

ARRA BENEFITS

Recovery Act Tax Relief for Individuals and Families

1. American Opportunity Education Tax Credit (I)

The bill would provide financial assistance for individuals seeking a college education. For 2009-2010, the bill would provide taxpayers with a new “American Opportunity” tax credit of up to \$2,500 of the cost of tuition and related expenses paid during the taxable year. Taxpayer will receive a tax credit based on 100% of the first \$ 2,000 of tuition and related expenses (including books) paid during the taxable year and twenty-five (25%) of the next \$2,000 of tuition and expenses paid during the taxable year. Forty percent (40) of the credit would be refundable. Tax credit will be subject to phase-out for taxpayers with AGI in excess of \$80,000 (\$160,000 for married couples filing jointly). [ARRA Title 1 Section 1004](#)

2. Computers as Qualified Education expenses in 529 Education Plans (I & NP)

Section 529 Education Plans are tax-advantaged savings plans that cover all qualified education expenses, including tuition, room and board, mandatory fees, and books. The bill provides that computers and computer technology qualify as qualified education expenses. [ARRA Title 1 Section 1005](#)

3. Making Work Pay Credit (I)

For 2009-2010, the bill will provide a tax refundable credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for working families. This tax credit will be calculated @ a rate of 6.2% of earned income and would phase-out for taxpayers with AGI in excess of \$75,000 (\$150,000 for married couples filing jointly). Taxpayers can receive this benefit through a reduction on the amount of income tax that is withheld from paychecks, or claiming the credit on tax returns. Provision applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008. [ARRA Title I Section 1001](#)

4. Payments to Recipients of Social Security, SSI, Railroad Retirement, and Veterans Disability

Compensation Benefits – (I) One -time payment of \$250 to retirees, disabled individuals, and SSI recipients receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, and disabled veterans receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The one-time payment is reduction to any allowable Making Work Pay Credit. The one-time payment will not be taken into account as income for nine months for other services for which the individual may be eligible such as food stamps or Medicaid. Payment will be made no later than 120 days after enactment of the legislation.

[ARRA Title II Section 2201](#)

(I) Individuals (NP) Nonprofits

5. Refundable Credit for Certain Federal and State Prisoners (I& NP)

This is a One-time refundable tax credit in 2009 to certain government retirees not eligible for Social Security benefits. This one-time credit is a reduction to any allowable making Work pay credit and is for those retirees not eligible for Section 2201 funding. The credit will not be taken into account as income

ARRA Title II Section 2022

6. Increase in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (Section 1002): (I & NP)

The bill would temporarily increase the earned income tax credit for working families with three or more children. Under current law, working families with two or more children currently qualify for an earned income tax credit equal to forty-percent (40%) of the family's first \$12,570 of earned income. This credit is subject to a phase-out for working families with adjusted gross income in excess of \$16,420 (\$19,540 for married couples filing jointly.) The bill would increase the earned income tax credit to forty-five percent (45%) of the families first \$12,570 of earned income for families with three or more children, and would increase the beginning point of the phase-out range for all married couples filing a joint return (regardless of the number of children) by \$1,800. The EITC is a refundable tax liability, meaning that if the amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's federal income tax liability, the excess is payable to the taxpayer as a direct transfer payment. The provision applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008.

7. Sales tax deduction for Vehicle Purchases (Section 1008): (I & NP)

The bill provides all taxpayers with a deduction for state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase of qualified new cars, light trucks, recreational vehicles, and motorcycles until January 10, 2010. The deduction is limited to the tax on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of qualified vehicles. This deduction is subject to a phase-out for taxpayers with an adjusted gross income in excess of \$125,000 of the (\$250,000) in the case of a joint return).

8. Temporary Suspension of Taxation of Unemployment Benefits. (Section 1007): (I)

Under current law, all federal unemployment benefits are subject to taxation. The average unemployment benefit is approximately \$300 per month. The bill suspends federal income tax on the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits per recipient. Any unemployment benefits over \$2,400 will be subject to federal income tax. This suspension is in effect for taxable year 2009.

9. Extension of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) – (I)

Through December 31, 2009, the bill continues the EUC program, which provides up to 33 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to workers exhausting their regular benefits through December 31, 2009 instead of August 27. Eligible unemployed workers in states with high unemployment rates will receive the most weeks of stimulus extended unemployment benefits. The weekly unemployment compensation is increased by \$25 in all states.

10. Premium Subsidies for COBRA Continuation Coverage for Unemployed Workers (I & NP)

Recession-related job loss threatens health coverage for many families. To help people maintain coverage, the bill provides a 65% subsidy for COBRA continuation premiums up to 9 months for workers who have been involuntarily terminated, and for their families. This subsidy also applies to health care continuation coverage if required by states for small employers. With COBRA premiums averaging more than \$1000 a month, this assistance is vitally important. To qualify for assistance, a worker must be involuntarily terminated between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. The subsidy would terminate upon offer of any new employer-sponsored health care coverage or Medicare eligibility. Workers who were involuntarily between September 1, and enactment, but failed to initially elect COBRA because it was unaffordable, would be given an additional 60 days to elect COBRA and receive the subsidy. To ensure that assistance is targeted at workers who are most in need, participants must attest that their same year income will not exceed \$125,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for families. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this provision would help 7 million people maintain their health insurance by providing a vital bridge for workers who have been forced out of jobs in this recession.

11. Emergency Food & Shelter Food Program- (I & NP)

Distributes federal funds to local communities for hunger and homeless prevention. Eligible activities include: one month's rent, mortgage, utility payments, food (served meals or groceries) lodging a shelter or hotel, and transportation associated with the provision of food and shelter.

12. Tax Credits for Energy-Efficient Improvements to Existing Homes: (I) The bill would extend the tax credits for improvements to energy-efficient existing homes through 2010. Under current law, individuals are allowed a tax credit equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount paid or incurred by the taxpayer for qualified energy efficient improvements installed during the

taxable year. This tax credit is capped at \$50 for any advanced main air-circulating fan, \$150 for any qualified natural gas, propane, oil furnace, or hot water boiler, and \$ 300 for any item of energy efficient building property. For 2009 and 2010, the bill would increase the amount of the tax credit to 30 percent (30%) of the amount paid or incurred by the taxpayer for qualified home improvements during the taxable year. The bill would also eliminate the property-by-property dollar caps on this tax credit and provide an aggregate \$ 1,500 cap on all property qualifying for the credit. The bill would update the energy-efficiency standards of the property qualifying for the tax credit.

13. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (I & NP)

Each state has its own [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) program. This is the name of the federally funded grant program which replaced the traditional "welfare" program.

TANF can help you receive:

- Food stamps
- Financial assistance
- Training
- Assistance obtaining and keeping a job

However, the name of each program varies state to state. Below, you'll find the name of each state's program, along with corresponding Web sites and contact phone numbers.

Alabama: [Family Assistance](#) | 334-242-1310

Alaska: [Alaska Temporary Assistance Program](#) | 1-800-478-3551

Arizona: EMPOWER
<https://egov.azdes.gov/CMSInternet/common.aspx?menu=108&menuc=162&id=3130>
| 602-542-3596

Arkansas: [Transitional Employment Assistance](#) | 1-800-482-8988

California: [CALWORKS](#) | 916-657-3546

Colorado: [Colorado Works](#) | 303-866-5700

Connecticut: [JOBS FIRST](#) | 1-800-842-1508

Delaware: [ABC \(A Better Chance\)](#) | 302-255-9500

D.C.: [TANF](#) | 202-724-5506

Florida: [Welfare Transition Program](#) | 1-866-762-2237

Georgia: [TANF](#) | 1-800-869-1150

Guam: [TANF Department of Public Health and Social Services](#) | 671-735-7101

Hawaii: TANF | 1-808-981-2754

Idaho: Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho | 208-334-5818

Illinois: TANF | 217-785-3300

Indiana: TANF, IMPACT (Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training) | 1-800-446-1993

Iowa: Department of Human Services | 1-800-972-2017

Kansas: Kansas Works | 785-296-3959

Kentucky: K-TAP (Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program) | 502-564-3556

Louisiana: [Department of Social Services](#) | State of [Louisiana](#) | 225-342-3947

Maine: TANF, ASPIRE (Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment) | 207-287-3707

Maryland: FIP (Family Investment Program) | 1-800-332-6347

Massachusetts: Department of [Transitional Assistance](#) - Health and Human Services

Michigan: FIP (Family Independence Program) | 1-800-285-9675

Minnesota: MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program) | 1-800-657-3739

Mississippi: TANF | 1-800-948-4060

Missouri: Beyond Welfare | 573-751-3221

Montana: FAIM (Families Achieving Independence in Montana) | 406-444-1917

Nebraska: Employment First | 1-800-685-5456

Nevada: TANF | 1-800-992-0900

New Hampshire: FAP (Family Assistance Program), 1-800-852-3345, ext. 4238

New Jersey: [Work First New Jersey](#) | 1-800-792-9773

New Mexico: NM Works | 1-888-473-3676

New York: TANF | 1-800-342-3009

North Carolina: [Work First](#) Family Assistance 1-800-662-7030

North Dakota: TEEM <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/tanfjobs.html>
1-800-472-2622

Ohio: OWF (Ohio Works First) | 614-466-6282

Oklahoma: TANF | 1-866-411-1877

Oregon: JOBS (Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program) 1 503-945-5600

Pennsylvania: [Cash Assistance/TANF](#) | 1-800-692-7462

Puerto Rico: **TANF** | 787-289-7600

Rhode Island: [FIP \(Family Independence Program\)](#) | 401-462-2423

South Carolina: [Family Independence](#) | 1-800-768-5700

South Dakota: [TANF](#) | 1-605-773-4678

Tennessee: | **Families First** 1-866-311-4287
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/>

Texas: **Texas Works Choices** | 1-877-787-8999
http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Help/Financial/Temporary_Assistance.html

Utah: [FEP \(Family Employment Program\)](#) | 1-801-526-9675

Vermont: [Reach Up](#) | 1-800-287-0589

Virgin Islands: (**FIP**) **Family Improvement Program** | **340-774-7125**

Virginia: [VIEW \(Virginia Initiative for Employment, Not Welfare\)](#) | 1-804-726-7385

Washington: [WorkFirst](#) | 360-413-3200

West Virginia: [West Virginia Works](#) | 1-800-642-8589

Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Works Program** <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/>
| 608-267-9886

Wyoming: [POWER \(Person Opportunities With Employment Responsibility\)](#) | 307-777-6313

More on TANF:

- [What is TANF?](#)
- [Office of Family Assistance](#)
- [TANF Fact Sheet](#)

More on Food Stamps:

- [What Are Food Stamps?](#)
- [How to Apply for Food Stamps](#)

More on Welfare

- [Welfare to Work](#)
- [From Welfare to Work](#)
- [Education for Parents on Welfare](#)

14. (Changes Impacting Employers) Work Opportunity Tax Credit (Section 1221): (I & NP)

The work opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is available for employers hiring individuals from one or more target groups. The amount of the credit is determined by the amount of qualified wages paid by the employer. The nine categories include: families receiving TANF, qualifies veterans, qualified ex-felons, designated community residents (for individuals living in empowerment zones, enterprise communities, or rural renewal communities), vocation rehabilitation referrals qualified summer youth employees, qualified food stamp recipients (between the ages of (18-40), qualified SSI recipients and long term family assistance recipients. The ARRA changes the WOTC to include an expanded definition of qualified veterans and it adds a new category of disconnected youth.

15. Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)- (I & NP) This is a Federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income needy persons, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance. USDA buys the food, including processing and packaging, and ships it to the States. The amount received by each State depends on its low-income and unemployed population. State agencies work out details of administration and distribution. They select local organizations that either directly distribute to households or serve meals, or distribute to other local organizations that perform these functions.

- **Commodity Distribution:**

Under TEFAP, commodity foods are made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to States. States provide the food to local agencies that they have selected, usually food banks, which in turn, distribute the food to soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public.

- **Households that meet State eligibility criteria:**

Each State sets criteria for determining what households are eligible to receive food for home consumption. Income standards may, at the State's discretion, be met through participation in other existing Federal, State, or local food, health, or welfare programs for which eligibility is based on income.

- **Income criteria:**

States can adjust the income criteria in order to ensure that assistance is provided only to those households most in need. However, recipients of prepared meals are considered to be needy and are not subject to a means test.

- More [Program Facts](#) about TEFAP.

TEFAP is administered at the Federal level by the Department of Agriculture's [Food and Nutrition Service](#). State agencies receive the food and supervise overall distribution.

For more information about TEFAP, please contact the [State Distributing Agency](#) in your State that administers this Program.

16. Parity for Transit Benefits (I) Current law provides a tax-free fringe benefit employers can provide to employees for transit and parking. This provision would equalize the tax-free benefit employers can provide for transit and parking. The proposal sets both the parking and transit benefits at \$230 a month for 2009, indexes them equally for 2010, and qualifies that certain transit benefits apply to federal employees.

17. Additional Child Tax Credit- (I) ARRA reduced the minimum earned income amount used to calculate the additional child tax credit to \$3,000. Before ARRA, the minimum earned income amount was set to rise to \$12,550. It is a refundable credit, which means taxpayers may receive refunds even when they do not owe any tax. This change applies to tax years beginning in 2009 and 2010.

With the Child Tax Credit, you may be able to reduce the federal income tax you owe by up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under the age of 17.

Criteria for qualifying child:

Age- Was under age 17 at the end of 2008

Relationship- Is your son, daughter, adopted child, stepchild or eligible foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of these individuals

Citizenship- is a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or resident of the U.S.

Support- Did not provide over half of his or her own support

Lived with you- Must have lived with you for more than half of 2008 (note that some exceptions to this criteria exist)

The credit is limited if your modified adjusted gross income is above a certain amount. The amount at which this phase-out begins varies depending on your filing status.

Married Filing Jointly- \$110,000

Married Filing Separately-\$55,000 All Others- \$75,000For more information see IRS Publication 972, Child Tax Credit, available from the IRS web site at [Http://www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

18. Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) – (I & NP) Extends work-related transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) through December 31, 2010. TMA is available to certain low-income families who are at risk for losing Medicaid benefits because of changes in their income. TMA benefits vary by State.

19. Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)- (I & NP) Federal funds are distributed to local communities for hunger and homeless prevention. Eligible activities include: one month's rent, mortgage, utility payments, food (served meals or groceries) lodging a shelter or hotel, and transportation costs associated with the provision of food and shelter. Check for local (EFSP) Providers. Example: For more information about United Way's Emergency Food and Shelter Program/FEMA, please contact: Itala Rutter at (212) 251-4123 or irutter@uwnyc.org.

20. Self-help Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) (NP)

SHOP provides funds to national and regional non-profit organizations to purchase and develop home sites through volunteer labor. ARRA appropriated \$10 million with priority given to sustainable, affordable single and multifamily units in low-income, high-need rural areas. Applicants must meet Energy Star construction standards and use Energy Star labeled products and appliances based on the **FY08 SuperNOFA**. These funds are currently distributed to organizations such as Acorn Housing Corporation, Community Frameworks, Habitat for Humanity International, Housing Assistance Council, and PPEP Micro Business and Housing Development Corporation.

21. First-Time Home Buyer Tax Credit

The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 has extended the tax credit of up to \$8,000 for qualified first-time home buyers purchasing a principal residence. The tax credit now applies to sales occurring on or after January 1, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010. However, in cases where a binding sales contract is signed by April 30, 2010, a home purchase completed by June 30, 2010 will qualify.

For sales occurring after November 6, 2009, the Act establishes income limits of \$125,000 for single taxpayers and \$225,000 for married couples filing joint returns.

The income limits for sales occurring on or after January 1, 2009 and on or before November 6, 2009, are \$75,000 for single taxpayers and \$150,000 for married taxpayers filing joint returns.

- The \$8,000 tax credit is for first-time home buyers only. For the tax credit program, the IRS defines a first-time home buyer as someone who has not owned a principal residence during the three-year period prior to the purchase.
- The tax credit does not have to be repaid unless the home is sold or ceases to be used as the buyer's principal residence within three years after the initial purchase.
- The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of the home's purchase price up to a maximum of \$8,000.
- The tax credit applies only to homes priced at \$800,000 or less.
- The tax credit now applies to sales occurring on or after January 1, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010. However, in cases where a binding sales contract is signed by April 30, 2010, a home purchase completed by June 30, 2010 will qualify.
- For homes purchased on or after January 1, 2009 and on or before November 6, 2009, the income limits are \$75,000 for single taxpayers and \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly.
- For homes purchased after November 6, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010, single taxpayers with incomes up to \$125,000 and married couples with incomes up to \$225,000 qualify for the full tax credit.

\$6,500 Move-Up / Repeat Home Buyer Tax Credit at a Glance

- To be eligible to claim the tax credit, buyers must have owned and lived in their previous home for five consecutive years out of the last eight years.
- The tax credit does not have to be repaid unless the home is sold or ceases to be used as the buyer's principal residence within three years after the initial purchase.
- The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of the home's purchase price up to a maximum of \$6,500.
- The tax credit applies only to homes priced at \$800,000 or less.
- The credit is available for homes purchased after November 6, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010. However, in cases where a binding sales contract is signed by April 30, 2010, the home purchase qualifies provided it is completed by June 30, 2010.
- Single taxpayers with incomes up to \$125,000 and married couples with incomes up to \$225,000 qualify for the full tax credit.

The following questions and answers at the website below provide basic information about the tax credit. If you have more specific questions, we strongly encourage you to consult a qualified tax advisor or legal professional about your unique situation.

<http://www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com/home.html>

22. Youth Build (NP)

II. Program-Specific Recovery Plan for Recovery.gov (Q 2.8 of Guidance)	
DOL Agency MAX ID and name: Employment and Training Administration	
Recovery Program: YouthBuild	
Does this program align with an existing PART program?	10006233 YouthBuild
Does this program align with an existing CFDA program?	17.274
1. Objectives:	
Program Purpose	YouthBuild is a successful strategic approach to workforce investment that supports at-risk youth ages 16-24 in gaining high school credentials and receiving skill training that leads to employment, while constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. Youth divide their time between the construction site and the classroom.
Public Benefits	YouthBuild provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth, and expands the pool of skilled workers by introducing youth to the construction industry.
2. Projects and Activities:	
Kinds and scope of projects and activities to be performed	YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement. The Recovery Act appropriates an additional \$50,000,000 for YouthBuild activities. With Recovery Act funds, the program may serve an individual who has dropped out of high school and re-enrolled in an alternative school, if that re-enrollment is part of a sequential service strategy. In accordance with Sec. 801 of the Recovery Act, up to one percent of the program funds provided (\$500,000) may be used for management and oversight of the program. These funds will be expended in accordance with the operating plan submitted to the Office of Management and Budget and Congress.
Grant Awards	Information on awards will be provided upon award.
3. Characteristics:	
Types of Financial Awards to be used.	B Project Grants
Type of Recipient	Public or Private Nonprofit Institution/Organization
Type of Beneficiary	Youth ages 16 – 24
4. Major Planned Program Milestones:	
Award YouthBuild Grants	As a result of the infusion of funds through the Recovery Act, ETA will fund approximately 180 YouthBuild programs (up from 107 projected in the FY 2009 budget). Recovery Act funds will support approximately 3,100 additional participant slots. At least half of the programs will be providing green construction training. These

23. Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (I & NP)

DSHS-Aging & Disability Services Administration (ADSA) has been asked by many organizations about the ARRA funding for the Older American Act (OAA) SCSEP and if there will be any opportunities to apply for funding.

SCSEP is administered by the US Department of Labor (DOL). Every year DOL provides grants to states and to national nonprofit organizations to provide employment training and community services in local areas. The governor of each state determines which state agency will receive the funding. National nonprofit grantees are selected through a competitive procurement process every four years. The four SCSEP grantees serving Washington State are ADSA, AARP, Goodwill, and NAPCA. Local contact information is attached.

ARRA funds will be dispersed to current state and national grantees:

Additional funding for the program has been authorized under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Current SCSEP grantees will use the ARRA funds to support additional training and employment opportunities for unemployed low-income seniors. Grantees will expand the number of SCSEP participants assigned to community service work, especially in those growth industries emphasized in the Recovery Act (e.g., health care, child care, education, green jobs, energy efficiency and environmental services) and in expanded public service activities that utilize Recovery Act funds. The wages paid to these low-income seniors will provide a direct stimulus to the economies of local communities, which will also benefit from the community service work performed by SCSEP participants. The intent of Recovery Act funds is to supplement, not supplant, on-going SCSEP funding.

Grantee and Subgrantee Activities:

- Providing SCSEP services in the same counties/geographic areas as currently authorized in PY 08 grants;
- Recruiting and enrolling new participants according to SCSEP eligibility rules;
- Assigning Recovery Act participants among sub-grantees / local projects in accordance with PY 08 equitable distribution to the extent feasible;
- Recruiting new host agencies or expanding opportunities at existing host agencies;
- Protecting against maintenance of effort violations;
- Tracking Recovery Act participation and funds separately from regular SCSEP grant funds

Opportunities for local organizations:

- Host Agency:
 - Subgrantees match participants with host agencies on a temporary basis
 - Host agencies can expand their services or add new services with the help of SCSEP participant(s)
 - Participants are paid wages from the SCSEP grant
 - Contact local subgrantees to set up a learn more and set up a contract.
- On-the-Job Experience (OJE)Employer

- Some SCSEP participants are almost job-ready and just need a real work experience to cement their employment.
- OJE is a joint agreement between a participant, a private sector employer, and the grantee or subgrantee to hire a participant after a trial OJE experience where some of the wages are supplemented by SCSEP funding.
- Training Entity
 - Some subgrantees contract with training entities to provide training to SCSEP participants
- Employer
 - Employers who are looking for dependable and skilled workers can contact the subgrantees.

See attached SCSEP Fact Sheet and contact information for more details on the SCSEP Program.

Attachments (double-click to open):

1. Washington State SCSEP Fact Sheet:



2009& SCSEP.ARRA
Fact Sheet _03.09.dc

2. Washington State DSHS-ADSA List of Subcontractors and contact information:



WA08Subs(revised)_
03.04.09 (for distribu

3. National Grantee contacts in Washington State



Washington National
Grantee Contacts_8.(

For additional general questions regarding the SCSEP Program, contact:

Susan Shepherd, SCSEP Program Manager/AAA Specialist

Home & Community Services - State Unit on Aging

DSHS-Aging & Disability Services Administration

PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

Phone: 360.725.2418

Email: shephsl@dshs.wa.gov

24. Timeline for GREEN ARRA Programs (I&NP)

This document outlines a partial timeline for 28 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Package) programs related to the environment. The document also indicates which department or agency is in charge of each program ("Access"). Go to <http://www.greenforall.org> for more information.

AmericanGreenJobs.net is being upgraded on a new software platform, and we are experiencing a brief interruption of service in October. Please stay tuned for new posting and commenting guidance appropriate to the new platform and host, and visit us as the site is upgraded. We thank you for your support and welcome your feedback. To be notified when the site is back on-line, please [provide your e-mail address and any comments](#).

About this site: **AmericanGreenJobs.net** is a community-of-practice web site for professionals promoting and creating Green Jobs. **Americangreenjobs.net** focuses on bringing together government, business, academic, and nonprofit leaders involved in the identification and development of green jobs and the preparation and training of workers needed to support them. This web site serves as the central hub for information dissemination and collaboration among individuals and organizations interested in all aspects of green job development and support. **AmericanGreenJobs.net** enables users to share information and best practices, search data by state, exchange resources and ideas, and collaborate on new and existing projects as well as other activities.

25. Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Programs- (I&NP) The TAA program helps workers who have lost their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The TAA program offers a variety of benefits and services to eligible workers, including job training, income support, job search and relocation allowances, a tax credit to help pay the costs of health insurance, and a wage supplement to certain reemployed trade-affected workers 50 years of age and older. The Trade Act programs, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), assist individuals who have become unemployed as a result of increased imports from, or shifts in production to, foreign countries. The goal of the Trade Act programs is to help trade-affected workers return to suitable employment as quickly as possible. To facilitate this goal, TAA certified workers may access a menu of services that include income support, relocation allowances job search allowances, and a health coverage tax credit. TAA participants that require retraining in order to obtain suitable employment may receive occupational training.

Expanded Eligibility—Covering More Workers

Since 1974, only workers that “produced an article” have been covered by TAA rules. The new law extends TAA benefits to employees of service sector firms and public sector workers who lose work because their employers obtain similar services overseas.

- TAA certification standards now cover workers whose firms shift production to non-FTA countries, like China, India, and Europe. Under prior law, only shifts in production to NAFTA countries were sufficient in and of themselves for TAA certification.

- Existing certification rules cover only component parts workers who lose jobs due to imports of “like or directly competitive” articles, basically meaning the same parts they made domestically. Under ARRA amendments, TAA coverage now includes those parts workers who lose work due to imports of “articles directly incorporating” imported parts similar to those produced by the domestic workers. For example, workers that make transmission gears could formerly gain certification if they could show increased imports of similar transmission parts. Now, if their petition can show increased imports of transmissions contributed importantly to their loss of employment, they are eligible for TAA certification.

What are some examples of new groups of workers that may now be certified under the New TAA Program?

Additional groups of workers that may be certified include, but are not limited to:

Workers in firms that supply services.

Workers whose firm has shifted production to any foreign country.

Workers in public agencies.

Workers whose firm produces component parts of a finished article produced by its customer(s).

Workers in firms that supply testing, packaging, maintenance and transportation services to companies with TAA-certified workers. Workers whose firm is identified in an International Trade Commission “injury” determination listed in the Act.

What are the major changes in benefits?

Old TAA Program (Available to Workers Covered by Petitions with Numbers Below 70,000)	New TAA Program (Available to Workers Covered by Petitions with Numbers Above 70,000)
<p>Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)</p> <p>Up to 104 weeks of cash payments for workers enrolled in full-time training Up to 130 weeks of cash payments if the worker was also enrolled in remedial training</p>	<p>Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)</p> <p>Up to 130 weeks of cash payments for workers enrolled in full-time training Up to 156 weeks of cash payments if the worker was also enrolled in remedial training</p>
<p>Training Enrollment Deadlines</p> <p>Workers must be enrolled in training 8 weeks after certification or 16 weeks after layoff, whichever is later, in order to receive TRA</p>	<p>Training Enrollment Deadlines</p> <p>Workers must be enrolled in training 26 weeks after certification or layoff, whichever is later, in order to receive TRA</p>
<p>Job Search Allowances</p> <p>90% of allowable costs, up to \$1,250</p>	<p>Job Search Allowances</p> <p>100% of allowable costs, up to \$1,500</p>
<p>Relocation Allowances</p> <p>90% of costs, up to the statutory limit for Federal Employees Provides an additional lump sum payment of up to \$1,250</p>	<p>Relocation Allowances</p> <p>100% of costs, up to the statutory limit for Federal Employees Provides an additional lump sum payment of up to \$1,500</p>
<p>Training Services</p> <p>Training may only be approved on a full-time basis Certified workers may not begin approved training until they have been totally or partially separated from adversely affected employment</p>	<p>Training Services</p> <p>Training may be approved on a full-time or part-time basis, although full-time training is required for TRA eligibility. Certified workers may begin approved training when threatened with separation from adversely affected employment</p>
<p>Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)</p> <p>Prior to May 2009, a tax credit covering up to 65% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium Beginning May 2009, the tax credit</p>	<p>Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)</p> <p>A tax credit covering 80% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium</p>

<p>will be raised for all participants to cover 80% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium</p>	
<p>Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance</p> <p>Available to workers 50 years of age or older</p> <p>Requires a separate certification of group eligibility</p> <p>Workers may not participate in TAA-approved training</p> <p>Requires full-time employment within 26 weeks of separation</p> <p>Available only for workers earning less than \$50,000 per year in reemployment</p> <p>Maximum benefit of \$10,000 over a period of up to two years</p> <p>Participants are eligible for the HCTC</p>	<p>Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance</p> <p>Available to workers 50 years of age or older</p> <p>Does not require a separate certification of group eligibility</p> <p>Workers may participate in TAA-approved training</p> <p>Requires full-time employment, unless the worker is also enrolled in TAA-approved training and employed at least 20 hours per week, and does not set a deadline for reemployment</p> <p>Available only for workers earning less than \$55,000 per year in reemployment</p> <p>Maximum benefit of \$12,000 over a period of up to two years</p> <p>Participants are eligible for the HCTC</p>

TAA for Communities Program

- \$230 million of new funding for communities affected by trade, particularly small and medium sized communities that have had firms certified for TAA. Certified communities are eligible for strategic planning grants, sector partnership grants, and community college and career training grants.

To File or Not to File?

ARRA changes are effective May 18, 2009, and will apply to all TAA petitions taken place, delays from waiting until May 18 probably furnish a good reason to go forward with petitions now. As May 18 gets closer, then reasons for waiting until May 18 to file will weigh more heavily.

For more information on filing a TAA petition you can download a copy of NELP's TAA certification manual by saving and opening this pdf file.

nelp.3cdn.net/b92b989076097062fb_oqm6brenl.pdf.

Prepared by: Rick McHugh, Staff Attorney
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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108 Website: www.nelp.org.

<http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/WhoWeServe.cfm>.

26. Workforce Investment Act – (WIA) Adults and Dislocated Workers Program (I & NP)

Program Description

The Adult and Dislocated Worker Program, under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, is designed to provide quality employment and training services to assist eligible individuals in finding and qualifying for meaningful employment, and to help employers find the skilled workers they need to compete and succeed in business.

Goals

- To increase employment, as measured by entry into unsubsidized employment;
- To increase retention in unsubsidized employment six months after entry into employment;
- To increase earnings received in unsubsidized employment for dislocated workers; and
- To enhance customer satisfaction for participants and for employers.

The employment goals are measured using Unemployment Insurance Wage Records systems and customer satisfaction goals are measured by sampling.

Services

Services are provided through One-Stop Career Centers. There are three levels of service:

Core services - includes outreach, job search and placement assistance, and labor market information available to all job seekers;

Intensive services - Includes more comprehensive assessments, development of individual employment plans and counseling and career planning; and

Training services - Customers are linked to job opportunities in their communities, including both occupational training and training in basic skills. Participants use an "individual training account" to select an appropriate training program from a qualified training provider.

Additional Services

"Supportive" services such as transportation, childcare, dependent care, housing and needs-related payments are provided under certain circumstances to allow an individual to participate in the program.

"Rapid Response" services at the employment site for employers and workers who are expected to lose their jobs as a result of company closings and mass layoffs are also available.

Individuals whose layoff was created or affected by international trade, may access information and services under the Trade Act programs.

States are responsible for program management and operations including enrollment, service delivery, and certification of training providers.

Target Population

All adults, 18 years and older, are eligible for core services. Dislocated workers. Priority for intensive and training services must be given to recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals where funds are limited.

In addition to unemployed adults, employed adults can also receive services to obtain or retain employment that allows for self-sufficiency. State and local areas are responsible for establishing procedures for applying the priority and self-sufficiency requirements.

Definitions of Dislocated Workers

A dislocated worker is an individual who:

- Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment;
- Is eligible for or has exhausted unemployment insurance;
- Has demonstrated an appropriate attachment to the workforce, but not eligible for unemployment insurance and unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation;
- Has been terminated or laid off or received notification of termination or layoff from employment as a result of a permanent closure or substantial layoff; Is employed at a facility, where the employer has made the general announcement that the facility will close within a 180 days; as self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community or because of a natural disaster; or Is a displaced homemaker who is no longer supported by another family member

27. Community Infrastructure ARRA Grant Information (NP)

- a. The Economic Development Administration (EDA)** is soliciting applications from eligible applicants in all U.S. states to fund projects that will advance economic growth in communities and regions experiencing chronic high unemployment and low per capita income. EDA's goal is to create an environment that fosters innovation, promotes entrepreneurship, and attracts increased private capital investment. EDA's ARRA funding is \$150 million. The deadline for receipt of applications is June 30, 2010. For more information, see the March 10, 2009, Federal Register notice ([74 FR 10232](#)) or the [funding opportunity announcement](#) on EDA's Web site.
- b. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Recovery Act information** provides an outline of how the agency is allocating its \$13.61 billion in ARRA funding and information on ARRA community development block grant (CDBG) funds, including a chart showing CDBG allocations to the states and entitlement communities. LDDs and local officials should contact their state CDBG program offices to learn how to improve their chances of receiving stimulus funds through the CDBG program.

- c. **The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** received \$7.2 billion in ARRA funding for projects and programs that protect and promote “green” jobs and a healthier environment. The EPA details its [plans for awarding the funds](#) on its Web site.
- d. The EPA has assembled a set of resources **including guidance for designing energy-efficient buildings, toolkits for brownfield redevelopment, and a catalog of green-jobs training resources. The information is relevant to all construction projects, whether funded through the stimulus program or other sources.**

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Received \$28 billion in ARRA funding. The [USDA Recovery Act Web site](#) includes links to ARRA plans and reports by agency, including the [Forest Service](#), [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), and [Rural Development \(RD\)](#). The RD site includes [descriptions of programs](#) receiving ARRA funding and links to relevant state offices. |

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- a. **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants** **\$3.2 billion**
Access: Cities with a population of 35,000+, counties with a population of 250,000+, and the top 10 most populated cities and counties in each state apply for formula funds directly to DOE. Smaller cities and counties are eligible for funding from states’ formula funds.
- b. **Weatherization Assistance Program** **\$5 billion**
Access: Formula funding to states. States sub-grant to Community Action Agencies and other public or nonprofit entities.
- c. **State Energy Program** **\$3.1 billion**
States will need to submit an initial application package as specified in the Funding Opportunity Announcement issued by the National Energy Technology Laboratory for the initial disbursement of funds. This deadline has passed.

Access: Formula funding to states (1/3 equally among states, 1/3 by population, 1/3 by energy consumption).
- d. **Clean Cities Program** **\$300 million**
Access: Eligible recipients include states, local governments, and metropolitan transportation authorities in partnership with designated Clean Cities Coalition.
- e. **Smart Grid** **\$4.5 billion**
Access: Funding is discretionary. Approximately \$615 expected for demonstration projects and \$100 million for worker training.

f. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Research, Development **\$2.5 billion**
Access: Funding is discretionary.

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

a. Community Development Block Grant **\$1 billion**
Access: Funds will be distributed to cities under 2008 CDBG formula. Cities must decide on bids within 120 days from the date the cities receive the funds. Local agencies responsible for distribution of funds will vary based on location.

b. Neighborhood Stabilization Program **\$2 billion**
Access: Competitive grants to states, local government, nonprofits, or consortia of nonprofits.

c. HOME Investment Partnerships **\$2.25 billion**
Access: Formula grants to States and localities. Funding distributed to state housing credit agencies based on percentage of HOME funds apportioned to the state. State agencies then distribute competitively to project owners per a qualified allocation plan to owners who receive low income tax credits.

d. Public Housing Capital Fund **\$4 billion**
Access: \$3 billion per formula to public housing authorities; \$1 billion in competitive grants to public housing authorities for priority capital improvements and rehabilitation.

e. Homelessness Prevention Fund **\$1.5 billion**
Access: Formula funding to urban cities, metropolitan counties, and states. Territories and local government grantees may provide funds for projects operated by their own agencies, other local governments, and private non-profits. State grantees must provide all funds to local governments or private non-profits

f. Assisted Housing Stability and Energy and Green Retrofit Programs **\$2.25 billion**
Access: Formula funding of \$2 billion for project-based rental assistance (Section 8) for 12 months. Competitive grants and loans of \$250 million for energy retrofit and green investments in assisted housing under process to be developed by HUD.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

a. Transit Capital Assistance **\$6.9 billion**
Access: \$100 million in discretionary grants; \$5.4 billion to states by formula; \$6.77 million to states by another formula; \$675 million to states by Growing States formula; \$16.9 million set aside for Indian Reservation roads; balance for FTA administration.

- b. New Starts** **\$750 million**
Access: Discretionary grants. Priority given to projects under construction or able to obligate funds within 150 days of enactment of ARRA. FTA’s proposal on the distribution of these funds is currently under review.
- c. Rail Modernization** **\$750 million**
Access: Formula funding to urbanized areas with rail systems in operation for at least seven years.
- d. Highway Infrastructure** **\$27.5 billion**
Access: Formula funding to states; 30 percent within each state suballocated by population formula to Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- e. Competitive Surface Transportation Program** **\$1.5 billion**
Access: Competitive grants to state and local governments and transit agencies.
- f. High Speed Rail Corridors and Intercity Rail Passenger Service** **\$8 billion**
Access: Grants to projects that support development of intercity high speed rail service.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- a. Workforce Investment Act – Adult Program** **\$500 million**
Access: Formula grants to states. States must allocate 85 percent of funds to local workforce investment boards. States expected to submit amendments to their WIA state plans to obtain funds.
- b. Workforce Investment Act – Youth Program** **\$1.2 billion**
Access: Formula grants to states.
- c. Workforce Investment Act – Dislocated Workers** **\$1.25 billion**
Access: Formula grants to states. States allocate funds to local workforce investment boards by formula prescribed by governor.
- d. Green Jobs Training Grants** **\$500 million**
Access: Competitive grant process, likely for nonprofits and state and local governments, according to guidelines to be released by DOL.
- e. Job Corps** **\$250 million**
Access: Funds to be used for construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of Job Corps centers.
- f. AmeriCorps** **\$89 million**
Access: \$89 million for AmeriCorps state and national grantees, \$65 million for AmeriCorps VISTA, and \$40 million for National Service Trust

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

a. Clean Water and Drinking Water Grants and Loans **\$6 billion**

Access: \$4 billion in clean water grants and loans through Clean Water State Revolving Funds; \$2 billion in grants and loans to assist public water systems in achieving or maintaining compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

b. Brownfields **\$100 million**

Access: Competitive grants through the USEPA Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Clean Grants programs to assess and remediate brownfield sites and for revolving loans and job training programs.

c. Hazardous Substance Superfund **\$600 million**

Access: Funding is discretionary. Funds would be for the long-term clean up of abandoned hazardous toxic waste sites.

d. Clean Diesel Reduction Program **\$300 million**

Access: Competitive grants and loans through the National Clean Diesel Campaign to help regional, state, and local governments, tribal agencies, and non-profit organizations with projects that reduce diesel emissions.

27 .Community Services Block Grant - NP

Fact Sheet: Type of Grant: Mandatory Block Grant

2008 Appropriation: \$654 million

2007 Appropriation: \$630.4 million

Legislative Authority:

The Community Services Block Grant Act of 1981 as amended by Section 680(a)(2) of the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-285).

Purpose:

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and Federal and State-recognized Indian Tribes and tribal organizations, Community Action Agencies, migrant and seasonal farm workers or other organizations designated by the States, funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

Block Grants:

The CSBG program provides States and Indian Tribes with funds to lessen poverty in communities. The funds provide a range of services and activities to assist the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless, migrants and the elderly. Grant amounts are determined by a formula based on each State's and Indian Tribe's poverty population. Grantees receiving funds under the CSBG program are required to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health.

Discretionary Grants:

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):

OCS is committed to promoting and funding projects that use asset formation financial strategies to increase disposable earned income in low-income households and to help direct the use of that income toward asset formation. OCS awards funds to provide capacity-building assistance that enables local, State or regional CSBG networks to plan, establish, improve or expand asset formation and financial service opportunities for eligible individuals and families.

Healthy Marriage:

This program's purpose is to help low-income families form healthy, stable marriages. To achieve this objective, OCS funds projects that help low-income families form and maintain such marriages. OCS funds projects with thorough, well designed proposals that include implementation activities for the following: data gathering, planning, and model development; and program intervention and service delivery; that lead to training and technical assistance activities for organizations eligible to receive CSBG assistance with the Community Services Block Grant Network.

Target Population:

Beneficiaries are low-income individuals that may be unemployed or receiving public assistance, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), at-risk youth, custodial and non-custodial parents, residents of public housing, persons with disabilities, persons who are homeless, and individuals transitioning from incarceration into the community. Individuals and families can find out about local service providers at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbgs/documents/8c.html>.

Eligible Applicants:

Block Grants: States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and Federal and State-recognized Indian Tribes and tribal organizations.

Discretionary Grants:

Statewide or local organizations, or associations with demonstrated expertise in providing training to individuals and organizations on methods of effectively addressing the needs of low-income families, and communities and organizations that are officially designated as a Community Action Agency (CAA) or a community action program under section 673(1) of the CSBG Act, as amended by the Human Service Amendments of 1994 (P.L. 103-252), and meets all requirements under section 673 (1)(A) and 676A of the CSBG Act, as amended by the COATES Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998.

Federal Contact: Division of State Assistance
Office of Community Services 202.401.2333
Email: csbg@acf.hhs.gov

28. Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods Affected by the Housing Crisis (NP)

Opportunity

Minimize the impact of the housing crisis on families and neighborhoods by stemming the tide of home foreclosures; providing emergency shelter, rapid re-housing supports, education, and other emergency services for displaced families; managing the fluctuating housing supply; and rebuilding distressed neighborhoods.

Rationale

The current housing crisis in the United States continues to take a devastating toll on families and communities around the country. The number of foreclosures surged to nearly 300,000 for the month of February 2009, a 30 percent jump from February 2008. At the end of 2008, “one in every nine U.S. homeowners with a mortgage was behind on home loan payments or in some stage of foreclosure, “ and one in five U.S. homeowners owed more on their mortgage than their homes were worth. Families experiencing foreclosure often have a difficult time finding a new place to live on short notice. As a result, children are uprooted from their schools and neighborhoods as their families shift from one temporary situation to another. Displaced families are less likely to have the resources for needed health care and nutrition, and excessive mobility can lead children to fall behind in school or develop behavioral problems. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), families with children accounted for about one-third (473,500) of the 1.6 million people who lived in a homeless residential facility in the year just prior to the beginning of the recession. Concentrated foreclosures and abandoned properties drag down home values, invite crime and blight, destabilize the housing market, and burden city governments with the maintenance of additional vacant properties. Foreclosures, as one aspect of a larger housing and retail downturn, are directly driving down property tax revenues (determined by the value of homes) and indirectly driving down sales and income tax revenues as people’s wealth and related consumer activity decline. Research conducted by the National League of Cities last year revealed that for the first time in 25 years, all three major sources of city tax revenue (property, sales, and income) declined at the same time, dropping by more than \$15 billion between 2007 and 2008.⁶ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) includes more than

\$12 billion to help stem this tide of home foreclosures; provide emergency shelter and rapid re-housing services; provide education and emergency services to displaced children and families; manage the fluctuating housing supply; and rebuild distressed neighborhoods hard hit by the foreclosure crisis. Most of this funding will be provided to cities or public housing agencies, while other funding is available to schools or directly to current or potential homeowners. This stimulus funding is complemented by several other recent federal initiatives to address the foreclosure crisis. Municipal leaders have both the opportunity and the difficult responsibility of ensuring that this money is spent wisely to address the needs of vulnerable residents and keep their cities' neighborhoods strong. City leadership in this area can have tremendous benefits at the local level by:

- Keeping families in their homes and children connected to schools and services;
- Stabilizing property values for residents;
- Maintaining property tax revenue for the city; and
- Reducing the costs of homelessness, maintenance of abandoned properties, crime, and blight resulting from concentrated foreclosures.

This brief is part of a series that highlights key city priorities and describes how federal economic recovery resources can be used to advance those priorities while promoting recovery. Visit <http://www.nlc.org> to view the complete set of Economic Recovery Briefs.

Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods Affected by the Housing Crisis Local strategies that simultaneously address foreclosure prevention, emergency supports, rapid re-housing, and community development strategies not only provide a much needed service to families struggling to pay their mortgage bills, but also prevent further damage to home values and hard-hit communities.

Relevant ARRA Funding Streams and Related Federal Initiatives

Nearly 75 percent of the \$13.61 billion in Recovery Act programs administered by HUD will be allocated to state and local recipients. Additional federal actions to address the housing crisis will expand resources to help struggling homeowners even further. Timely and prudent investment of these funds by local leaders to help alleviate foreclosures, assist displaced families, and reclaim distressed communities will be critical for recovery efforts at the neighborhood level. \$2 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, \$1.5 billion for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Fund, \$1 billion for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), \$2 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance, \$4 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund, \$2 billion for the Tax Credit Assistance Program, \$70 million for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education for Children and Youth, \$100 million in Emergency Food and Shelter funds *Neighborhood Stabilization Program*. ARRA includes \$2 billion in competitive Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to address home foreclosure and abandonment. Under the NSP, HUD awards grants to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of blight within their communities. The goal of the program is to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the declining value of neighboring homes. For instance, NSP funds may be used to demolish homes where rehabilitation would exceed the cost of new construction. Funds may also be used to buy foreclosed buildings to allow Section 8 tenants to live out valid leases. HUD will issue a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) with application requirements no later than May 3, 2009.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Fund

Cities are eligible to receive a share of the \$1.5 billion in funds for homelessness prevention for families in unstable housing situations and rapid re-housing for families losing their homes. These activities can include short-term or medium-term rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management. Funding allocations will be made according to the Emergency Shelter Grant program's pre-existing formula, with a minimum grant size of \$500,000 for eligible cities. In order to receive funding, eligible cities must submit a substantial amendment to their Consolidated 2008 Action Plan by May 18, 2009. HUD maintains a virtual helpdesk for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program at <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHPRP>.

Project-Based Rental Assistance

\$2 billion in additional funds were included for the Section 8 subsidized rental housing program to renew rental agreements with participating landlords who rent to low-income families on a full 12-month cycle. This will avoid the payment disruptions that have occurred in the past and enable owners to maintain their properties in an acceptable condition. Public Housing Agencies will be allocated a portion of the funds by formula.

Public Housing Capital Fund Stimulus

The Public Housing Capital Fund has two funding streams in ARRA— \$3 billion in formula-based grants and another \$995 million available in competitive grants, both of which will be funneled through Public Housing Agencies. Funding through these programs will allow Public Housing Agencies to sustain, modernize, and develop public housing, and will support the capital and management activities of Public Housing Agencies. Neither program allows funds to be used for operations or rental assistance. Priority will be given to projects that can competitively award contracts within 120 days of funding, as well as those that accomplish multiple goals at once (e.g., rehabilitating vacant rental units while improving energy efficiency).

Tax Credit Assistance Program

State Housing Finance Credit Agencies that administer the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) will be receiving over \$2.2 billion in Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP) funding. The LIHTC Program creates additional funding for developers of low-income rental housing units. Local-level entities can apply to the State Housing Finance Agencies for this capital investment funding for their LIHTC projects, which will be distributed competitively by the state agency. Priority is given to projects that are expected to be completed by February 2012.

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

ARRA includes \$70 million in formula funding for state educational agencies; some of this funding must be provided through competitive grants to local school districts. This funding is intended to provide activities and services for homeless preschool- and school-aged children and youth that enable them to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school or preschool programs. Eligible program activities include transportation, tutoring, school supplies, counseling, domestic violence services, health referral services, or other emergency assistance necessary for school success. The program also establishes liaisons between shelters and schools.

Additional Federal Efforts to Address the Housing Crisis

Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan (HASP)

In February 2009, President Obama announced the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan aimed at reducing foreclosures and stabilizing the housing market. First, HASP will provide \$75 billion to help reduce mortgage payments to no more than 31 percent of monthly income for struggling borrowers. Lenders that modify troubled loans and are a part of the government's Hope for Homeowners program (see below) are eligible for thousands of dollars in incentive payments, including bonuses for reaching homeowners who can prove financial hardship before they become delinquent. Second, the plan includes refinancing for borrowers with mortgages owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac if they have little equity in their homes but are current on their mortgage. This builds on the Streamlined Modification Program (SMP), initiated by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in December 2008, which helps troubled borrowers through individualized loan modifications. The SMP suspends foreclosure sales and evictions while reaching out to borrowers who might be eligible for loan modifications. Finally, this plan provides additional financial support to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in an effort to maintain low mortgage interest rates. This effort has been supported by aggressive action by the Federal Reserve Bank to improve mortgage rates by holding the key interest rate essentially at zero and directly buying mortgage-backed securities and Treasury securities.

Hope for Homeowners

Created as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, the Hope for Homeowners program offers eligible borrowers the ability to refinance into new mortgages insured by FHA if their lenders agree to loan modifications. The Hope for Homeowners program, which is voluntary for both borrowers and lenders, began on October 1, 2008, and will remain in place until September 30, 2011. Because this program did not have the impact lawmakers had hoped, HUD announced some policy changes in November 2008 to simplify the program and encourage participation. Federal regulatory agencies for banks, thrifts, and credit unions have encouraged all federally regulated financial institutions that service or hold residential mortgage loans to participate in the loan modification program.

Federal Reserve and FDIC Loan Modification Activities

In January 2009, the Federal Reserve announced a plan to prevent foreclosures on mortgages it owns or controls, such as those it received as collateral for lending to troubled banks. According to initial reports, the plan will use interest rate reductions, extensions of the loan term, and principal forbearance and forgiveness to help struggling borrowers avoid foreclosure. The FDIC

has also put a program in place to reduce foreclosures and help troubled borrowers with loans in the portfolios of every financial institution it takes over.

Opportunities for City Leaders

Cities can play a major role in mitigating further damage to children, families, and neighborhoods from the housing crisis that has swept the country. City leaders can convene community stakeholders to develop a strategy that includes applying for direct funding through ARRA or other available federal funds, and reaching out to residents to help them understand new benefits and credits available to help them avoid foreclosure. For families that have already lost their homes, cities can provide safe and affordable housing while they rebuild their lives. Convene key players to develop a community-wide strategy to prevent foreclosure and rebuild neighborhoods. City leaders can play an important role in bringing together various entities within the community to create a comprehensive, citywide strategy. These entities can include financial institutions, regulatory agencies such as the regional FDIC or Federal Reserve Bank, community organizations, housing agencies, rental property owners, judges, sheriff's offices, neighborhood associations, and others. Determine the ARRA or other funding for which the city will apply and if there are other entities applying for funding as well. Identify specific neighborhoods where foreclosure rates are high that can be the target of a strategy and determine which roles each group or organization will play in an overall strategy to reduce foreclosure.

• Apply for – or submit necessary paperwork to claim – funding from the federal government to boost foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization efforts.

Cities that are considering applying for funding available through ARRA should remember that preference will be given to projects in which the funds can be used quickly and projects that have a “green” focus (that are environmentally friendly or utilize green technology). A consolidated city approach to using these funds – including a partnership with the Public Housing Agency to coordinate with plans for the Project-Based Rental Assistance and Public Housing Capital Funds –will help ensure that stimulus funds coming into the community can have the greatest possible impact.

- Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Funds from HUD can be used to save troubled neighborhoods through activities such as purchasing and redeveloping foreclosed properties that would otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight. Cities can also use these funds to purchase buildings that have been foreclosed to allow Section 8 tenants to remain in their homes. These are competitive funds; information on how to apply will be available by May 3.

- Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

Funds from HUD can be used by cities to provide direct financial assistance to families to prevent them from losing their homes or help them find housing after a foreclosure. Allowable uses include rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management. Cities that are eligible for formula funding must submit a substantial amendment to their Consolidated 2008 Action Plan by May 18, 2009; others may be able to receive funding from their states.

-Connect families in crisis to available shelter, food, and healthcare resources.

Cities can apply directly, or support the application of a local service organization, for funding through the Emergency Food and Shelter grant program to address the needs of families who have experienced foreclosure. Cities can also help coordinate training for city or county law enforcement officers, especially those involved in the foreclosure process or working in communities hard-hit by foreclosure, to ensure that they are aware of and know how to connect families to local emergency shelter, food, and services. City health departments can conduct public outreach campaigns to encourage eligible families to sign up for free or low cost health insurance and, as appropriate, seek needed services at school or community health clinics or disproportionate share hospitals, which will also receive additional stimulus funding. National League of Cities community events to share information with residents about homeownership opportunities and affordable housing stock. To encourage home purchases in neighborhoods that have high rates of foreclosure, cities can conduct tours that showcase available houses and provide down payment or home rehabilitation assistance for qualified homebuyers who choose to live in an area the city is seeking to revitalize.

For additional information or to discuss next steps, contact:

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• Partner with the school district to meet the needs of displaced students.

Schools can apply to the state educational agency for funding through the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program to meet the needs of children whose families are homeless following a foreclosure. This may include working to change local school policies and providing transportation assistance to allow students to continue at the same school until their family has settled into a stable new housing arrangement. It may also mean providing assistance to families to get their children into – or keep their children in – afterschool programs that could provide a steady, supportive environment. Cities can play important roles in outreach, linkages to afterschool programs, transportation, and additional supportive services for homeless children and youth served with these funds.

• Target homeowners at risk of foreclosure to provide services and information.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing funding can help cities identify families in the early stages of a foreclosure process and provide intensive prevention services. Outreach to

these families – by mail, targeted calls, or even home visits – can link them to housing counselors, legal services attorneys, mortgage refinance opportunities, credit counselors, and financial assistance. Cities can also work with judges to intervene in the foreclosure process in the courtroom, encouraging alternative solutions and making legal and other services available to the homeowner. Neighborhoods with high foreclosure rates can also be targeted for door-to-door leafleting and the city can offer a “311” prevention hotline to allow families who have not yet begun the foreclosure process to seek anonymous advice from trained housing counselors.

- **Enlist the help of local lenders to reduce foreclosures.**

Mayors and other city leaders can utilize relationships with decision-makers in local financial institutions to share information about new federal initiatives to help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure and encourage their participation, including the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan and Hope for Homeowners. City officials can also work in partnership with financial institutions to inform families of foreclosure prevention information and resources, including the federal Making Home Affordable website: <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/>. The HOPE NOW Alliance, a voluntary alliance of mortgage lenders, servicers, investors, and housing counselors, can be a resource in getting the word out.

- **Promote responsible and affordable homeownership to stabilize the housing market.**

City leaders can take steps to reduce the glut of homes for sale in their cities and help families that are ready to be homeowners for the first time make a responsible purchase. In addition to providing information on how to calculate what is truly affordable and apply for a mortgage, cities can help families connect to federal, state, or local assistance for low- and moderate income first-time homebuyers. One important new support included in ARRA is the first-time homeownership tax credit of up to \$4,000 for individuals and \$8,000 for couples. Cities can promote the credit by making sure residents and appropriate community partners, such as employers, financial institutions, realtors, and city agencies, are aware of the credit.

National League of Cities

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20004 • Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods Affected by the Housing Crisis

Other Useful Links:

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:
www.hud.gov/recovery.
- NeighborWorks America’s Stable Communities initiative
www.stablecommunities.org.
- The National Community Stabilization Trust:
www.stabilizationtrust.com.
- As a collaborative effort of the Center for Housing Policy, Knowledge-Plex, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Urban Institute, this Web site offers resources to help states and localities respond to the foreclosure crisis:
www.foreclosure-response.org.
- Home Affordable Modification Program Guidelines:
www.treasury.gov/press/releases/reports/modification_program_guidelines.pdf

- Foreclosure Avoidance Counseling:
[http:// www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/fc/](http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/fc/)
- Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program National Board staff:
(703) 706-9660

29. ACCESS NYC : This link will help to find some useful information on ARRA.
[ACCESS NYC Newsletter October 2009.pdf](#)

Access NYC-

- Access NYC is a free service that identifies and screens for over 30 City, State, and Federal human service benefit programs. You may use this service [anonymously](#) or you have the option to create an [account](#). Some ACCESS NYC programs require users to create an [account](#).
- In addition to screening for a number of benefit programs, you may also use ACCESS NYC to apply online for the [School Meals](#) program. For all other programs, you will need to take additional steps outside of ACCESS NYC to apply for benefits. ACCESS NYC will help fill out some of the applications to make the process easier and will provide information on [Agency](#) office locations that are near you. Please contact the [Agencies](#) directly to complete their applications.
- There are other programs, offered by [Agencies](#), that are not yet a part of ACCESS NYC.
- For help with an emergency, please dial 911. To contact a City [Agency](#), or to inquire about other City government services, please dial 311.
- We have been busy participating in many school-related events in order to continue getting the word out to families about the availability of the School Meals application online. It is important to remind families that last year's approved application remained effective only through October 21, 2009; a new application needs to be submitted for the current school year.
- Submitting the application on ACCESS NYC is simple and fast. When applying online, only one application is needed for all children, whether they attend public, private or charter schools. Be sure to visit [Http://www.nyc.gov/accessnyc](http://www.nyc.gov/accessnyc) and click on 'Apply Online for Programs' to get this years' application submitted.