



A Resource Guide for
African Americans

The American

RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT

Act of 2009

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Economic Development and Social Welfare	5
Employment and Training Activities	5
Tax Credits/Tax Deductions	6
Economic Support for the Unemployed and Disabled	6
Technology Innovations	7
Small Businesses	8
Children and Families	8
Aging Americans	9
Housing	9
Community Development	9
Disaster Relief	10
Infrastructure	10
Renewable Energy Investments	11
Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention	11
Domestic Violence	11
Education	13
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	13
Rewarding Achievement and Innovation	13
Education for the Disadvantaged and Individuals with Disabilities	14
Higher Education Assistance	14
Health	17
Health Care Coverage and Services	17
Community Health Infrastructure	17
Health Information Technology	18
Environmental Health and Safety	18
Scientific Research and Facilities	18
What factors determine how much ARRA funding my community will receive?	19
Where can I go for more information about ARRA?	20
APPENDIX I	21
APPENDIX II	22

This resource guide was prepared by Dr. Alana C. Hackshaw, Senior Research and Policy Analyst at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. The author gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their insights and contribution: Dr. Elsie L. Scott, Dr. Marjorie A. Innocent, Mr. Chris M. Cobbs and Mr. William D. Turner III. This work was made possible through generous support from the Ford Foundation.



Introduction

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)—commonly called the Economic Stimulus Package—is the most comprehensive economic recovery legislation in the United States since the New Deal of the 1930s. ARRA provides federal funding to states and local communities for projects and programs that will address budget shortfalls for critical issues, such as employment, housing, and healthcare. Additionally, the major provisions of ARRA are geared towards stimulating and boosting the American economy by creating and saving jobs in the private sector. For African Americans, additional funding for education, health, economic development, and social welfare offers key economic safeguards as well as economic opportunities.

The Congressional Black Caucus supports ARRA because it provides vital resources for improving the circumstances of African Americans who have been disproportionately affected by the current economic



crisis. One of the most important components of this legislation is that it is designed to provide funding quickly to the states, so that those who need immediate relief can receive assistance. The funding will also go to projects and programs that demonstrate that the funding can be utilized quickly and effectively to improve communities. Furthermore, the ARRA includes a system of transparency and accountability among states and local communities in order to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of the use the funds set aside in the bill.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation has prepared this resource guide to highlight some of the major provisions within ARRA that are critical to the African-American community.¹ The federal agencies responsible for administering funds and programs are identified for each issue area throughout the guide. For additional information about the relevant federal agencies, please refer to the table provided on page 20 of the resource guide.



REBUILD

Economic Development and Social Welfare

The current economic crisis facing the U.S. poses a great challenge to the economic security of African Americans.

- Almost a quarter of the African-American population in the U.S. is living in poverty.²
- In March 2009, the unemployment rate among African Americans was 55% higher than the national rate and African Americans had the highest unemployment rate of all racial/ethnic groups.³ The recession has been especially devastating for black men, who have seen nearly a 9% rise in unemployment since November 2007.
- The economic status of African-American families has been threatened due to the subprime lending crisis as many have lost their homes or currently face foreclosure.
- Many African Americans continue to face an affordable housing crisis in communities with quality schools and services.

SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS OF BILL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

ARRA includes a broad range of provisions for promoting the renewal of the American economy and the social well-being of Americans. ARRA offers protections for those who have been most vulnerable during the economic crisis, including the unemployed, poor and middle class. Funding within the legislation will be allocated towards various programs, such as employment and training opportunities, tax credits, assistance to low-income families, neighborhood revitalization, technology innovation, infrastructure improvements and support for small businesses.

Employment and Training Activities (administered by the Department of Labor)

- \$500 million in state grants for adult employment and training activities. The targeted groups for these funds will be public assistance recipients and low-income individuals. For more information, go to http://www.doleta.gov/programs/general_info.cfm.
- \$1.2 billion in grants for youth programs to help youth ages 14–24 acquire educational and occupational skills, including summer employment. For more information about participating programs go to http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/.
- \$1.25 billion in grants to states for employment and training activities for the unemployed. For more information, go to http://www.doleta.gov/programs/ETA_default.cfm?#Dislocated.
- \$750 million for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industry sectors, including energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- \$250 million for the rehabilitation and construction of Jobs Corps Centers, which includes funding for career training in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental protection industries.
- \$50 million for YouthBuild activities for disadvantaged, out-of-school youth. For more information go to http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/.

Tax Credits/Tax Deductions
*(administered by the
Department of the Treasury)*

- \$400 credit for individuals (\$800 for couples) during tax years 2009 and 2010 through the Making Work Pay Tax Credit. This amount will be phased out for individuals making more than \$75,000 and couples making more than \$150,000.
- \$8,000 credit for first-time homebuyers who purchase a home between January 1 and December 1, 2009 and use the property as their primary residence for at least 36 months. The credit phases out for individuals with incomes above \$75,000 and families with incomes above \$150,000.
- 45% increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit for families with three or more qualifying children for tax years 2009 and 2010.
- For tax years 2009 and 2010, a refundable child credit of up to \$3,000 for families with at least one child.
- A deduction of state sales, local and excise taxes through December 31, 2009 for the purchase of new vehicles worth up to \$49,500 for individuals making less than \$125,000 and couples with an annual income of no more than \$250,000.
- A tax credit for 30% of the total cost of home energy improvements (e.g., windows, doors, heating and cooling systems) or home energy expenses (e.g., heat and gas bills) for tax years 2009 and 2010. The credit amount cannot exceed \$1,500.
- A credit of up to \$2,500 for education-related expenses (i.e., tuition, fees, and course materials) for college students through the American Opportunity Tax Credit. The credit phases out for individuals earning more than \$80,000 and families with income above \$160,000.
- For 2009 and 2010, computer equipment and Internet access qualify as higher education expenses for families with 529 college savings accounts.
- For 2009 and 2010, individuals using public transit or vanpools can set aside up to \$230 pre-tax from their paycheck for the cost of commuting to work. The previous maximum was \$120. This benefit is set to expire on December 31, 2009.

***Economic Support for the
Unemployed and Disabled***
*(administered by the
Department of Labor)*

- No federal income tax owed on the first \$2,400 of unemployment compensation received by those out of work.
- Extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act (EUC) from March 31 to December 31, 2009. The act provides additional unemployment benefits for eligible persons who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits. For more information, go to: http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/supp_act.asp.
- \$25 increase per week in unemployment compensation benefits.

- Incentive grants to states to expand unemployment compensation for victims of domestic violence, those seeking part-time employment, and those dealing with family illness or disability. For more information, go to: <http://www.workforcsecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/>.
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs reauthorized through December 31, 2010. TAA helps trade-affected workers who have lost their jobs as a result of increased outsourcing to foreign countries or shifts in production out of the U.S. by improving access to training, healthcare and TAA re-employment benefits. For more information go to: <http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/WhoWeServe.cfm>.
- Through September 2009, jobless workers' access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (i.e., Food Stamps) will not be subject to lifetime limits (*administered by the Department of Agriculture*).
- 65% of the total cost of health insurance for the unemployed (i.e., COBRA) will be covered for individuals and their families for up to nine months. Only workers who lost their job involuntarily between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009 qualify. (*administered by the Department of the Treasury*).
- Economic recovery payment in the amount of \$250 to recipients of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement Benefits, Veterans Disability Compensation or Pension Benefits, as well as eligible government retirees. This payment is not considered taxable income and will not impact eligibility for public assistance (*administered by the Social Security Administration*).

Technology Innovations
(*administered by the
Department of Commerce*)

- \$4.7 billion available for the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), including:
 - \$200 million for competitive grants to upgrade technology and capacity at community colleges, public libraries and other public computing centers.
 - \$250 million for innovative programs to encourage sustainable broadband access.
- \$650 million for coupons for the digital TV conversion.
- \$2.5 billion available in grants, loans, and loan guarantees for broadband projects in rural communities; 75% of the areas to be served must be rural regions without enough high-speed broadband access to promote local economic development (*administered by the Department of Agriculture*).
- \$636 million for a business loan programs, including:
 - \$6 million for direct loans.
 - \$630 million for the cost of guaranteed loans and loan modifications.

Small Businesses (administered by the Small Business Administration)

- Small Business Administration (SBA) to guarantee up to 90 percent of qualifying loans.
- \$375 million to eliminate fees on SBA-backed loans for businesses.
- SBA to provide loan assistance (not to exceed \$35,000) to small businesses with severe debt.
- \$30 million to expand SBA's microloan program to help new businesses.
- \$24 million for technical assistance grants to microlenders.
- \$15 million in additional funding for SBA's Surety Bond Guarantee program.
- Low-interest refinancing available through local development business loan programs.
- \$20 million for updating technology systems related to the activity of lenders and oversight of lenders.
- Through an expansion of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), employers to receive credit for hiring out-of-work veterans and youth ages 16-24 who are unemployed and not in school. The credit applies for individuals who begin work after December 31, 2008. For more information, go to: <http://www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax/> (administered by the Department of Labor).

Children and Families (administered by the Department of Agriculture)

- \$100 million for the National School Lunch Program.
- Temporary increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (i.e., Food Stamps) through September 30, 2009.
- \$500 million in additional funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- \$150 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.
- \$2 billion to states for the Child Care and Development Block Grant serving low-income families, including \$93.6 million to improve infant and toddler care (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services).
- \$5 billion available to states to supplement emergency funds for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 in the event of caseload increases and increased demand for non-recurrent, short-term benefits. There will also be an extension of TANF Supplemental Grants through fiscal year 2010 (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services).

Aging Americans

- \$100 million to support senior nutrition programs (*administered by the Department of Health and Human Services*).
 - \$120 million in community service employment for low-income seniors. For more information go to <http://www.doleta.gov/seniors/> (*administered by the Department of Labor*).
-

Housing (administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- Minimum requirements for Federal Housing Authority (FHA) and Government-Sponsored Enterprise (GSE) loans for 2009 set at 2008 floor levels.
 - \$1.5 billion for short-term or medium-term rental assistance, housing relocation, mediation with property owners, credit repair, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management to help those facing homelessness and provide housing for the homeless.
 - \$4 billion for public housing capital projects (including the development, financing, and modernization of housing units).
 - \$2.25 billion in project-based rental assistance, including \$250 million for energy and green investments in assisted housing (elderly, disabled, and Section 8).
 - \$2.25 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for capital investments in low-income housing tax credit projects. The housing credit agencies in each state will distribute these funds competitively.
 - \$11.5 billion for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund for direct and guaranteed loans for single-family, rental, and cooperative housing in rural communities.
-

Community Development (administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- \$2 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Stimulus Program to be allocated to states, localities, and non-profits for emergency assistance to redevelop abandoned and foreclosed homes in areas with high foreclosure rates.
- \$1 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program aimed at preventing blight and addressing urgent community development needs.
- \$ 1 billion for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program to support community groups that provide employment, education, housing, nutrition, and emergency services to those in need (*administered by the Department of Health and Human Services*).
- \$100 million for lead hazard reduction projects.
- \$100 million for Community Development Financial Institutions Fund programs to promote banking and lending in low-income communities (*administered by the Department of the Treasury*).



Community Development
(continued)

- \$150 million in economic development assistance to areas with the highest rates of joblessness and economic distress to generate private-sector jobs (*administered by the Department of Commerce*).
- \$130 million in grants and loans for community facilities in rural areas (*administered by the Department of Agriculture*).

Disaster Relief (*administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency*)

- Establishment of an arbitration panel under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant Program to accelerate recovery efforts from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- \$300 million for state and local security programs, including \$150 million for public transportation security assistance and \$150 million for port security grants.
- \$5 million or more in loans to local communities for disaster relief programs.
- \$100 million for emergency food and shelter relief provided by social service organizations.

Infrastructure (*administered by the Department of Transportation*)

- \$27.5 billion for restoration, repair, and construction of highway, rail, and port infrastructure.
- \$8 billion for grants to fund projects for the development of high-speed rail corridors and intercity passenger rail service.
- \$1.3 billion to Amtrak (national rail service) for upgrades and repairs to rail infrastructure and improvement of security.
- \$6.9 billion for transit assistance grants, of which \$100 million will be available to public transit agencies for investments that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions of their public transportation systems.
- \$1.5 billion in competitive grants for national surface transportation systems, including highway and bridge projects, public transportation, and rail projects.

Renewable Energy Investments
(administered by the
Department of Energy)

- \$16.8 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy including:
 - \$3.2 billion for Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG).
 - \$3.1 billion for the State Energy Program.
 - \$5 billion is available for the Weatherization Assistance Program to help low-income families reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.
 - \$4.5 billion for updating the nation's electric grid and energy infrastructure, including \$100 million for worker training.
 - Funding for smart grid projects in urban, suburban, tribal, and rural areas.
 - \$6 billion for loan guarantees for technology innovations.
 - \$250 million for energy and green investments in assisted housing (see *Housing* on p. 9).
 - \$500 million for renewable energy and electric power transmission projects.
-

**Criminal Justice and Crime
Prevention** (administered by the
Department of Justice)

- \$2 billion in grants for additional state and local law enforcement assistance.
 - \$1 billion to hire and rehire additional law enforcement officers in local communities.
 - \$225 million for grants to improve the criminal justice system, assist victims of crime (other than compensation) and mentor youth.
 - \$125 million for assistance to law enforcement in rural states and rural areas.
 - \$50 million for Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) initiatives.
 - \$40 million for competitive grants to provide assistance and equipment to local law enforcement to combat narcotics activity.
-

Domestic Violence
(administered by the
Department of Justice)

- \$225 million in grants for Violence against Women Prevention and Prosecution programs, of which \$50 million will be for transitional housing grants for victims of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault.



REINVEST

Education

Access to quality education in the U.S. remains a challenge for African Americans at all education levels.

- Schools serving African-American children often lack the money, qualified teachers, textbooks, and other instructional materials needed to serve their students.
- Black students are more likely to attend schools in communities with high concentrations of poverty.⁴
- Although the college enrollment rates of African Americans are about the same as White students, African Americans are not completing college at the same rate. A college degree attainment gap remains between African Americans and Whites.⁵

SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS OF BILL FOR EDUCATION

Key provisions of ARRA provide additional funding for education at all levels, including elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education. The funding supplements early childhood programs and services as well as education for low-income families. The first round of funding will play a significant role in preventing hundreds of thousands of estimated teacher layoffs, allocating resources for school repairs and improvements, and increasing financial assistance for college students. Forty-four billion dollars in funding from ARRA will be available to states at the end of March, while an additional Forty-nine billion will become available between the summer and fall of 2009.⁶

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (administered by the Department of Education)

- \$48.6 billion to be allocated to states by formula, where 82% of funds will be used for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education as well as early childhood programs. These funds will be available for fiscal years 2009-2011.
- All states that apply for assistance under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund must affirm that action will be taken to ensure that low-income and minority children are not disproportionately taught by inexperienced or unqualified teachers.

Rewarding Achievement and Innovation (administered by the Department of Education)

- \$5 billion for competitive grants, including:
 - \$4.35 billion to help states improve education quality and rates of student achievement.
 - \$640 million to expand programs that have made significant gains in closing the achievement gap.

Education for the Disadvantaged and Individuals with Disabilities (administered by the Department of Education).

- \$13 billion in education funding for low-income communities and low-performing schools for school improvements and grants.
- \$70 million to help states and local educational agencies serve homeless children and youth.
- \$12.2 billion for state special education programs for infants, preschoolers and children through 12th grade.
- \$3.15 billion for children and family services, including the expansion of Head Start programs (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services).

Higher Education Assistance (administered by the Department of Education)

- \$17.1 billion for Pell grants. For the year 2009, the maximum Pell Grant award will increase to \$5,350 and for 2010; it will increase to \$5,550.
- \$200 million for work-study programs.
- \$15 million for historic preservation projects at historically black colleges and universities (administered by the Department of the Interior).





RENEW

Health

Access to quality, affordable health care as well as critical prevention and wellness resources are limited for many African Americans.

- Poor African Americans do not have regular access to quality health care which is critical to maintaining good health, preventing disease, and managing chronic illness.⁷
- 18% of African Americans under 65 are without regular health insurance.⁸
- The leading causes of death among African Americans are heart disease, cancer, and stroke, respectively.⁹ In 2005, death rates for the black population exceeded those for the white population by 46% for stroke, 31% for heart disease, 22% for cancer, 108% for diabetes, and 782% for HIV disease.¹⁰
- Health institutions that serve African Americans are more likely to have fewer resources.¹¹

SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS OF BILL FOR HEALTH

The health-related provisions of ARRA include additional support for local, agency-based health resources and services for prevention and wellness, as well as increased funding for health research and health care workers. The bill also lays the groundwork for the adoption of a health technology information infrastructure that promotes the electronic exchange and use of health information in the United States.

Health Care Coverage and Services (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services)

- 6.2% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid to states.
- \$1 billion for prevention and wellness projects, of which \$300 million will be to purchase vaccines through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Section 317 immunization program; \$50 million for state healthcare-related infection reduction efforts; and \$650 million for clinical and community-based prevention and wellness strategies that address chronic disease.

Community Health Infrastructure (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services)

- \$1.5 billion for community health center construction, renovation and equipment, including the acquisition of health information technology (HIT).
- \$500 million in grants for expanded services at community health centers.
- \$500 million to address health professions workforce shortages and bolster public health staffing.

Health Information Technology (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services)

- Incentives under Medicaid and Medicare for providers to adopt and use a certified HIT system.
- Targeted assessments of the impact of health information technology on uninsured and underinsured communities to reduce and manage chronic diseases.
- Development of health technology standards to facilitate the creation of a nationwide HIT system that allows for the electronic use and exchange of health information.

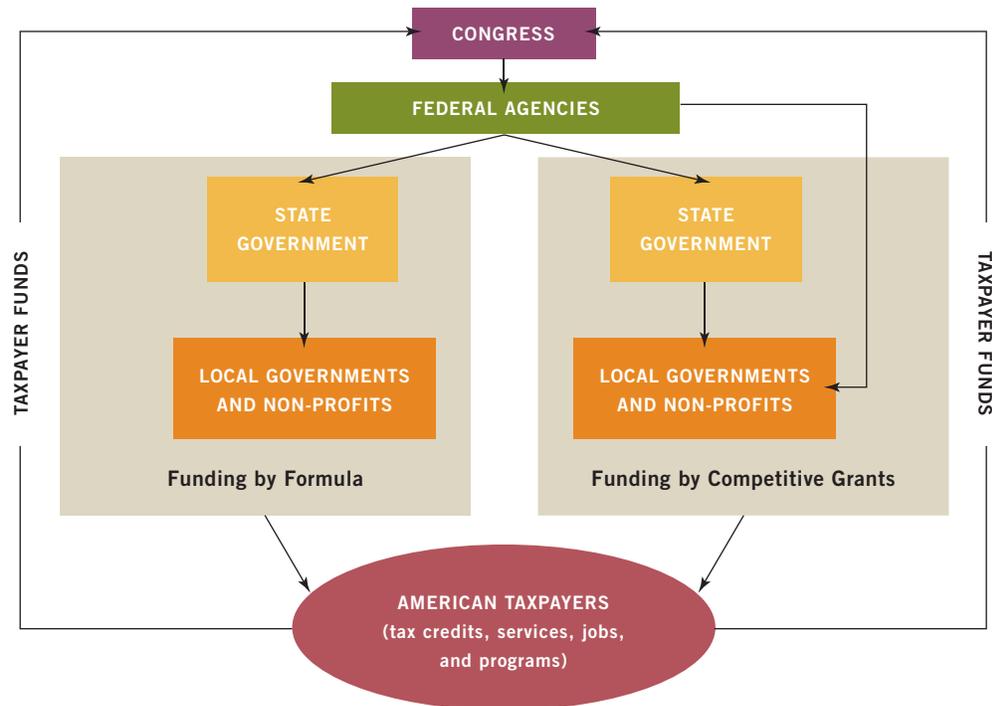
Environmental Health and Safety (administered by the Environmental Protection Agency)

- \$600 million for Hazardous Substance Superfund grants for the cleanup of hazardous waste sites.
- \$500 million for wildland fire management for fire readiness, reduction of hazard fuels, and ecosystem improvements.
- \$200 million for the cleanup of petroleum leaks from underground storage tanks, such as those used by local governments, gas stations, and fleet service operators.
- \$100 million for Brownfields grants to evaluate and clean up former industrial and commercial sites (competitive grants).
- Funding for state water protection projects, including:
 - \$4 billion for clean water revolving fund programs.
 - \$2 billion for drinking water revolving fund programs.
 - 20% of clean and drinking water funds to be reserved for green infrastructure projects aimed at water and energy efficiency improvements or other environmental innovations.
 - \$1.38 billion for loans and grants for rural water and waste disposal programs.

Scientific Research and Facilities (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services)

- \$10.4 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through September 2010 for new research grants, additional funding for current grants, research training opportunities, and construction and renovations at NIH's campus.

What factors determine how much ARRA funding my community will receive?



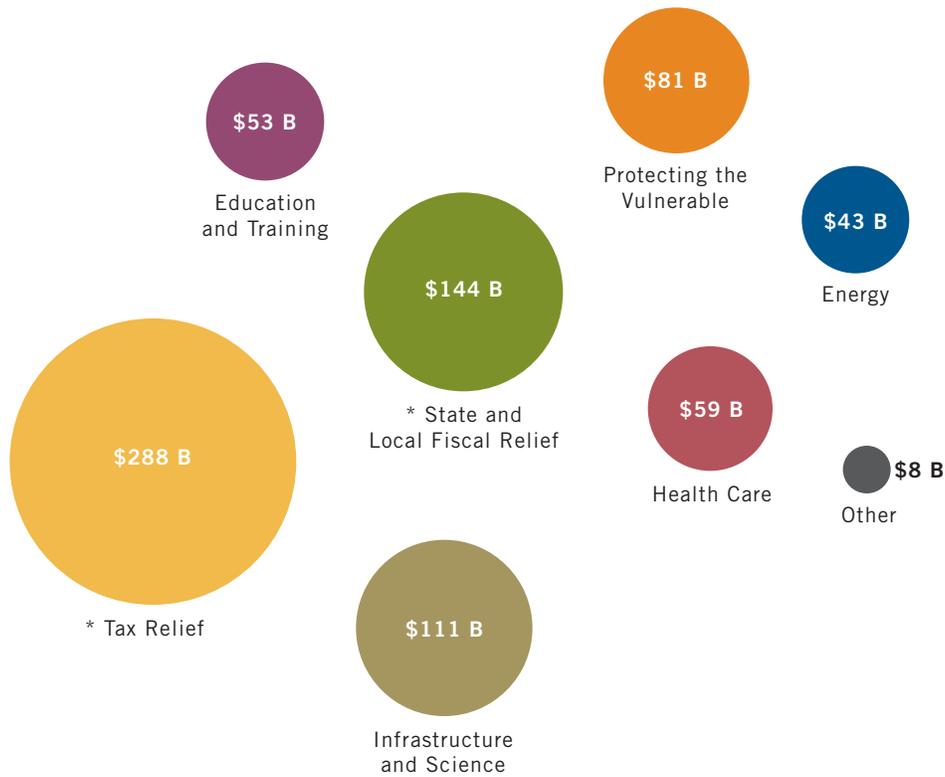
- Although American taxpayers stand to benefit from the provisions of ARRA, taxpayer dollars are the fundamental source of funding for this legislation. The chart below illustrates how funds will be distributed from the federal government to the taxpayers.
 - The majority of the funding within ARRA will be distributed to states, counties, and localities using pre-existing formulas.
 - The remaining funding will be distributed through competitive grants for projects that will be administered directly by federal agencies or by state agencies.
- State government, specifically governors and state agencies, will play a vital role in ensuring that the funding in ARRA is distributed to counties and local communities. In order to receive funds from ARRA, governors have 45 days to certify that they will: 1) “request and use” funds from ARRA; and 2) use all the funds to create jobs and promote economic growth. If a governor does not accept the funds set aside for a state before that period of time expires, a state’s legislature has the power to certify that the funds will be used so that the state can receive its funding allocation.
- Local government agencies and non-profit organizations can apply directly to the appropriate federal or state agency for some competitive grants. Most competitive funding guidelines should be available by May 1, 2009.

Where can I go for more information about ARRA?

- For specific details about the funding amounts that will be given to your state, contact your governor's office or congressional representative or check their websites. For an overview of overall funding allocations in the bill, refer to Appendix I.
- An additional resource for tracking how funds are allocated to states and federal agencies is the White House's website, www.Recovery.gov. This website was set up to promote transparency and accountability about the distribution and use of ARRA funds. Recovery.gov identifies the activity of government agencies responsible for the disbursement of funds. The website also has links to state websites that should provide more specific information about how state allocations will be used. The text of ARRA is also available at Recovery.gov.
- To check your eligibility for government benefits, go to www.GovBenefits.gov.
- To find out about grant opportunities for your community, go to www.Grants.gov.
- For additional information or questions related to the resource guide, please contact the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation by phone at 202-263-2800 or by e-mail at arraguide@cbcfinc.org.

Agency	Web Address	Main Number
Department of Commerce	www.commerce.gov/recovery	202.482.2000
Department of Education	www.ed.gov/recovery	1.800.USA.LEARN (1.800.872.5327)
Department of Energy	www.energy.gov/recovery	1.800.DIAL.DOE (1.800.342.5363)
Department of Health and Human Services	www.hhs.gov/recovery	1.877.696.6775
Department of Housing and Urban Development	www.hud.gov/recovery	202.708.1112
Department of the Interior	www.doi.gov/recovery	202.208.3100
Department of Justice	www.usdoj.gov/recovery	202.514.2000
Department of Labor	www.dol.gov/recovery	1.877.889.5627
Department of Transportation	www.dot.gov/recovery	202.366.4000
Department of the Treasury	www.treas.gov/recovery	202.622.2000
Environmental Protection Agency	www.epa.gov/recovery	
Federal Emergency Management Agency	www.fema.gov	1.800.621.FEMA (1.800.621.3362)
Small Business Administration	www.sba.gov/recovery	1.800.U.ASK.SBA (1.800.827.5722)
Social Security Administration	www.ssa.gov/recovery	1.800.772.1213

Summary of Funding Allocations of ARRA



* Tax Relief - includes \$15 B for Infrastructure and Science, \$61 B for Protecting the Vulnerable, \$25 B for Education and Training and \$22 B for Energy, so total funds are \$126 B for Infrastructure and Science, \$142 B for Protecting the Vulnerable, \$78 B for Education and Training, and \$65 B for Energy.

State and Local Fiscal Relief - Prevents state and local cuts to health and education programs and state and local tax increases.

Source: Recovery.gov. <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/investments>

APPENDIX II

Where jobs can be created or saved in ARRA

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is projected to create or save up to 3.5 million jobs in the United States. A major source of employment opportunities will come from training programs and projects in the areas of education, defense, energy, infrastructure, to name a few. The responsibilities for program funding are shared by various federal agencies. Below is a brief summary of some the funding allocations and projects that may create employment opportunities for Americans in the ARRA.¹²

Department of Agriculture

- \$50 million for watershed rehabilitation program projects.
- \$6 billion for clean water and safe drinking water projects.
- \$1.38 billion for rural water and waste disposal programs.
- \$1 billion for development, management, and restoration of water and related natural resources.

Department of Commerce

- \$2.5 billion available for broadband projects in rural communities where 75% of the areas do not have enough access.
- \$4.7 billion for expansion of the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program to expand broadband service through competitive grants.

Department of Defense

- Facilities construction projects to upgrade and repair Department of Defense facilities.

Department of Education

- \$2.1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start (projected to create 50,000 new early education jobs).

Department of Energy

- \$100 million for smart grid investment worker training.
- \$5.13 billion for defense and non-defense clean-up projects.
- \$16.8 billion for energy efficiency and conservation block grants, including funding for weatherization assistance.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- \$4 billion for public housing capital projects (development, financing, and modernization).
- \$150 million in economic development assistance to generate private sector jobs in areas of the nation with the highest rates of joblessness and economic distress.

Department of the Interior

- \$320 million for management of lands, resources, construction, and fire management for roads bridges, and trails.
- National Park Service construction, operations, and historic preservation projects.

Department of Labor

- \$500 million Workforce Investment Act (WIA) employment and training for adults 18 and older.
- \$1.25 billion for WIA dislocated workers (funds to be allocated to local workforce boards).
- \$200 million in emergency grants for WIA dislocated workers assistance national reserve.
- \$1.2 billion for low-income youth (ages 14-24) to acquire education and occupation skills (formula grants to states).
- \$50 million for YouthBuild (ages 14-24) to provide disadvantaged youth with education and employment skills (including broad employment and training activities, counseling services, youth development activities, mentoring, and need-based stipends).
- \$500 million for energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training (competitive grants).
- \$250 million for Job Corps training and education opportunities.
- \$120 million in community service employment for low-income seniors.
- Expansion of Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)—small businesses will receive a credit for hiring out-of-work veterans and unemployed and out-of-school youth. The credit applies to individuals who begin work after December 31, 2008.

Department of Transportation

- \$27.5 billion for restoration, repair, and construction of highway, rail, and port infrastructure.
- \$1.5 billion in supplemental discretionary grants for a national surface transportation system (competitive grants to state and local governments and transit agencies for highway and bridge projects, and public transportation projects).
- \$412.5 million for transportation enhancement activities for projects to be completed in a three- year period in economically distressed areas.
- \$20 million for highway surface transportation and technology training.
- \$8 billion for capital assistance for high speed rail corridors and intercity passenger rail service.
- \$1.3 billion for Amtrak capital grants.
- \$6.9 million for transit capital assistance (formula grants).
- \$750 million for capital investment grants (generally for projects already under construction or projects that can obligate funds within 150 days).

Environmental Protection Agency

- \$6 billion for projects that involve nuclear waste clean-up.
- \$200 million for leaking underground storage tank trust fund.
- \$100 million for Brownfields grants for training, research, and assistance.

General Services Administration

- \$3 million for conversion of federal buildings to high performance green buildings. Funding must be used for on-the-job pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs registered with the Department of Labor.

Small Business Administration

- \$636 million for business loans programs.

Veterans Administration

- \$150 million for improvement projects to Veterans' medical facilities

National Institutes of Health

- Research and training opportunities in science for high school and college students.
- Teaching and professional development opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school science teachers as well as college faculty.
- \$200 million for grants for biomedical and behavioral research on high impact projects in science and health (challenge grants).

References

- ¹ The text of the ARRA was the primary source of analysis for the resource guide. A summary of the bill from the office of Representative James E. Clyburn, the House Majority Whip, titled, *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Overview of Targeted Provisions* (dated 2/16/09), was also utilized as a reference for interpreting the text of the bill.
- ² De-Navas-Walt, C., Proctor, B.D., Smith, J.C. 2008. *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*. (P60-235).U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports.
- ³ Bureau of Labor Statistics. *The Employment Situation: March 2009*. Retrieved on April 18, 2009, from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>.
- ⁴ KewalRamani A., Gilbertson, L., Fox, M., Provasnik, S. 2007. *Status and Trends in the Education of Ethnic Minorities*. (NCES 2007-039). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education.
- ⁵ The Education Trust. 2003. *African American Achievement*. Retrieved on March 11, 2009, from http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/9AB4AC88-7301-43FF-81A3-EB94807B917F/O/AfAmer_Achivement.pdf.
- ⁶ U.S. Department of Education. *Slideshow Presentation on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. Retrieved on March 17, 2009, from <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/presentation/index.html>.
- ⁷ Smedley, B. 2008. *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care: A Multi-Level Approach to Policy Strategies*. Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute.
- ⁸ Adams, P.F., Lucas, J.W., Barnes, P.M. 2008. *Summary Health Statistics for the U.S.: National Health Interview Survey, 2006*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 10(236).
- ⁹ Heron, M.P. 2007. *Death: Leading Causes for 2004*. National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics Report 56(5).
- ¹⁰ National Center for Health Statistics. 2009. *Health, United States, 2008 with Chartbook*. Hyattsville, MD.
- ¹¹ Smedley, B. 2008. *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care: A Multi-Level Approach to Policy Strategies*. Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute.
- ¹² This information was compiled using the text of the ARRA, and Green for All and Policy Link's 2009 publication *Bringing Home the Green Recovery: A User's guide to the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. Retrieved on February 24, 2009 from <http://www.greenforall.org/resources/recoveryusersguide/>.



Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.
1720 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20036
202.263.2800 | www.cbcfinc.org