

ECONOMIC RECOVERY NEWS UPDATES & GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



David A. Paterson, Governor

Issue No. 5

New York Recovery News

Governor Paterson

May 28, 2009 - Governor David A. Paterson announced that New York State has reached a significant milestone in administering federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. The Federal Highway Administration has obligated more than \$392 million of ARRA highway funds for projects Governor Paterson has certified as eligible for any ARRA funding, making the State eligible for any ARRA highway funds that other states fail to use.

Because the transportation funds are given to states on a reimbursement basis, the federal government obligates – or sets aside – funding for projects as they are certified as shovel-ready and eligible for ARRA funding by Governors in each state. To encourage states to use these funds quickly to stimulate the economy, a “use-it-or-lose-it” provision was included in the ARRA legislation. The legislation requires that 50 percent of certain highway funds distributed to each state be obligated within 120 days, which created a June 29 deadline.

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Governor Paterson

May 27, 2009 - Governor David A. Paterson announced that every firm that the State hires with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds is required to post any jobs created by these funds to the New York State Job Bank, which can be accessed at www.labor.ny.gov. In a memo sent this morning, the Governor directed State agencies to work with contracted firms to ensure that the created jobs are posted. This will streamline the often difficult employment search process at a time when many New Yorkers face unemployment, and will more quickly and efficiently achieve the Governor’s ultimate goal to get New Yorkers back to work.

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Governor Paterson

May 22, 2009 - Governor David A. Paterson announced that New York will commit \$10.5 million in state grants to secure a federal investment of nearly \$100 million to finance five energy research centers across the State. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has named five New York institutions Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC), and each has been awarded DOE grants between \$2 and \$5 million per year for a planned initial five year period. New York’s five centers were the second most awarded to any state, in large part due to Governor Paterson’s commitment of a 10 percent state match in funding and work to position New York as a national leader in clean energy technology research and development.

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Federal Recovery News

Recovery.gov - Financial and Activity Reports

May 15, 2009 - Weekly Federal Agency financial and activity reports were posted.

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Corporation for National and Community Service

May 22, 2009 - The Corporation for National and Community Service today announced the availability of approximately \$8 million in funds to support national providers of training and technical assistance for community service programs that use service and volunteering to meet community needs.

The Corporation will award cooperative agreements in five categories to organizations with the capacity and demonstrated expertise to deliver training and technical assistance in one or more of the categories. Organizations may include grantees and potential grantees, sub-grantees, sponsoring organizations and projects, and participants and members in programs administered by the Corporation including AmeriCorps, VISTA, National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and Learn and Serve America and in support of other special initiatives of the Corporation.

The deadline for eGrants submissions is July 2, 2009.

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US Department of Housing and Urban Development

May 26, 2009 - As part of their commitment to developing new policies, proposals and ideas to help America's middle class, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced new agency partnerships to foster job growth for a new green economy at today's meeting of the Middle Class Task Force in Denver.

The U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are partnering to bring training and employment to public housing residents. In a joint letter, Secretaries Solis and Donovan encouraged local Workforce Investment Boards and Public Housing Agencies to work together to bolster pathways to training and employment for residents of HUD housing. Through this new partnership, residents of public housing will be able to more easily find training programs and sustainable employment in the green job sectors created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

[Read the letter online >>](#)

Additionally, the Secretaries of Energy, Education and Labor announced a collaboration to make it a major priority to institutionalize cross-agency communication about private sector jobs created as the result of federal action. Through these efforts, jobs created will be connected to training programs and career pathways that can provide transitions for adults between employment and for students from high school to postsecondary education and into careers. Through this partnership, the Department of Energy will identify ways to notify the Department of Labor as funding commitments are made and jobs are created. The Department of Labor will in turn provide the information to local One Stop Employment Centers that will connect unemployed workers with jobs, training and education opportunities. The Department of Education will help identify the educational resources for training so we ensure that educational opportunities linked to job creation are comprehensive.

[Read the Memorandum of Understanding online >>](#)

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US Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

May 20, 2009 - The Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program: Local Solicitation deadline has been extended. The new application deadline is 8:00 p.m. ET on June 17, 2009. The Bureau of Justice Assistance, a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), established the previous deadline of May 18 to encourage early submission of applications in an effort to provide economic stimulus as soon as possible. Because this is a non-competitive formula grant program, the extension of this deadline does not impact either eligibility or funding determinations.

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US Department of Labor - Employment and Training Administration

May 22, 2009 - USDOL Employment and Training Administration issued training and employment guidance letter number 24-08 that provides guidelines for reporting performance accountability information for programs receiving additional funds under the Recovery Act. These programs include the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, the WIA Youth program, including summer youth employment, National Emergency Grants, and the Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service, including the Reemployment Services grants.

Guidance on performance accountability will be issued separately for the following programs receiving resources under the Recovery Act: the Senior Community Service and Employment Program (SCSEP); YouthBuild; Indian and Native American Youth grants; Competitive Grants in High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors; and Trade Adjustment Assistance.

This guidance also announces changes to the reporting requirements for the Workforce Investment Act Standardized Record Data (WIASRD), which is submitted by states on all individuals served with WIA funds who exit program or One-Stop system services.

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U.S. Department of Commerce - National Telecommunications and Information Administration

May 18, 2009 - The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Quarterly Program Status Report.

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US Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration

May 15, 2009 -New York's sixth section 1511 certification was submitted to the Secretary of Transportation and posted to the USDOT website.

State and local governments and agencies must complete several certifications required under the Recovery Act. These include section 1201, Maintenance of Effort; section 1511, Transparency and Oversight; and section 1607, Additional Funding Distribution and Assistance of Appropriate Use of Funds.

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

May 26, 2009 -On March 19, 2009, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a Proposed Policy Statement and Action Plan that, among other things, proposed an interim rate policy to encourage the development of smart grid systems. On May 19, 2009, the Commission issued a Notice Requesting Supplemental Comments regarding rate recovery for certain smart grid investments. The Commission is extending the date for filing these supplemental comments.

Comments are due June 2, 2009.

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Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

May 26, 2009 -Section 3003(b)(3) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 mandates that the HIT Standards Committee develop a schedule for the assessment of policy recommendations developed by the HIT Policy Committee and publish it in the Federal Register. This notice fulfills the requirements of Section 3003(b)(3) and shall be updated at least annually.

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National Institute of Mental Health

May 22, 2009 -The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide grant support for the completion of a project under way to evaluate the effectiveness of a new training program for telephone crisis counselors at suicide hotline centers. The rollout of the new training program, which began in winter of 2008, offers an unrepeatable opportunity to assess the benefits of the training. The information could shape telephone-based suicide prevention services across the country.

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Administration for Children and Families

May 27, 2009 -This rule implements the statutory change to section 404(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604(e)) as enacted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5). This change allows States, Tribes and Territories to use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program funds carried over from a prior year for any allowable TANF benefit, service or activity. Previously these funds could be used only to provide assistance. This interim final rule applies to States, local governments, and Tribes that administer the TANF program.

Effective Date: May 27, 2009.

Comments are due on or before July 27, 2009.

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Rural Housing Service

May 22, 2009 - Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants (Title: 7 CFR 1944-I) - This regulation sets forth the policies and procedures and delegates the authority for providing technical assistance funds to eligible applicants to finance programs of technical and supervisory assistance for the Mutual and Self-Help Housing (MSH) program, as authorized under section 523 of the Housing

Act of 1949. The MSH program affords low-income families the opportunity for home ownership by providing funds to non-profit organizations for supervisory and technical assistance to the homebuilding families. Rural Housing Service (RHS) will collect information from non-profit organizations that want to develop a Self-Help program in their area to increase the availability of affordable housing. The information is collected at the local, district and state levels. The information requested by RHS includes financial and organizational information about the non-profit organization.

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Agricultural Marketing Service

May 26, 2009 - The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces the availability of approximately \$49,000,000 in grant funds, less USDA administrative costs, to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) funds are authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the Farm Bill). State departments of agriculture are encouraged to develop their grant applications promptly. The Farm Bill requires USDA to obligate the grant funds under this program by the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2009, which necessitates a short application period. State departments of agriculture interested in obtaining grant program funds are invited to submit applications to USDA. State departments of agriculture, meaning agencies, commissions, or departments of a State government responsible for agriculture within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to apply.

Applications must be received by August 26, 2009.

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Department of Housing and Urban Development

May 22, 2009 - The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is proposing to revise the Medicare hospital inpatient prospective payment systems (IPPS) for operating and capital-related costs of acute care hospitals to implement changes arising from their continuing experience with these systems, and to implement certain provisions made by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA, Pub. L. 110-275) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, Pub. L. 111-5). In addition, in the Addendum to this proposed rule, HUD describes the proposed changes to the amounts and factors used to determine the rates for Medicare acute care hospital inpatient services for operating costs and capital-related costs. These proposed changes would be applicable to discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2009. HUS is also setting forth the proposed update to the rate-of-increase limits for certain hospitals excluded from the IPPS that are paid on a reasonable cost basis subject to these limits. The proposed updated rate-of-increase limits would be effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 2009.

In addition, HUS is proposing to update the annual payment rates for the Medicare prospective payment system (PPS) for inpatient hospital services provided by long-term care hospitals (LTCHs). In the Addendum to this proposed rule, HUD also sets forth the proposed changes to the payment rates, factors, and other payment rate policies under the LTCH PPS for rate year 2010. These proposed changes would be applicable to

discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2009. In this proposed rule, HUD also notes those provisions of the ARRA that amended provisions of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (MMSEA, Pub. L. 110-173) relating to payments to LTCHs and new LTCHs and LTCH satellite facilities, and increases in beds in existing LTCHs and LTCH satellite facilities under the LTCH PPS that will be implemented in the final rule issued for this proposed rule.

Comments are due on June 30, 2009.

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Health and Human Services - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

May 22, 2009 -We are proposing to revise the Medicare hospital inpatient prospective payment systems (IPPS) for operating and capital-related costs of acute care hospitals to implement changes arising from our continuing experience with these systems, and to implement certain provisions made by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA, Pub. L. 110-275) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, Pub. L. 111-5). In addition, in the Addendum to this proposed rule, we describe the proposed changes to the amounts and factors used to determine the rates for Medicare acute care hospital inpatient services for operating costs and capital-related costs. These proposed changes would be applicable to discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2009. We also are setting forth the proposed update to the rate-of-increase limits for certain hospitals excluded from the IPPS that are paid on a reasonable cost basis subject to these limits. The proposed updated rate-of-increase limits would be effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 2009.

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Comments are due June 30, 2009.

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Federal Communications Commission

May 27, 2009 -Concluding that all rural Americans must have the opportunity to reap the full benefits of broadband services, Acting Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael J. Copps released a report providing a starting point for the development of policies to deliver broadband to rural areas and restore economic growth and opportunity for Americans residing and working in those areas.

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Economic Recovery Grant Award and Opportunity Announcements

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

May 26, 2009 - This notice announces that Rural Business-Cooperative Service is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2009 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements and to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems for agriculture producers and rural small businesses in eligible rural areas. Funding will be available in the form of grants and loan guarantees. In addition to grants and loan guarantees, applicants may apply for combination loan guarantee and grant funding (combination package).

Complete applications are due July 31, 2009.

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US Department of Education

May 27, 2009 -The US Department of Education issued a notice inviting applications for the Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grants Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The TQP Grants Program seeks to improve the quality of new teachers by creating partnerships among IHEs, high-need school districts (local educational agencies (LEAs)) their high-need schools, and/or high-need early childhood education (ECE) program. These partnerships would create model teacher preparation programs at the pre-baccalaureate level through the implementation of specific reforms of the IHE's existing teacher preparation programs, and/or model teaching residency programs for individuals with strong academic and/or professional backgrounds but without teaching experience. The TQP Grants Program may also support school leadership programs to train superintendents, principals, ECE program directors, and other school leaders in high-need or rural LEAs.

Applications are due July 23, 2009.

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US Department of Energy

May 27, 2009 -The US Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) "High Penetration Solar Deployment." The objectives of this FOA are to 1) develop the needed modeling tools and database of experience with high penetration scenarios of photovoltaics (PV) on a distribution system, 2) develop monitoring, control and integration systems to enable cost-effective widespread deployment of small modular PV systems and 3) demonstrate the integration of PV and energy storage into Smart Grid applications. This will accelerate the placement of high levels of PV penetration into existing or newly designed distribution circuits. The achievement of these goals will facilitate increased growth of grid-tied PV installations, thus supporting the Solar Energy Technologies Program (SETP) mission to accelerate widespread commercialization of clean solar energy technologies in the US.

Applications are due June 30, 2009.

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US Department of Energy

May 27, 2009 -US Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) "Solar Market Transformation." The objectives of this FOA are to: 1) address current market barriers to the adoption of solar technologies; and 2) establish a nationally coordinated effort to spread solar installation training to the local level.

DOE's Solar Energy Technologies Program (SETP" is working to reduce market barriers and promote market expansion of solar energy technologies through non-R&D activities, including:

- 1) activities that provide technical, regulatory, institutional, financial and educational solutions to market transformation barriers; and
- 2) efforts that accelerate demand for new solar technologies. Below are several defining aspects of SETP efforts:
- 3) DOE is seeking to identify and minimize or remove barriers to solar technology commercialization as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- 4) Given the proximity of its 2015 goal, DOE is seeking to make large and significant changes in the marketplace through its activities.
- 5) Emphasis will be on projects and activities with the greatest potential to assist the DOE in reaching its SETP cost-compositeness goal by 2015.

Applications are due July 30, 2009.

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US Department of Energy

May 27, 2009 -The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) "Geothermal Technologies Program." Through GTP, DOE intends to continue its partnership with the geothermal community on geothermal systems research, exploration, demonstration, and development throughout the United States. This three-topic FOA will focus on areas associated with geothermal energy as outlined in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), Sections 613 and 616. This FOA will also address section 931(a)(2)(C) of the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 2005. Funding will be made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Topic Area 1: Validation of Innovative Exploration Technologies EISA Section 613 addresses the demonstration of innovative site characterization and/or drilling exploration technologies. GTP's goal is to reduce the high level of risk during early stages of geothermal project development by funding the validation of innovative exploration activities to locate undiscovered geothermal systems and increase the reliability of site characterization to prioritize target sites for energy production.

Topic Area 2: Geothermal Energy Production from Low Temperature Resources, Coproduced Fluids from Oil and Gas Wells, and Geopressured Resources EISA Section 616 addresses geothermal energy production from oil and gas fields as well as the recovery and production of geopressured resources, while EPA 2005 Section 931(a)(2)(C) includes authorization for geothermal energy production from low temperature geothermal resources. GTP's goal is to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of geothermal energy production from these non-conventional geothermal resources.

Topic Area 3: Geothermal Data Development, Collection, and Maintenance EPA 2005 Section 931(a)(2)(C) includes authorization for continued data submission to the National Geothermal Data System (NGDS)

created from Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-PS36-08GO98020. GTP's goal is to develop, collect, and maintain data for all 50 states for the NGDS in order to make geothermal data available to the public and reduce the risk associated with initial stages of geothermal development.

Applications are due July 22, 2009.

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US Department of Housing and Urban Renewal

May 27, 2009 -The Native American Housing Block Grant program, authorized by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 ("NAHASDA") assists tribes in developing, operating, maintaining, and supporting affordable housing for rental and homeownership housing. Funds can be used for acquisition, new construction, rehabilitation of affordable housing, site improvement, development and rehabilitation of utilities and infrastructure, utility services, conversion, demolition, financing, administration and planning, improvement to achieve greater energy efficiency, mold remediation, investments that leverage private sector funding or financing for renovations, and energy conservation retrofit investments. Funds will be obligated through competitive funding by September 30, 2009.

Priority will be given to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation and will create employment opportunities for low-income and unemployed persons. Tribes/tribally designated housing authorities (TDHE) will be required to obligate 100 percent of their funds within 1 year of the date funds are made available, expend at least 50 percent of such funds within 2 years of the date in which funds became available, and expend 100 percent of such funds within 3 years of such date.

If a tribe/TDHE fails to comply with the 2 year expenditure requirement, the funds will be recaptured and reallocated by formula to tribes that have complied with this requirement. If a tribe/TDHE fails to comply with the 3 year expenditure requirement, the balance of the funds originally awarded to the tribe/TDHE will be recaptured.

Applications are due July 13, 2009.

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US Department of Housing and Urban Renewal

May 27, 2009 -The Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) is funded through a set-aside of the Community Development Block Grant formula in title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306). Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages may use block grants to improve housing stock, provide community facilities, make infrastructure improvements, and expand job opportunities by supporting the economic development of their communities. Activities which are eligible for funding include housing construction, rehabilitation, acquisition of land for housing, direct assistance to facilitate homeownership among low-and moderate-income persons, construction of tribal and other facilities for single or multi-use, streets and other public facilities, and economic development projects. The Recovery Act requires tribes to give priority to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days from the date the funds are made available to the tribes.

Applications are due July 7, 2009.

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