

GrantWeek from the Grants Resource Center: February 18, 2009

Economic Stimulus Roundup

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law on February 17, 2009. The funds authorized by the act will be administered via several mechanisms: formula grants, state discretionary funds, and competitive grants. Institutions should immediately familiarize themselves with the bill text, and with the additional resources listed below, for precise details.

It's important to note that competitive grant funds will be allocated in the fashion campuses are used to; although more news will emerge each day, agencies will continue to release solicitations for proposals with at least 30 days' lead time prior to submission for this category of funding. GRC staff monitors Grants.gov, the Federal Register, and FedBizOpps daily; contacts program officers to request advance notice of solicitation release whenever possible; and is poised to attend federal briefings to give members as much information as possible to prepare competitive proposals. At the same time, campuses must coordinate more effectively than ever to take full advantage not only of competitive grant funding, but of formula grant and state discretionary dollars as well.

The \$787 billion bill includes \$463 billion for transportation and infrastructure upgrades and construction, health care programs, education, housing assistance, and energy efficiency upgrades. A *Congressional Quarterly* summary includes these highlights:

- \$13 billion for Title I grants for programs serving disadvantaged children. Title I grants provide funding in high-poverty areas for programs that provide academic support to poor children who are struggling to meet state education requirements.
- \$2 billion for the Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, which awards grants to states for use by state and local governments for criminal justice programs, such as drug task forces, community crime prevention efforts, substance abuse treatment programs, and prosecutorial initiatives, with an emphasis on combating violent crimes.
- \$1.5 billion for discretionary grants for a wide variety of road, bridge, and rail projects.
- \$280 million for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resource management and construction projects.
- \$3.1 billion for the Energy Department's State Energy Program, which provides grants to states to fund state government energy technology research and development programs.
- \$2.5 billion for Energy Department energy efficiency and renewable energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment projects. Of that amount, \$800 million would be used for biomass energy technology development, and \$400 million would be used for geothermal projects.
- \$5.6 billion for various science programs, including economic, environmental, weather, and construction research and development programs-this amount includes \$3 billion for the National Science Foundation (\$2.5 billion for research on social, economic, and environmental issues; \$400 million of construction of research facilities, and \$100 million for education and human resources programs); \$836 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; \$1 billion for the National Aeronautics and

Space Administration (\$150 million for aeronautics research and development); and \$780 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (\$360 million for research and development facility construction grants and \$240 million for research grants).

- \$8.2 billion to the Office of the Director at the National Institutes of Health, including \$800 million in grants for projects that can be completed within two years.
- \$100 billion in education funding, including \$54 billion for states to direct toward education.

Over the next several weeks, agencies will release details on the ways they will administer their share of the stimulus funds. The White House has already issued analysis of the impact this money will have on various groups of individuals and institutions, including higher education. These reports will be posted on the GRC website, and the entire GRC program staff is available to provide individual assistance to campuses tracking particular components of the stimulus funding.

Online Resources:

[Bill text:](#)

[Conference report:](#)

[U.S. Department of Education's take:](#) This site includes a detailed fact sheet, a video statement by Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and budget breakdowns.

[Recovery.gov:](#) The Obama Administration's outlet for all information related to implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The site is managed by a board-which has not yet met-consisting of the inspectors general from ten federal agencies. So far, posted information includes a breakdown of funding area, milestones for funding disbursement, and initial data. Over time, federal agencies' reports of their usage of the stimulus funds will be added.