costs would be covered with a nonprofit bond offering either by using Recovery Act Build America Bonds or a tax-exempt bond. The university would lease back the building over about 30-40 years.

UCSF lease payments would be approximately \$11.8 million per year for the first 10 years plus \$1.7 million paid for building operations. That would increase to \$16.4 million a year in interest and principal for 22 years. The annual rent would be lower with a 40-year bond. That does not include \$37 million for infrastructure improvements necessary for the neuroscience building and three adjacent blocks. UCSF would own the building after the lease expires.

What the states are doing with stimulus funds

Transit improvements in Florida got a \$4.2 million boost from Recovery Act funds this week. The funding includes \$102,141 for Charlotte County for operating assistance and \$4.1 million to the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners for operating assistance, shelters, equipment and hybrid buses.

Dayton, Minnesota, could be the home of the new Minnesota Vikings football stadium if private developers and local government officials have their way in picking a new sight in suburbia. Stimulus-related Building America Bonds are being considered to help finance the stadium, along with a 2 percent increase in the hospitality tax across the seven-county metro area. The federal bonds, made possible by the stimulus bill, could provide up to \$1 million per year to help make interest payments on the stadium, which is estimated to cost approximately \$870 million. Such a project would need legislative approval.

Workers are busy in Jefferson City, Missouri, as homes of some 21,000 low-income Missouri families are being weatherized. The stimulus funds are part of \$128 million the state has received to make homes more energy efficient. Eligibility was recently expanded so that more families qualify.

Federal stimulus funds are ensuring that students in schools in 22 New Hampshire towns have new laptops, digital cameras and other high-tech equipment. The funds for the equipment comes from the Enhancing Education Through Technology Program and the money is being disbursed to the school districts by the state. It is being directed to high-needs districts.

The University of Texas at Brownsville-Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, has received \$3.99 million in Recovery Act funding that will be used to build new biomedical research laboratories. The new labs will be part of a wing of the Science and Technology Learning Center, a new facility being constructed.

A sidewalk along Blackrock Road in Nassau County, Florida, will be constructed with \$632,500 in stimulus funds. The money, left over from other projects that came in under the projected costs, will be administered by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization. The sidewalk will run between Windsor Drive and Heron Isles Parkway. Construction could begin in spring or early summer.

New security cameras will be purchased from stimulus funds for all buses in the Waukesha, Wisconsin, Metro Transit System. The Transit Commission Board has agreed to spend \$72,389 of its \$1.2 million in Recovery Act funds for cameras to equip the remainder of its fleet.

A Denver, Colorado, community wind-power project will benefit from \$2.5 million in federal stimulus funds. Phillips County is seeking to build its community-own 30-megawatt project that will ultimately result in a 650-megawatt wind farm within Sedgwick, Phillips and Logan counties. The farm will provide power for surrounding communities and the landowners and other participants will share the revenue.

The Northgate terminal of the Sun Metro in El Paso, Texas, will be enclosed and heating and air conditioning added as a result of stimulus funding. And the Five Points Terminal on Montana and the East Side Terminal on Sunmount will get new heating and air conditioning later this month. The entire \$225,000 cost is funded by federal dollars.

Other national news

Change afoot at Loyola University to tune of \$100M project

There's change afoot at Loyola University that will bring contracting opportunities that will last through 2015. A \$100 million project includes a connected complex of five new or connected buildings on the northwest section of the Rogers Park campus, a three-story athletic center, a renovated Gentile Center for the Ramblers, a 70,000-square-foot student union, an expanded recreation center and a repurposed Centennial Forum that will include a bookstore, alumni center and outdoor adventure program. The athletic center will include a sports medicine facility, advising center and workout facility. That building is expected to be completed first, in 2011. Other additions at the university will include a 200-seat movie theater, a group cycling room, food court, student meeting rooms, new lockers and more. At least \$10 million in private funds is being sought.

Massachusetts voters approve \$23M school projects

A new three-story, 61,000-square-foot Avery Elementary school will be built in Dedham, Massachusetts, after the Massachusetts School Building Authority agreed to an \$11 million grant if the town pays for the remainder of the \$23 million project. Voters overwhelmingly voted to pay their \$12 million share through a property tax increase, which will also renovate the athletic complex at the high school with \$3.1 million for new fields and turf. Design for the school is on a fast track and officials hope to get the job bid by the summer with a construction manager at-risk model. They are hopeful for a spring 2012 opening.

Nashville gets go-ahead for \$585 million convention center

A new \$585 million convention center south of downtown Nashville has been approved by the Metro Council. Officials are hopeful construction on the 1.2 million-square-foot facility can begin within the next one to three months. Looking at an opening date of the first quarter of 2013, city officials say revenues will be enhanced by two other upcoming developments - a convention center hotel and a \$250 million, privately financed medical mart that has been proposed for the existing convention hall.

\$320 million renovation slated for UC Berkeley stadium

The 87-year-old Memorial Stadium on the University of California Berkeley campus is getting ready for a facelift. The university regents recently approved spending \$320 million that will make the football stadium, which straddles the Hayward fault, much safer. The upgrades are expected to be completed in time for the 2012 football season. To finance the upgrades, the school will borrow the \$320 million and pay it back over 30 years by selling seat licenses, which fans buy for life and pay off annually. The money from the licenses collects interest in an endowment and the profits, which are expected to outpace interest on the borrowed money, hopefully will pay off the loan.

Utah bond issue would mean five rebuilt, three new schools

Voters in the Granite, Utah, school district will decide the fate of a \$256 million school bond issue Nov. 3 that would rebuild five existing schools, build three new schools and air condition 51 schools. Officials are hoping for passage of the bonds so they can take advantage of lower construction costs to get more bang for their bucks.

Austin nonprofit constructing \$3.6 million complex

Austin, Texas, nonprofit Southwest Key Programs Inc. will build a \$3.6 million complex at its East Austin campus to house seven enterprises, a job coach and training classrooms. Construction is set to begin in June and should take a little less than a year to complete. A construction company has not yet been hired

for the project, nor has a project manager. The nonprofit operates shelters for immigrant youth throughout the country and helps create employment opportunities through training and job development.

Boynton Beach police headquarters space purchased

Boynton Beach, Florida, city commissioners voted recently to purchase space for a new police headquarters. They voted to buy approximately 65,000 square feet in a commercial building owned by a private developer. The commission had been studying for a couple of years whether to buy or lease space.

City may seek federal funds to build sports complex

The citizens of the City of Rialto, California, have their eye on a new sports complex and they're hopeful to qualify for a multi-million-dollar federal loan to help them transform that facility out of an old, empty middle school. Officials are hoping for a \$4.3 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 108 Loan that would help transform the empty school into a seven-acre facility with basketball courts, bleachers, ball fields, a track and snack stand and lighting. The loan program provides funding for redevelopment programs in neighborhoods in need of renewal. The loan would be repaid from the city's annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds at a rate of \$295,000 per year.

Street, sewer projects, building work could be on tap in Omaha

Omaha City Council members on Feb. 9 will decide if they will take a \$79.3 million bond referendum to voters in May to pay for street projects, sewer improvements and much-needed work on city buildings. There would be five proposals on the ballot: \$44.3 million for streets and freeways, \$14.4 million for parks, \$7.9 million for sewers, \$4.7 million for public safety equipment and projects and \$8 million for police and fire stations, libraries and other city buildings.

Oklahoma County proposes emergency operations center

Officials in Bryan County, Oklahoma, have approved a homeland security grant application to the federal government, seeking \$1 million to build a regional emergency operations center. The facility would be built at Eaker Field in Durant. Improvements will have to first be made to the water, sewer and streets at the airport as well as to a special access road. The City of Durant would also provide \$600,000 in matching funds.

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Calendar of events

Energy Innovation Summit slated in March in D.C.

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) "ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit" is planned for Monday through Wednesday, March 1-3, at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Hosted by ARPA, the summit is organized by the Clean Technology and Sustainable Industries Organization and will serve as a forum for the nation's energy leaders to share ideas, collaborate and identify key technology opportunities and challenges. Those attending will include members of the scientific and research communities, investors, technology entrepreneurs, corporations with an interest in clean energy technologies, policymakers and government officials. The summit will spotlight some of ARPA-E's first round of 37 winning research projects. For more information and to register for the summit, click [HERE](#).

TxDOT plans webinars for construction, professional services businesses

A new series of webinars targeting small, minority and women-owned businesses in construction and

professional services in Texas will begin Feb. 3, 2010, through the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Business Outreach and Program (BOP) Services branch. These webinars are an extension of the external online 2009 TxDOT seminars that cover topics ranging from how to become a pre-qualified bidder on TxDOT contracts to online access of bid lettings and contract plans and more. Each session provides information to contractors, suppliers and small businesses relating to how TxDOT operates with external parties, how to better understand these processes and procedures and how to improve opportunities and obtain contracts at TxDOT. The webinars are open to potential contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, DBEs and other small businesses. Each webinar is limited and registration slots are on a first-come, first-served basis. More information will be available after Jan. 15, 2010, at www.txdot.gov. Questions may be forwarded to TxDOT-BOP-Webinars@dot.state.tx.us or by calling 1-866-480-2518, Option 2. Applying for the webinars does not guarantee a spot to participate.

Public workshops available for those interested in broadband grants, loans

A series of public workshops will be held to review the application process and to answer questions from applicants for upcoming National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funding through the Recovery Act. The workshops will be in Portland, Ore.; Reno, Nev.; Denver, Colo.; San Antonio, Tex.; Eureka, Mo.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Detroit, Mich.; Blacksburg, Va.; Fayetteville, N.C.; and Atlanta, Ga. Click [HERE](#) to register for the workshops. Applications will be accepted from Feb. 16 through March 15 and awards are expected to be announced by Sept. 30. All Interested parties can register for the workshops at www.broadbandusa.gov. The agencies will distribute \$4.7 billion of their total \$7.2 billion for infrastructure grants and \$3.5 billion to support grants and loans to facilitate broadband deployment in rural and remote areas.

Small business briefing conferences slated in Texas

The last two sessions of the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Business Outreach and Program (BOP) Services Small Business Briefing conferences have been announced for April 1, 2010, in Dallas and June 15, 2010, in Texarkana. The conference goal is to provide small and minority-owned business communities an opportunity to learn more about contracting opportunities with TxDOT. Information will be available to help them do business with the agency and the State of Texas. The sessions not only allow small businesses to be introduced to TxDOT and other state agencies, but also allows them to learn more about the economic development opportunities in their regions. It also allows the agencies to show the myriad of opportunities available for small and minority businesses in the state. For more information, click [HERE](#) or call 1.866.480.2518, Option 2.

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 states 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, [HERE](#).

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