

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Update

**Senate Finance Committee
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Implementation Process

- The implementation process has focused on three key activities:
 - Transparency and communication
 - Understanding the provisions of the ARRA and individual programs
 - Implementation of the provisions and programs
- During February, the www.stimulus.virginia.gov website was launched to solicit input from citizens on projects for potential funding - more than 9,000 projects were submitted to the website totaling close to \$466 billion
 - An ARRA Implementation Team was named, chaired by Wayne Turnage, Chief of Staff, with subject matter experts in each functional area

Implementation Process - HHS

- Governor provided required certification to begin receipt of funds on March 3, 2009 with other individual program certifications required on a more piecemeal basis
- With General Assembly action to restore eligibility levels, Virginia's increased Medicaid funding is being collected – about \$240 million to date
- Other HHS programs are citizen based services –
 - Food stamp benefits - \$355 million began flowing April 1
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – 400 project applications are under initial review

Implementation Process - Education

- The Federal Department of Education released guidance on K-12 education funding and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund on April 1
 - The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is sharing all information with local school divisions as it becomes available – dedicated website established
 - State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (the first phase) application will be due to the federal Education Department this month
 - Secretary of Finance and State Superintendent of Public Instruction are working jointly on the application

Implementation Process – Public Safety

- Byrne Jag Assistance Grant application for state funding submittal due this week – will replicate General Assembly Action
 - Localities must follow similar process
- Required applications submitted for Victim of Crime Act and Violence Against Women Act funding
- Internet Crime Against Children applied for by State Police and Bedford County to support their task forces

6 Implementation Process – Transportation, Housing & Community Development

- Transportation projects are being selected
- Funding directed to established housing authorities and local programs through existing federal formulas

Environment

- The Department of Environmental Quality has released a draft listing of state clean water revolving loan fund projects that qualify under EPA guidance and the subsequent prioritization of projects for 30 day public review
 - \$1.36 billion in funding was requested in 294 applications – \$76 million is available
 - State Water Control Board will act in late April after review of public comment
- State Energy Program Initial Application submitted (mirrors State Energy Plan)

Employment Services

- Amendments before you today address UI modernization requirements; 13 week unemployment extension, and COBRA benefits
- Governor's Workforce Sub cabinet will recommend uses of discretionary Workforce Investment Act in next 30 days

Transparency & Accountability

- OMB guidance is just now forthcoming on reporting requirements
- All project-level decisions that the State is accountable for can be found on Stimulus.virginia.gov website for public review
 - Competitive Grant information updated weekly and on website as well
- Ongoing meetings and discussions with legislators, localities, and others to keep them informed