



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Provisions Which Can Support Programming to Improve Outcomes for Black Men & Boys

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By Rhonda Tsoi-A-Fatt, Senior Policy Analyst

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed in 2009 in order to jumpstart our nation's economy, preserve and create jobs, assist those most affected by the recession, and to begin necessary investments in neglected areas such as education, child care, environmental protection, transportation and infrastructure. Prior to this nation's economic downturn, Black males already faced disproportionately negative outcomes in so many areas, including education, health, justice, and employment. The recession has only exacerbated the problems faced by this population. In March 2009, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported nation's unemployment rate at 8.5%. For blacks, the figure was 13.3%, with black males exceeding 16%, almost double the nation's rate.

While the ARRA does not explicitly target resources to Black men and boys, there is a case to be made for targeting resources to populations most affected by the current economic situation, and for using these one-time resources to begin to put in place programs and efforts which will have lasting effects for the Black male population. Advocates and community-based organizations must work with systems to make the case for targeted resources, and to develop innovative ways of reaching and supporting Black men and boys with education, training, employment, health care, and preventive services. This document highlights the funding streams in the ARRA which may provide such opportunities.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) \$1 billion

Block grant program which enables local governments to undertake a wide range of activities intended to create suitable living environments, provide decent affordable housing and create economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income. CDBG funds are aimed at eliminating or preventing slums or blight and addressing urgent community development needs. Communities will give priority to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days of the grant agreement.

To find out how much CDBG money is allocated for your community, go to <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/cdblock.cfm>

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) \$1 billion

Block grant program to states, then sub-granted to community action agencies (CAAs) and other eligible entities. These funds may be used to support activities for low-income individuals and families related to employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services, or health.

For additional information on CSBG funds under ARRA, go to http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csb/csb_program.htm

Homelessness Prevention Fund \$1.5 billion

Formula grant program to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The funds will provide for a variety of assistance, including: short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services, including such activities as mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

To find out how much CDBG money is allocated for your community, go to <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/homeless-prevention.cfm>

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) \$2 billion

Block grant program to states to help them subsidize child care for low-income families who are working or are engaged in education or job training, and to improve the quality of care that is available to these families. Of the \$2 billion, \$255 million will be set aside for quality improvement activities, \$93.6 million of which will go towards improvement of infant and toddler care.

To find out how much CCDBG money is allocated for your state, go to <http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=childcare>

Head Start and Early Head Start (HS/EHS) \$2.1 billion

\$1 billion to Head Start programs, \$1.1 billion to Early Head Start programs. Funds will be used to expand services in both programs, improve staff compensation and training, upgrade centers and classrooms, increase hours of operation, enhance transportation, and bolster training and technical assistance activities.

For additional information, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/04/20090402a.html>

No Child Left Behind, Title I \$13 billion

\$3 billion allocated to states for a competitive sub-grant process to local education agencies (LEAs) for school improvement. Priority is be given to LEAs with the lowest-achieving schools, which demonstrate greatest need, and which demonstrate the strongest commitment to using funds to help schools meet the progress goals in their school improvement plans.

\$10 billion allocated to local education agencies (LEAs) through the formula grant process for schools that have high concentrations of students from families that live in poverty in order to help improve teaching and learning for students most at risk of failing to meet state academic achievement standards.

To find out how much Title I money is allocated to your local school district, go to

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/titlei/fy09recovery/index.html>

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) \$53.6 billion

Two parts – a formula grant program to states to support public elementary and secondary schools, as well as Institutions of Higher Education; a competitive grant program through the Department of Education for “Race to the Top” and Innovation Fund.

SFSF for Education \$39.8 billion

LEAS may use funds for any activity authorized under ESEA, IDEA, Adult Ed, or Perkins. This includes the modernization of school facilities and covering salaries to avoid teacher layoffs.

Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) may use funds for education or general expenditures, mitigation of tuition and fee increases, modernization or repair of facilities.

“Race to the Top” \$4.35 billion

Competitive grants to states making the most progress. Grants will be made in two rounds – late fall 2009, summer 21010.

Innovation Fund \$650 million

Competitive grants to LEAS and non-profits that have made significant gains in closing achievement gaps to be models of best practice

SFSF for Government Services \$8.8 billion

Funds may be used for education, public safety, or other government services.

To find out how much SFSF money is allocated for your state, go to

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget09/09recoveryinitialrelease.pdf>

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**Adult Employment and Training \$500 million**

Formula grant to states, with sub-grants made to local Workforce Investment Boards. The purpose is to provide quality employment and training services to assist individuals in finding and qualifying for meaningful employment, and to help employers find the skilled workers they need to compete and succeed in business.

Dislocated Workers Program \$1.25 billion

Formula grant program which assists workers who have been laid off or have been notified that they will be terminated or laid off.

High Growth Industries \$750 million

Competitive grant program for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industry sectors. Of the total, \$500 million is to be used for research, labor exchange, and job training projects that prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable industry industries. In awarding remaining funds, priority shall be given to projects that prepare workers for careers in the health care sector.

Youth Training and Employment Services \$1.2 billion

Formula grant program to provide employment services to youth. Particular emphasis is placed on creating summer employment opportunities for youth, but year-round youth activities are also envisioned. Age eligibility for youth services with these funds is raised from 21 to 24.

YouthBuild \$50 million

Competitive grant process to expand this program serving at-risk youth who will be given the opportunity to gain education and occupational credentials while constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing.

To find out how much money has been allocated to your state or local community under these various grant areas, go to http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2718

AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA \$154 million

\$89 million to fund additional full-time, part-time, and reduced part-time AmeriCorps State and National member positions. Approximately 2/3 of the funds will be awarded competitively to existing, proven AmeriCorps grantees either directly or via state service commissions. By statute, 1/3 of the funds will be distributed to state service commissions based on a population-based formula and, in turn, states will select the sub-grant recipients.

\$65 million to fund AmeriCorps VISTA member positions to new and existing sponsors. The mission of the AmeriCorps VISTA program is to create and expand programs that bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. Existing VISTA projects already support job creation, the abatement of home foreclosures, credit counseling and financial asset development programs.

For additional information, go to <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/recovery/index.asp>

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \$97.5 million**Local Youth Mentoring Initiative**

Competitive grant program to reduce juvenile delinquency, violence, gang participation, school failure, and dropout rates. The program supports local organizations that develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs leading to measurable, positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

National Youth Mentoring Programs

Competitive grant program to help community programs provide mentoring services to populations that are underserved due to location, shortage of mentors, special physical or mental challenges of the targeted population, or other situations.

For additional information, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm>