



Stimulus Funding – Next Steps

Thank you for submitting your project(s) to the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG). The NWMCOG has distributed a regional project listing on behalf of our 10-County service area, including several updated versions, to state and federal agencies and public officials. **However, project submittal to the NWMCOG or any other compiling agency does not constitute an application, nor assurance of funding.** Project funding success will now be dependent on the organization and determination of local champions.

This document provides basic information about our current knowledge of federal and state programs funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), and explains steps that project champions will need to take to seek Federal or State resources authorized through this Act.

Federal Funding

ARRA provides direction on how the stimulus funding is to be distributed through existing federal programming. Since most federal program eligibility remains intact, your project organizers will be able to quickly determine a project's eligibility, and therefore, decide the funding viability. Starting on February 17, most federal departments have 120 days to obligate money.

State Funding

A portion of ARRA funding is also coming directly to the State of Michigan and it also must be project obligated within 120 days. As of today, how exactly these funds will be distributed is still unknown. The Governor may have the authority to direct funds to state agencies for distribution through current programs; however, the Michigan Legislature is strongly advocating for authority over the appropriation.

Informational Resources

For more information about ARRA, please visit our website, www.nwm.org, and click on "Northwest Michigan's link to: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." The NWMCOG will not send mailed communications regarding ARRA. Check the website often. It will be updated frequently as we receive more information about how and when funds will be distributed.

Additionally, there are three federal websites that are used to centralize federal-level grant and procurement information. Federal agencies are being required to use these tools for appropriate expenditures of stimulus funds as well.

For grants, federal agencies will use <http://grants.gov> or www.FedConnect.net to advertise grants, other funding opportunities, and application materials. Registration on these sites takes time (21 days for FedConnect), so start this process now. Grants.gov offers an email subscription service that sends you email when new grant notices are added to the site.

For federal procurement of goods and services, opportunities are posted to the <http://FedBizOpps.gov> website. In addition, our local Procurement and Technical Assistance (PTAC) office can help businesses with the federal procurement process. Learn more about PTAC at <http://www.nwm.org/ptac.asp>.

To increase the likelihood of a project being funded, project organizers in northwest Lower Michigan will need to verify eligibility and start preparing application materials now. The resources that are coming available will be time sensitive, substantive, and process intensive.

If you have any questions regarding ARRA or this document please contact Matt McCauley at mccauley@nwm.cog.mi.us or (231) 929-5061 or Jaclyn Miel-Uken at jaclynmiel-uken@nwm.cog.mi.us or (231) 929-5046.