

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

Information Session



Nonprofits and Individuals Briefing

To overview the provisions of the bill which benefit individuals and the organizations which support them.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

- o Food Assistance Benefits (Food Stamps)
- o Unemployment Compensation
- o Health Insurance (COBRA)



Direct Benefits to Individuals

- o Job Training and Placement (One Stops & OhioMeansJobs.Com)
- o Help for Seniors
- o Trade Adjustment Assistance



Direct Benefits to Individuals

- o Social Security and Supplemental Security Income
- o Home Weatherization
- o Federal Tax Benefits
- o Foreclosure Prevention Assistance



Nonprofit Opportunities

- o Byrne Competitive Grants - (Competitive)
- o Violence Against Women Act Grants - (Competitive)
- o Victim Assistance Grants - (Competitive)
- o DTV Converter Box Program - (Competitive)



Nonprofit Opportunities

- o HOME Investment Partnerships -
(Competitive)
- o Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing -
(Formula)
- o Capacity Building Grants - (Competitive)



Nonprofit Opportunities

- o Homeless Assistance Grant Program -
(Competitive)
- o Neighborhood Stabilization Fund -
(Competitive)
- o National Endowment for the Arts -
(Competitive)



Nonprofit Opportunities

- o Economic Development Assistance -
(Competitive)
- o Energy Efficiency Grants - (Competitive)
- o Workforce Investment Grants - (Competitive)



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Food Assistance Benefits (Food Stamps)

The bill provides a 13.6% increase in monthly benefits. This automatic increase began on April 1, 2009. To enroll, visit your local county Job and Family Services or contact the Ohio Benefit Bank at 1-800-648-1176.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Unemployment Compensation

Governor Strickland signed legislation to increase unemployment compensation benefits. Eligible recipients of unemployment compensation benefits can receive up to 79 weeks of unemployment benefits.

In addition, the bill increases the weekly benefit by \$25.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Unemployment Compensation

Eligible individuals will automatically receive payments retroactive to the week of February 21-28, 2009.

The bill also suspends the first \$2,400 paid in unemployment benefits from federal income tax for tax year 2009 only.

Apply online at <http://unemployment.ohio.gov> or toll-free by phone at 877-OHIO-JOB.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Health Insurance (COBRA)

The bill subsidizes 65% of eligible individuals' COBRA health insurance & other state group continuation coverage for workers who lose their jobs.

To qualify, a worker must have been involuntarily separated between 9-1-2008 & 12-31-2009.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Health Insurance (COBRA)

Workers who lost their jobs between 9-1-2008 and 2-17-2009 but failed to initially elect COBRA because it was unaffordable, will have an additional 60 days to receive the subsidy.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Job Training and Placement (One Stops & OhioMeansJobs.Com)

Ohio will be receiving approximately \$138 million to provide:

Training

Job search assistance

Youth employment programs

Reemployment programs



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Job Training and Placement

Check out Ohio Means Jobs, www.ohiomeansjobs.com, which connects Ohio's employers and job seekers through tens of thousands of job openings.

If you are looking for a job, you can find out more about available services by visiting your local One-Stop Center:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/onestopmap.stm>



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Direct Benefits to Individuals

Help for Seniors

Low-income seniors can apply for food assistance at the Ohio Department of Aging at www.aging.ohio.gov or through Area Agencies on Aging at 1-866-243-5678.

If you over 55 years of age and have poor employment prospects, you may qualify for a community service job for up to 20 hours/week. Contact www.jfs.ohio.gov/workforce.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Trade Adjustment Assistance

TAA is a state-administered federal program that provides special benefits to workers who have lost their jobs due to outsourcing or increased imports. Benefits include: Trade Readjustment Assistance (a form of special cash assistance), funds for training, a wage subsidy for workers aged 50+, a health care tax credit, and relocation allowances, and more.

Please contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at Trade@jfs.ohio.gov.



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income

Recipients will receive a one-time payment of \$250. If you are currently a recipient, you do not need to do anything to receive this payment. It is expected to be available in late May. This federal program is administered by the Social Security Administration, and not the State of Ohio. For more information or to see if you are eligible for benefits, visit:

<http://www.ssa.gov/payment/>



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Home Weatherization

The Recovery Act includes help for low income Ohioans to reduce their energy costs by weatherizing their homes. Residents who qualify may receive energy use and health and safety testing, insulation, furnace repairs and other types of assistance. To learn more, visit:

<http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/hwap.htm>



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Federal Tax Benefits

A number of new federal tax benefits are available, including an immediate reduction in payroll taxes for most workers, increases in the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits, as well as benefits for retirees, parents, people saving for college, first-time homebuyers, car buyers, and more.

For more information on federal tax changes, visit:

www.irs.gov



Direct Benefits to Individuals

Foreclosure Prevention Assistance

Save the Dream is Ohio's multi-agency foreclosure prevention effort

Connects homeowners with free information and resources, such as counseling, legal assistance, and mediation

Homeowners can call the hotline (888) 404-4674 or visit SaveTheDream.Ohio.gov



Nonprofit Opportunities

Byrne Competitive Grants - (Competitive)

(The “Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant – JAG” Program)

To prevent crime, improve the administration of justice, provide services to crime victims, support mentoring of at-risk youth, etc. **Two ways to apply:**

Ohio - A statement of interest form must be completed by 8 p.m. on April 24 through <http://recovery.ohio.gov> **in addition** to completing the Office of Criminal Justice Services request for proposal (RFP) by 8 p.m. on May 1, 2009 to be eligible for funding. The RFP can be downloaded at http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/odps_ocjs/index.stm. (\$38MM in total funding)

Nationally - Application deadline is April 27, 8:00PM. RFP can be downloaded at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA. (\$170MM in total funding)



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Nonprofit Opportunities

Violence Against Women Act Grants - (Competitive)

Similar to the Byrne Competitive Grants, a statement of interest form must be completed by 8 p.m. on April 24 through <http://recovery.ohio.gov> in addition to completing the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) request for proposal (RFP) by 8 p.m. on May 1, 2009 to be eligible for funding. RFP can be downloaded at http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/odps_ocjs/index.stm. (\$4MM in total funding)

OCJS, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, released the RFP for these stimulus funds on April 1, 2009. OCJS is administering \$38 million in JAG funding and \$4 million in VAWA funding. Projects will be notified of funding by July 31, 2009. The stimulus funding is in addition to the normal JAG and VAWA RFPs set to be released by OCJS on June 1, 2009.



Nonprofit Opportunities

Victim Assistance Grants - (Competitive)

Provides funding for programs that serve victims of crime and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse homicide and other crimes.

\$1,260,000.00 for Ohio

The state will release a request for proposals in May or June via the Attorney General's Web site (www.ag.state.oh.us/) and e-mail list serve.



Nonprofit Opportunities

DTV Converter Box Program - (Competitive)

To educate vulnerable populations about the transition and to provide one-on-one assistance to vulnerable populations, including help with converter box installation.

To view the request for proposals, please visit:

www.fcc.gov/omd/contracts/pre-award/dtv-support.html



Nonprofit Opportunities

HOME Investment Partnerships - (Competitive)

Funds awarded to units of local government, non-profit, and for-profit agencies to assist with local housing needs, primarily for tax credit financing.

\$83,484,547.00 for Ohio

HUD should announce guidance in May. Interested organizations should contact the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships at the Ohio Department of Development, 614-466-2285.



Nonprofit Opportunities

Homeless Prevention & Re-Housing - (Formula)

Funds awarded to nonprofit organizations in order to prevent homelessness or meet the emergency needs of homeless individuals and families. This includes prevention, outreach and assessment, and emergency shelter.

\$26,205,724.00 for Ohio

Interested organizations should contact their local Continuum of Care (COC). For more information, visit www.odod.state.oh.us (link: “Communities”).



Nonprofit Opportunities

Capacity Building Grants - (Competitive)

Grants to build the capacity of faith-based and community organizations. This will include both training as well as mini-grants.

\$50,000,000.00 nationally

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will release a request for proposals in April. Visit www.grants.gov for more information.



Nonprofit Opportunities

Homeless Assistance Grant - (Competitive)

Funds awarded to nonprofit organizations in order to meet the emergency needs of homeless individuals and families. This includes outreach and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing, direct housing, and permanent supportive housing.

Approx. \$20,000,000.00 for Ohio

The Ohio Department of Development will release a request for proposals in late May. For more information, visit www.odod.state.oh.us (link: “Communities”).



Nonprofit Opportunities

Neighborhood Stabilization Fund - (Competitive)

Funds awarded to units of local government or nonprofit organizations to address the state's foreclosure crisis and stabilize neighborhoods. The program is designed to help with the purchase, rehab, and resale of foreclosed upon or vacant homes.

Approx. \$2,000,000,000.00 nationally

HUD should announce guidance in May. Interested organizations should contact the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships at the Ohio Department of Development, 614-466-2285.



Nonprofit Opportunities

National Endowment for the Arts - (Competitive)

Grants to fund arts projects and activities that preserve jobs in the non-profit arts sector threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support.

\$20,000,000.00 nationally

Interested organizations should contact the Ohio Arts Council (www.oac.state.oh.us/). Application guidelines will be posted on April 17; deadline is June 15.



Nonprofit Opportunities

Economic Development Assistance - (Competitive)

Grants and technical assistance to non-profit firms and political subdivisions for public infrastructure, facilities, training, business development, BRAC, energy efficiency, and ED strategic planning to distressed communities and FEMA declared disaster counties.

\$150,000,000.00 nationally

Interested organizations should apply directly with the Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov). This is a rolling application so there is no deadline.



Nonprofit Opportunities

Energy Efficiency Grants - (Competitive)

Grants to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, including: (A) the expansion of existing energy efficiency programs, including energy efficiency retrofits of buildings and industrial facilities; and (B) the expansion of existing programs to support renewable energy projects and deployment activities, including grants, loans, performance incentives, and other forms of financial assistance.

\$96,083,000.00 for Ohio

Interested organizations should provide information about their projects at <http://recovery.ohio.gov> (Program ID: 1101.02).



Nonprofit Opportunities

Workforce Investment Grants - (Competitive)

Organizations interested in providing workforce or employment-related programs can submit a proposal to: <http://recovery.ohio.gov>

or contact your local Workforce Investment Area:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/localboard/index.stm>



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For More Information...

WWW.

Recovery.Ohio.gov



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The Ohio Benefit Bank



The Ohio Benefit Bank

- Breaks down barriers to accessing work supports by providing simplified, one-stop locations for clients to work with trained counselors to complete tax return and other work support forms.
- A internet-based, counselor-assisted, community-based program.



Where are they located?

- Over 870 Ohio Benefit Bank sites
- Sponsored by a wide variety of organizations, such as:
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Community & social service organizations

Places of worship, Food pantries, Soup kitchens, Homeless shelters, Government agencies, Private businesses.

Sites are positioned to connect where people live, work, play and pray.



Counselor-Assisted

- All sites have trained counselors
- Working with a client
- Needs: a computer w/web access & printer
- Counselor poses questions prompted by a web-based program
- 4th grade reading level
- Multi-Lingual (English and Spanish)



Counselor-Assisted

- Answers entered by counselor into web-based program
- Counselors are trained in 1 - 2 day-long sessions
- Training materials are written at 9th grade reading and math levels
- Counselors are trained in using the program,
- Asking questions and empathic listening



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Contact Us

**Greg Landsman, Governor's Office of Faith-Based and
Community Initiatives**

614-466-3398

<http://gofbci.ohio.gov>

Shannon Teague, Ohio Benefit Bank

614-466-3398

www.obb.ohio.gov

