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Billions available to local government entities
SPI's new division to help find, capture state and federal funding

AUSTIN (11/05/08) - The economic slowdown has left most local governments throughout Texas facing budget shortfalls. And, population increases continue to put a strain on local governments as they try to meet the needs of an increasing constituency. The result, in many cases, means postponement or elimination of special initiatives and cutbacks in delivery of services.

To assist local governments – cities, counties, public schools and institutions of higher education – Strategic Partnerships., Inc. (SPI) has launched a new ***Community Resources Division***. This division will have one objective – to help government entities find and capture new funding for special initiatives of all types.

“Last year, the State of Texas awarded more than \$2.5 billion in grant funding and the federal government allocated more than \$100 billion,” said Mary Scott Nabers, president and CEO of Austin-based SPI. “The funds are available, but many communities lack the resources to compete effectively for the funding. We plan to remedy that.”

Nabers pointed to SPI’s team of former elected officials, city managers, economic development experts, political strategists and experienced researchers in Austin and Washington, D.C., and said, “The need has never been greater and this is an area we understand well. There is an abundance of funding available and we are ready to help cities and counties capture their share from state, federal and private sources.” SPI was founded by Nabers in 1994.

John Breier, a 25-year veteran of economic development, will lead SPI’s funding efforts in Austin and he will be joined by a Washington veteran of 25 years, Rich Leidl. Leidl can point to more than \$100 million in federal funding that he has helped clients capture in the past few years.

“Because of the current economy and historic population growth, demand for new initiatives that involve construction, infrastructure, and schools continues to increase. But, local government

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entities are hard-pressed to find the resources to pay for them,” said Nabers. No matter what the needs - infrastructure, criminal justice, education, homeland security or something else - SPI’s *Community Resources Division* stands ready to partner with local groups to identify funding sources and develop a strategy to capture the funding.

For more information on the *Community Resources Division*, contact John Breier at 512-531-3946 or Reagan Weil at 512-531-3917.

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About SPI: SPI is a full-service government relations consulting firm based in Austin, Texas. SPI is recognized as a pioneer in the business of partnering public and private entities for commercial purposes. www.spartnerships.com.