



Stimulus Funding and Your Client: What can you do?

The **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**, signed February 2009, by President Obama is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, save and create millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The information provided below will attempt to provide a generic awareness and point of contact for you as you begin to unravel the ARRA funding among the various levels of government.

Federal

The following website, www.recovery.gov is a dynamic and extraordinary resource for people and organizations wishing to become educated and evaluate the ARRA effectiveness. This is accomplished through a multitude of visual representations, raw data, news releases, and linkages to various contractors, agencies, and key stakeholders. The site objective is threefold:

- Education: Explain the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act;
- Transparency: Show how, when, and where the money is spent;
- Accountability: Provide data that will allow citizens to evaluate the Act's progress and provide feedback.

State

The following website, www.recovery.pa.gov provides an overview of Commonwealth of PA initiatives and resources. It, too, provides plenty of data, resources and links to Commonwealth agencies charged with ARRA fund expenditures (PennDOT, WIBs, school boards, DCED, etc).

The Commonwealth of PA has a number of tax credit, incentive programs, and federal / state loans and loan guarantee programs to help businesses grow, create new jobs, and finance energy independence. List of programs and resources can be found at:

<http://www.recovery.pa.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=511156&mode=2>

Local

Locally, the Workforce Investment Boards will be controlling a significant amount of money that will be directed to **displaced worker training** (provided through Careerlinks, Certified ITA provider programs, or Career Readiness programs), **youth training** (significant outreach to at-risk and disconnected youth age 14-24) and **renewable energy career training**.

Organizations poised for growth and expecting to hire (youth or others), should be directed to maintain close relations with his/her WIB director. Currently, WIB's have programs and incentives (funded by ARRA) for organizations hiring displaced workers and/or providing youth work experience.

Similarly, companies considered servicing the green, renewable energy, or alternative energy markets may qualify for programs within WIB programs (PENNergy or Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy). Programs may provide incumbent worker training, energy assessment/audit resources, marketing and sales development, or customized consultative resources.

The new energy economy is of particular emphasis within our 9 county region. Some WIB strategies are known while others are still in development. Very little information is published on WIB websites but look for more transparency beginning in the summer.

Resources are:

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