

Here's a quick overview of where governmental entities are spending money



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At SPI, we get calls weekly from government contracting firms asking about national trends, funding flows, stimulus tracking and budget data related to state and local governments throughout the country. Most callers, however, really are most interested in one thing - where and how are public officials spending money?

The good news is that government still has lots of money to spend with private sector contractors.

The bad news is that the competition in public sector marketplaces is at an all-time high.

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## Health IT funding of nearly \$1 billion is announced

Goal is to improve health care, efficiency, provide training for related jobs

Nearly \$1 billion in Recovery Act funding will be distributed throughout the country to further the adoption of the use of health information technology (health IT) and to train workers for future health care industry jobs. Approximately 100,000 hospitals and primary care physicians will have health IT available by 2014 and create jobs in the health IT industry.

More than \$750 million of the funding comes through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These funds are earmarked for the state and regional level to assist health care providers in their efforts to move toward electronic health records (EHRs) with a goal of improving the quality and efficiency of health care. Some \$386 million of that amount will go to 40 states and qualified State Designated Entities to facilitate the exchange of health information. Another \$375 million will benefit 32 nonprofit organizations to help develop regional extension centers to assist health care professionals implement and use health IT. These centers will provide outreach and support services to at least 100,000 primary care providers and hospitals within two years.

The U.S. Department of Labor also will contribute \$225 million in grant awards for training individuals in job skills related to health IT and health care. A total of 55 training programs in 30 states will benefit from the funding. The training will be offered through community colleges and other local education providers.

The largest health information exchange award went to the California Health and Human Services Agency, which garnered more than \$38.7 million. The New York eHealth Collaborative initiative was awarded more than \$22.3 million.

The Ohio Health Information Partnership was awarded the largest portion of the Regional Extension Center Awards, getting \$28.5 million. The New York eHealth Collaborative was a close second with an award of more than \$26.5 million.

The largest job training awards of \$5 million each went to the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board in Washington, Centerstone of Tennessee, Inc., the University of South Dakota, BioOhio, University Behavioral Associates, Inc. in New York, the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center in Minnesota and the San Diego State University Research Foundation.

To view all of the recipients in all categories, 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.**

## *American Indian tribes garner \$1 billion from Recovery Act*

### Revitalization of communities, job creation focus of spending

From California to Florida, the nation's Indian tribes collectively will share \$1 billion in Recovery Act funding. Much of the funding will allow the tribes to issue low-interest bonds for infrastructure projects such as water plants and wind farms. Buildings that house health care centers also will be funded.

The money, which cannot be used for casinos or gaming projects, will allow the tribes to issue traditional tax-exempt bonds or Recovery Act-funded Build America Bonds, which are taxable but also have a government rebate on part of the interest payment. The funds are expected to be used for building schools, hospitals and transportation infrastructure.

Some expected projects are \$30 million for renewable energy projects and retail facilities for the Navajo Nation in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, \$30 million for housing for the Ute tribe in Utah, \$7 million for the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico for a wind farm and \$27 million for the Delaware Nation in Oklahoma for retail and housing projects, among others.

## *Education projects include construction, technology and more*

### University of Tampa to spend \$4.4 million on two new buildings

Two new buildings are being planned on the University of Tampa campus this year, carrying a combined price of \$4.4 million. Construction on the new science building is expected to begin this month along with a new student health center. The 8,000-square-foot science building will include chemistry labs, chemistry research, biology research, offices and a classroom with built-in infrastructure to support its becoming an instructional lab as well. The new health center will include a waiting area, eight exam rooms, a triage space, pharmacy, staff and counseling offices and a group counseling room. The facility will include 10,300 square feet. Construction is expected to cost \$1.9 million. Officials will seek U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for both buildings.

### South Dakota voters approve school bond issue in Dell Rapids

It took five times, but Dell Rapids, South Dakota, voters finally approved a \$10.99 million bond to build an 82,038-square-foot grade school on the city's north side. Bids on the project are expected to be let by early summer and construction could start in late summer, with an opening slated for fall 2011. The new school will be for kindergarten through fourth grade.

### Bond issue in Northridge, Ohio, would build new school, improve others

Voters in the Northridge Local School District in Ohio will be asked to pass a \$17.95 million bond issue and a permanent improvement tax levy to help build a new elementary school and make improvements to the Northridge High School and the Northridge Middle School. The district began making plans for a new school after it closed two elementaries two years ago. Of the total for the bond issue, some \$11.2 million would be used to construct a new building. Another \$2.9 million would go toward improving the building, including a bigger gym, an enlarged parking area, an administration and maintenance building and purchasing computers and other classroom technology. The remainder of the funds would be used for roof repairs, electrical systems and HVAC system upgrades at the high school and middle school.

### Two New York charter schools planning new buildings

Two New York charter schools - Brooklyn's PAVE Academy and Harlem Promise Academy - are expected to receive \$72 million in city funds for new buildings. The city's capital plan sets aside only up to \$210 million for charter schools but the schools must come up with a third of the building costs.

## Illinois school district gets approval for new \$22 million school

Gillespie, Illinois, school officials have received an OK from the state to spend \$22 million for a new elementary school to replace one closed because of underground mining. A site for the school will be selected, then surveyed and then a budget plan will be developed. Eight possible sites have been studied and officials are looking for a site with 15-20 acres.

## Arizona State University to expand its downtown campus

Arizona State University will be expanding its downtown campus after Phoenix City Council members agreed to spend \$6 million on a vacant motel where the facility will be built. The city will purchase an old Ramada Inn downtown using \$5 million in leftover bond money and \$1.3 million from the city-owned Sheraton Phoenix Downtown hotel's capital improvement fund.

## El Paso voters to decide \$160 million school bond issue

Residents of the Ysleta ISD in El Paso will in May decide the fate of a \$160 million bond issue. Among the projects to be financed by a successful bond issue are refinancing the replacement of swamp coolers, renovating high school science labs, building two new schools in Northeast El Paso, renovating existing schools in the district and improving Americans with Disabilities Act initiatives. Taxpayers will be allowed to support some, all, or none of the five initiatives.

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contact Reagan Weil or Richard Hartmann at 512-531-3900.

## *National contracting opportunities*

### Dade City to begin design for new city hall, police complex

Officials in Dade City, Florida, have approved a design contract as the first step toward construction of a new city hall and police complex. The facility is expected to be approximately 22,000 square feet and will carry a total price of about \$3.8 million for construction, excluding architectural and engineering fees and demolition costs for existing buildings. Other contracts will have to be let for furnishings, landscaping and moving.

### Georgia bond sale could mean \$5 billion for state parks

Some of Georgia's most popular parks will see the addition of more campsites and cabins if the state's Department of Natural Resources' plans to issue long-term bonds to cover the \$5 billion price tag come to fruition. The effort is to help the parks become more self-sustaining and most make the biggest profit from overnight guests. An addition of \$2 million to the Richard B. Russell State Park would allow the creation of 50 new campsites which would likely increase revenues by \$200,000 annually. The bond funds also would be used to add 25 campsites at Cloudland Canyon for \$1 million, 20 campsites at Tugaloo for \$650,000, six cottages at Fort McAllister for \$1.2 million and three to five camping cabins at Skidaway Island for \$90,000.

### Indiana plan calls for \$10 billion investment in mass transit

It will take a sales tax increase and perhaps putting off some local road project plans, but a group of Indiana business leaders are hopeful to create rail lines, tolled express lanes and an expanded bus service to ease traffic congestion and boost economic development. Tolled express lanes would be added to parts of three interstate highways, a regional bus system would be expanded and enhanced with more direct routes between counties and passenger rail service would be added. A local option sales tax would support the \$1.2 billion it would cost to build and maintain this mass transit investment. Other funds would come from fares and public-private partnerships and special taxing districts. If a final plan is submitted by the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council Policy Commission by the end of this year, a referendum on the sales tax hike could be held in November of next year. Passage would mean the project could get under way in 2012.

### Rockwall planning two new docks at The Harbor

Officials in Rockwall, Texas, have approved the addition of two new docks at The Harbor, the city's district for music, festivals and other entertainment. The new docks will be built to withstand 50-70 mile per hour winds. The new layout will feature 55 boat slips with additional tie-on space. The proposal will cost more than \$940,000. The docks will be built in modular design, allowing smaller sections that might suffer damages to be replaced.

## New Mexico I-10 widening project funding approved

An additional \$1.9 million in federal funds has been added to \$10 million allocated from the federal Recovery Act for a widening and reconstruction project on I-10 from Las Cruces to the Texas border. The project calls for widening the roadway from four to six lanes. Work on the project is expected to begin in August, using funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The project is expected to be completed in 2011.

## Massachusetts transportation projects to get boost from foundation

Public transportation projects in Massachusetts will benefit from multi-year grants of anywhere from \$100,000 to \$1 million from the \$1 billion Barr Foundation. The grants, to be extended over the next five years, will also address reduction of greenhouse emissions. The foundation will fund groups that promote energy-efficiency in buildings or those involved in public transportation efforts. Nonprofits can start applying for the grants as early as next month. In Boston, foundation funds have been used to make buildings more energy efficient, to create environmentally friendly affordable housing and for promoting green building standards.

## Immigrant facility being proposed for New Mexico

A \$2 million facility to house undocumented migrants is being proposed for Las Cruces, New Mexico. The facility could house up to 200 individuals. It would be built on 25 acres with its nearest neighbors being the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds and the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility. If the city were to lease the land, it would receive payment in lieu of taxes funding with a lease of probably 15-20 years. After the lease is up, ownership would revert to the city or its designated nonprofit.

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

## *What the states are doing with stimulus funding*

Construction of two mini-high platforms at the Wedgemere Commuter Rail Station in Winchester, Massachusetts, will be paid for with \$2 million in Recovery Act funds. The platforms will increase access to public transportation at the station.

The San Bernadino (California) Community College District will receive \$4.2 million and the Mount San Antonio Community College District will get \$2.2 million toward workforce training programs. The San Bernardino institution will use its funding for logistics-distribution classes while Mount San Antonio's funds will be used for heating, air conditioning and refrigeration courses. The two were among only 55 of the 700 applicants that were awarded these Recovery Act funds. Other colleges in the state will use their share of the \$30 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Labor for health care, biotechnology and information technology programs.

Marketing, educational programming and upgrades to Web sites will be paid for through a Recovery Act grant to Northern Illinois University to help rural businesses expand. The university will work with several local groups to help areas hit hardest by job losses.

A bike and pedestrian path that will connect Camden, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will benefit from \$23 million in Recovery Act funds. The trails will connect with existing paths in the region and serve major businesses and health care institutions in the area. Job growth and reduction of vehicle usage are among the goals for the project.

The Manhattan main post office project in New York recently got an \$83.3 million shot in the arm from Recovery Act funds. That money, along with the \$140 million in federal and Manhattan Transit Authority capital already allocated, will ensure the first phase of the project of converting the post office into a new rail hub is funded. That first phase will include building of rail infrastructure and adding improvements to waiting areas within the existing Penn Station. It will also create multiple entry points for the old and future stations.

A statewide bicycle and pedestrian master plan and development of a voluntary program to help child-care workers implement health policies will be paid for with \$1 million in stimulus funds in Utah. The money will go to the state's publicly funded substance abuse and mental health treatment centers. The funding is part of \$119 million allocated to states and territories to address obesity and smoking.

Northern Illinois University and Northwestern University will each receive approximately \$7.5 million to develop regional centers on health information technology. The universities will use the funding to create centers that will help health professionals as they adopt digital medical records that can be shared securely. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services will receive \$18.8 million for development of a statewide Health Information Exchange.

Nineteen public housing authorities in Massachusetts will use \$7.06 million in federal weatherization recovery funds to replace aging, inefficient heating systems with new energy efficient systems. The developments are located in Bedford, Belmont, Brockton, Clinton, Dedham, Easthampton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Greenfield, Marblehead, Mattapoisett, Medford, Methuen, North Andover, North Attleborough, Stoneham, Stoughton, Uxbridge and Westfield.



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## Calendar of events

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](http://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.

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](#).

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.

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