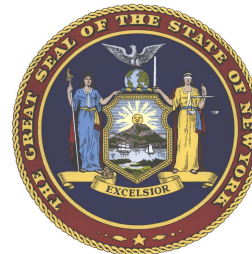


American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



*A Quarterly Report by the Economic
Recovery and Reinvestment Cabinet*



Governor David A. Paterson
November 2010



A Message from the Governor

My Fellow New Yorkers,

September 30, 2010 marked the end of the third quarter of calendar year 2010, and the beginning of the fifth American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) reporting period. Over the past month, the State and the federal government have collected data on ARRA (“stimulus”) spending and job creation. This report provides an insider’s look at that data, and the progress of the stimulus in New York State during the period from July 1 to September 30.

This report also provides an overview of the transparency and accountability measures that I have put in place to ensure that:

- ARRA funds are spent fairly and equitably;
- We prevent any fraud, waste or abuse; and,
- We share all ARRA information available to us with you, the New York State taxpayer.

The Recovery Act has been extremely important over the past year and a half in helping the State and the country avoid a second great depression. In New York, we have saved the jobs of thousands of teachers, hired construction workers to improve our roads and bridges, helped low-income families find and keep housing, and maintained immensely important programs including Medicaid and unemployment insurance. Particularly over the last quarter we have seen more jobs funded and increasing expenditures across all programs.

I invite you to read this report, prepared by my Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Cabinet, and see what we have accomplished. Also be sure to check out our Economic Recovery website, www.recovery.ny.gov, for more detailed information and updates.

Sincerely,

Governor David A. Paterson



Transparency & Accountability

Unprecedented Transparency and Accountability

ARRA calls for a level of transparency and accountability that is unprecedented in government. Several measures were taken by the federal government to ensure that Americans know where their tax dollars are being spent, and also to guarantee that any fraud or abuse is prevented – or caught and eliminated. New York also chose to implement its own measures to further ensure transparency and accountability.

The **Stimulus Oversight Panel**, established by Governor Paterson in July 2009, and headed by State Inspector General Joseph Fisch, works to prevent waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement of ARRA programs and funds – and to make certain that benefits are distributed in an equitable, non-discriminatory manner. The panel utilizes the audit and investigation tools available to monitor compliance with ARRA provisions as well as federal and State civil rights laws; coordinating with prosecutors and enforcement agencies to take action when necessary. The panel released its third quarterly report in October, detailing oversight, investigative and enforcement activities over the previous three months. The report, and all previous quarterly reports, is available at <http://www.recovery.ny.gov/reports.htm>.

The **Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Working Group**, headed by John Samaniuk of the New York State Department of Transportation audit division, has reinvigorated its work providing guidance to State agencies in meeting the requirements of ARRA. In the past, the group created a set of procedures and a system of data elements to assist with the accurate completion of ARRA reporting requirements, and was involved with quality assurance in reporting. The group is now focusing on identifying best practices to further ensure the quality of ARRA administration and reporting.

The Governor's **Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Cabinet** continues to work to improve transparency, providing information about ARRA in a publicly accessible format. The Recovery Cabinet constantly adds new information and features to its website, www.recovery.ny.gov, and also recently launched a Facebook page (www.facebook.com), "NYS Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Cabinet," which highlights success stories and provides info on any new ARRA developments in New York.

Reporting

Section 1512 of ARRA requires that State recipients of federal funding submit detailed quarterly reports on the allocation and contracting of the funds they have received. The reports include extensive information on sub-awards to vendors, and detailed descriptions of the programs and the jobs that were funded. All recipient reported information is publicly available on the federal Recovery website, www.recovery.gov. In addition, the New York Office of the State Comptroller provides, for funds included in State appropriations, detailed info on agency ARRA spending at www.openbooknewyork.com.

At-a-Glance

New York State will receive at least \$34.8 billion in ARRA funding, part of \$420 billion that will be appropriated to states and other direct recipients over the length of the federal stimulus program. New York continues to apply for additional funding available through competitive grants, which may increase the final allocation. Visit <http://recovery.ny.gov/DirectAid/aidnewyork.htm> for a breakdown of all the stimulus funding that has been allocated to New York.

Infrastructure

Total: \$3.3 billion

Transportation: \$2.7 billion

Clean & Drinking Water: \$519 million

Broadband: \$125 million

Aid to Individuals

Total: \$7.6 billion

Unemployment Insurance: \$4.4 billion

Food Stamps: \$1.3 billion

Social Security: \$846 million

Pell Grants: \$1.13 billion

Aid to State and Localities

Total: \$17.1 billion

Medicaid: \$11.1 billion

Education: \$6 billion

Other Programs

Total: \$6.8 billion

Housing: \$1.8 billion

Job Training: \$210 million

Health: \$3.2 billion

Energy: \$1.3 billion

Public Safety: \$268 million



Governor Paterson and US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood at the Moynihan Station Groundbreaking Ceremony in Manhattan. The Moynihan Station project is partially funded by an \$83 million ARRA TIGER grant. (Source: www.ny.gov/governor)

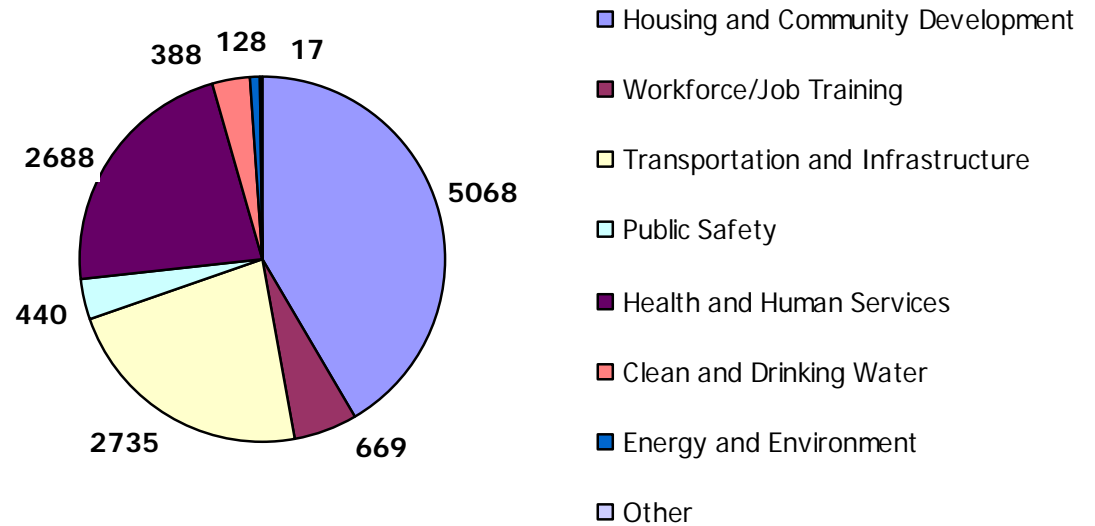
ARRA Funded Jobs 3rd Quarter of 2010

During the third quarter of 2010, ARRA funded **53,800** jobs in New York State. This includes both the jobs reported by State agencies that received and disbursed ARRA funds (Section 1512), as well as recipients that received funding directly from the federal government. The number of jobs reported reflects the *Total Hours Worked paid for by ARRA* in the quarter, divided by the *Total Number of Hours in a full-time schedule* for the quarter. This equation generates the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions funded by ARRA dollars during the quarter, and is not cumulative from quarter to quarter.

New York recorded a particularly successful quarter for job creation. ARRA programs funded roughly 16% more jobs in the third quarter compared to previous quarters. Apart from the obvious success of creating more jobs, New York has continued to perform better and better – that is, while New York funded 16% more jobs than the previous quarter, the nation as a whole funded approximately 11% less. This is a testament to the diligence of State recipients, who work daily with the Recovery Cabinet to ensure that the programs perform as they were intended in ARRA.

The graph and chart on this page show the jobs funded by programs reported in Section 1512 reports. The Recovery Cabinet does not directly track the sources of jobs reported by recipients of direct federal funding. To see the sources of these jobs, visit the federal Recovery website, www.recovery.gov.

3rd Quarter *Non-Education* Jobs Funded



3rd Quarter *Education* Jobs Funded

Award	Jobs Funded
SFSF – Education Support Fund	17,167
Education of Children with Disabilities Grant	4,296
Vocational Rehabilitation	139
Title II, Part D – Enhancing Education	65
Preschool Children with Disabilities Grant	169
Public Education for Homeless Children	12
Title I, Part A – Improving Local Programs	4,450
SFSF – Government Services Fund	4,330
Total:	30,642

Aid to the State, Localities and Individuals

As you can see on the “At-a-Glance” page, a significant portion of stimulus funds are payments to individuals and local governments (Medicaid, education, unemployment, etc.), and do not require Section 1512 reports. As the Recovery Cabinet only has direct interaction with funds flowing through the State (reported by Section 1512), the majority of this report describes Section 1512 reported funding. The programs below are not administered directly by the State but are equally important to our economic recovery:

Education

Several programs were included in ARRA to keep school districts from laying off teachers and cut down on budget shortfalls to ensure that statewide standards are continued. In total, New York received approximately \$6 billion through many education programs, the largest of which being State Fiscal Stabilization (\$2.5 billion). These programs have helped keep tens of thousands of teachers and support staff across the State from being laid off. The chart on page 5 shows the breakdown of these jobs, by program, for the 3rd quarter.

Unemployment Insurance Compensation

Through the end of the 3rd quarter the State Department of Labor (DOL) received and paid out \$4.39 billion in ARRA extended unemployment compensation and extended benefits to New York State’s unemployed. This includes an ARRA provision which provided an additional \$25 in weekly compensation to all UI recipients, and an unemployment insurance modernization of \$442 million.

Medicaid

ARRA included an \$87 billion FMAP (the funding mechanism behind Medicaid) increase, of which \$11.1 billion has come to New York State. The FMAP increase has been extremely important in helping New York to maintain its Medicaid program during the difficult economic downturn.

Food Stamps

From April 2009 through June 2010, more than \$1.31 billion in increased food stamp benefits came to New Yorkers as a result of the ARRA benefit increase.

Pell Grants

ARRA has provided New York with \$1.13 billion to eliminate the shortfall in the Pell grant account and to increase the Pell grant from cost of attendance up to a maximum of \$4,850 to cost of attendance up to a maximum of \$5,350 in the 2009-10 academic year and \$5,550 in 2010-11.



Workforce and Job Training

Workforce Investment Act

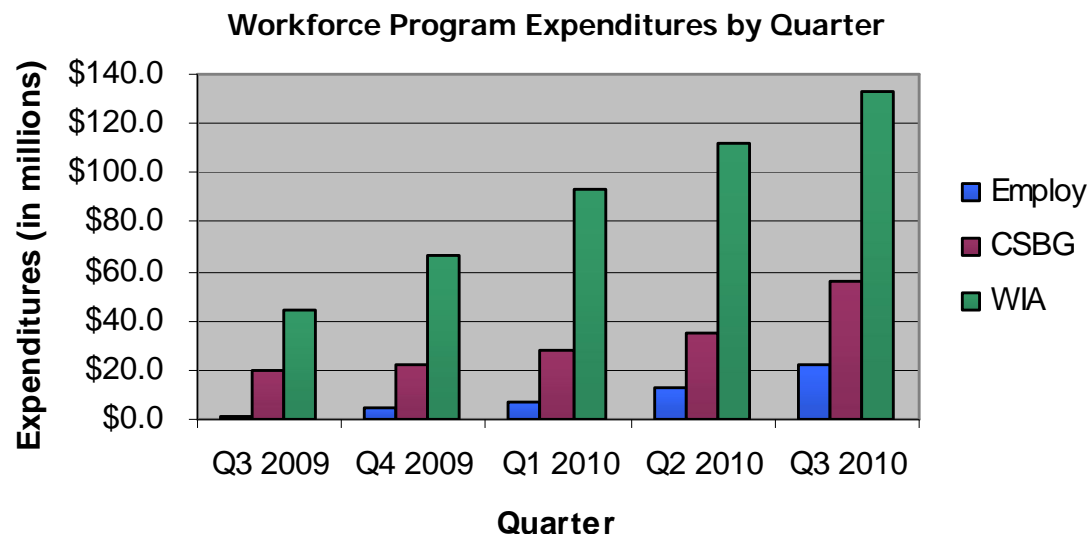
The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provision of ARRA provides \$169.4 million for New York to help individuals get the training and education they need in order to enter or re-enter the job market. The grant – administered by the New York State Department of Labor (DOL) – is separated into three groups: Youth, which helps low income youth acquire the skills needed to successfully transition to careers; Dislocated Workers, which aims to reemploy dislocated workers and help them retain that employment; and Adult, which provides workforce investment activities that increase the employment, retention, occupational skills, and earnings of participants.

Total Funding: \$169.4 million -- **Expenditures** (as of September 30, 2010): \$132.6 million -- **Jobs Funded** (3rd quarter): 387

Reemployment/Employment Services Grant

This grant program – also administered by DOL – provides individuals seeking employment with a wide range of employment-related services. It also provides individuals receiving unemployment compensation with staff-assisted, intensive employment-related services. Jobs funded include career advisors, counselors, intake specialists, business service representatives, and One-Stop supervisors and managers.

Total Funding: \$22.9 million -- **Expenditures:** \$21.9 million -- **Jobs Funded:** 280



Community Services Block Grant

New York was awarded \$86.8 million in ARRA Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding, which was awarded to CSBG grantees across the State. The funds have created jobs and support CSBG anti-poverty programs that address education, housing, nutrition, emergency services and health issues, and counseling on the use of available income. Jobs funded range from building trades, to computer programming, credit counseling, medical services, summer youth services, and homeless intervention.

Total Funding: \$86.8 million

Expenditures: \$56.5 million

Jobs Funded: 3,727

Stimulus Success Stories

Gregory Gerst – Syracuse



“Different Shades of Green” graduate Gregory Gerst with Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Anastasia L. Urtz and Vice President of the Board of Directors, Lt. Col. Robert McLean.

Green-focused Veteran Training Program Provides Unemployed with Skills Necessary to Re-join Workforce

Meet Gregory Gerst, a veteran and a Production Associate at Northeastern Electronics in Elbridge, Onondaga County. Not long ago, Mr. Gerst, a father of two, was unemployed. That was until he became involved with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County’s “Different Shades of Green” program.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, located in Syracuse, started the “Different Shades of Green” program with a \$317,000 grant from the New York State Department of Labor (DOL), as part of its ARRA-funded Emerging and Transitional Worker Program. The “Green” program was designed to train low-income and unemployed veterans ages 18 to 65 in green-focused career preparation skills. Participants received training in basic skills for work readiness and preparation for post-secondary study in rural and urban agriculture, local food systems, environmental technology, renewable energy and other “green” topics. In addition, the ten week program provided opportunities for certifications in areas including computer skills and horticulture, as well as workplace professionalism training.

Mr. Gerst, whose experience in the program was recently featured on a radio interview with WRVO, used his training to obtain full-time employment with Northeastern Electronics. The company produces custom wiring for a variety of commercial clients including IBM and GE. The company also provides products to military clients including Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems. Mr. Gerst knows, as a veteran of the Air Force, that quality control is vital to the safety of our men and women in uniform.

This program, one of New York State’s many ARRA-funded workforce training programs, allowed Mr. Gerst to secure not only a full-time job, but one which is meaningful to him and will help him support his family.

Transportation

Highways and Bridges

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) received \$1.12 billion for highways and bridges, funding hundreds of projects across the State: road reconstruction and re-paving, bridge rehabilitation and painting, sidewalk and pedestrian area improvements, lighting and signal improvements, etc. To ensure equity, priority was given to projects in economically distressed areas (EDA) and to disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) contractors. As of September 30, 96 percent of projects have had bid openings, 95 percent have started construction and 43 percent are completed.

Total Funding: \$1.12 billion

Expenditures: \$468 million

Jobs Funded: 1,358

Urban Transit

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has received grants for multiple transit projects, including (but not limited to): the Second

Avenue Subway, East Side Access railroad branch, Fixed Guideway Modernization, and the Fulton Street Transit Center. These projects involve everything from the construction of new subway to the improvement of rail tracks on the Long Island Railroad.

Total Funding (all MTA): \$1.41 billion

Expenditures: \$508 million

Jobs Funded: 1,377

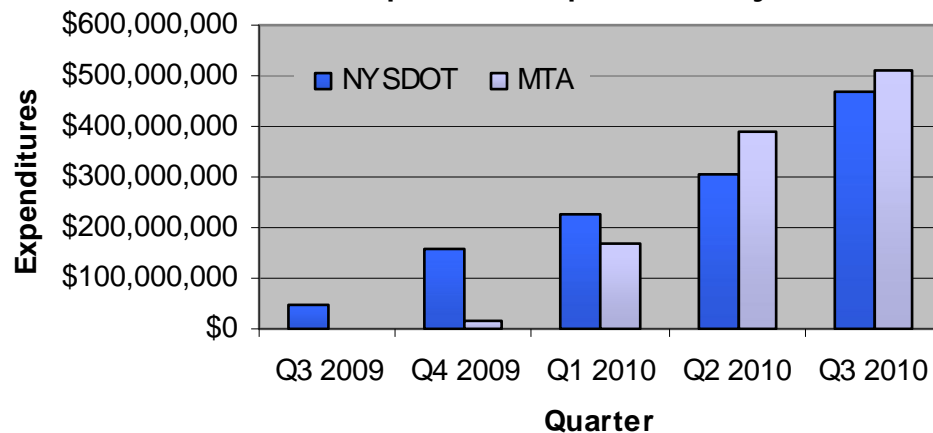
High Speed Rail

In addition to the original \$151 million in grants that New York received for High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail, the State was awarded an additional \$28.5 million in October for three additional projects in the Empire corridor. The State is currently in the process of advancing its Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project, one of the initial seven projects. Once the EIS is completed the State will be able to begin work on the remaining projects. The funds for these projects will be used to reduce travel times and increase speed and reliability of Amtrak service.

TIGER

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program awarded an \$83 million grant to the Moynihan Station project in Manhattan. The project – which over the next six years will expand Penn Station into the historic Farley Post Office Building to create a new, sky-lit train terminal – will alleviate congestion in the busiest train station in the country. Ground was broken for Phase I of the major project in October.

Transportation Expenditures by Quarter



Stimulus Success Stories

Eltingville Transit Center



Staten Island's Eltingville Transit Center park-and-ride lot – during construction, and after completion this summer (Source: NYS Department of Transportation).

Park-and-Ride Expansion Improves the Commutes of Staten Islanders

Staten Island, sometimes referred to as “the forgotten borough” of New York City by its residents, is the only borough that does not have subway access. Because of the lack of public transit, Staten Island has long been the most car-dependent borough. Over the past several decades, this has caused major traffic delays in as well as vast fuel consumption. However, the passage of ARRA has allowed improved travel to and from the Island, cutting down on both delays and gas guzzling.

Originally constructed in 2004, the park-and-ride lot at the Eltingville Transit Center in Staten Island was designed to allow more residents to utilize public transportation, in order to cut down on traffic delays into and out of the Island. The lot, which originally accommodated 223 parking spaces for customers of the 16 bus routes that depart from the transit center, soon reached its capacity. However, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) began

work in 2008 on plans to expand the parking area by an additional 159 spaces.

A \$2.4 million ARRA-funded Highway Infrastructure grant allowed NYSDOT to undertake the proposed project to expand the park-and-ride lot at the Eltingville Transit Center. The added capacity is expected to relieve 7,500 vehicle-hours of delay daily, translating into a fuel savings of nearly 850,000 gallons per year. NYSDOT awarded the construction project to a local contractor, DiFazio Industries, Inc. of Staten Island, which at the height of construction funded 30-plus construction jobs. The lot was reopened on July 26, 2010.

Upon the announcement of the project last year, Senator Charles Schumer said: “Staten Islanders have the longest, most difficult commutes and too often suffer from choc-a-block traffic. That is why this funding is terrific news for the Eltingville Transit Center and the many Staten Islanders who use the park-and-ride lot each and every day.” The Eltingville Transit Center project is one of the many ARRA projects which have had multiple positive impacts – in this case job creation, easier commutes and decreased dependence on fossil fuels – on the lives of New Yorkers.

Environment and Water Infrastructure

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

New York received the largest grant in E.P.A. history, \$432.6 million, for ARRA CWSRF. Administered by the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the program is funding 80 wastewater projects, including 35 Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) projects. These projects range from the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities to the replacement of antiquated collection systems, all of which substantially improve the water quality of neighboring streams, lakes, rivers, and estuaries. The jobs funded by this program range from excavation and general construction to professional engineers.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

The State Department of Health (DOH) received \$86.8 million for ARRA DWSRF, which is financing 30 projects, including 15 GIGP projects. These projects include the upgrade or construction of new water treatment plants, water distribution systems, meters, storage tanks and projects that are considered green. The jobs funded by these projects include consultants, professional engineers, and skilled and common laborers.

Water Quality Management 604(b) Program

The Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) ARRA grant is awarded under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. The focus of these funds is on developing regional plans for activities associated with green infrastructure, storm water abatement, and other water quality management. All eleven contracts have been executed, funding jobs ranging from environmental engineers to storm water specialists and hydrologists.

At-a-Glance

	<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
CWSRF	\$432 million	\$110 million	325
DWSRF	\$86.8 million	\$54.1 million	64
WQMP	\$4.37 million	\$1.68 million	16
LUST	\$9.21 million	\$5.07 million	11
WFM	\$763,000	\$109,444	12

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST)

This award supplements DEC efforts to assess and clean up petroleum releases from LUST sites in the State. The program aims to clean-up contaminated LUST sites effectively, maximize job creation and provide economic benefits. Clean-ups of 34 sites have been initiated, funding jobs from heavy equipment operators and technicians to geologists.

Wildland Fire Management (WFM)

The WFM grant was awarded by the USDA Forest Service. The project involves the eradication of giant hogweed (an invasive, federally listed noxious weed that causes severe burns to humans) and oak wilt (a tree disease that kills 100% of oak trees that become infected). Jobs funded include laborer/technician positions and herbicide applicator positions.

Stimulus Success Stories

Village of Greenport



Workers pour concrete for the Village of Greenport's new wastewater treatment facility. (Source: NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation)

Grant Rejuvenates Village's Antiquated Water System

Since the onset of the economic downturn, the State's finances have made it difficult to support important infrastructure projects across the State. Many municipalities have had significant projects in the queue for years, however, without substantial State funding, they have been financially impossible to undertake. Fortunately, the passage of ARRA in 2009 allowed

many of these projects to receive necessary funding, and many projects are now either under construction or completed.

The Village of Greenport on Long Island was one such municipality. Greenport had waited many years to install state-of-the-art modifications to their overwhelmed and antiquated wastewater treatment facility. The project, which once seemed impossible due to the financial restrictions of the small village, was rejuvenated through a \$4 million ARRA Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) grant, administered by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC). The ARRA monies provide the Village with 80 percent of the project cost, leaving only 20 percent to be financed by an interest-free CWSRF loan.

The wastewater project's components will transcend traditional clean water technologies by applying innovative treatment processes. The installation of a biological nitrogen removal unit (BNR) and a ultra-violet (UV) disinfection system will reduce the costs of maintenance and prolong the equipments' operating life. The BNR unit also provides sustainable, cost-effective water treatment to improve water quality.

Village of Greenport Mayor David Nyce said: "This grant will take a seemingly impossible task for a small, working class village and make it possible." In addition to the much needed upgrades that are now underway (the project is scheduled to be completed July 2011), the project is supporting local construction jobs. This project is yet another ARRA-funded project that has multiple positive impacts for the community it serves.

Housing and Community Renewal

Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) Program

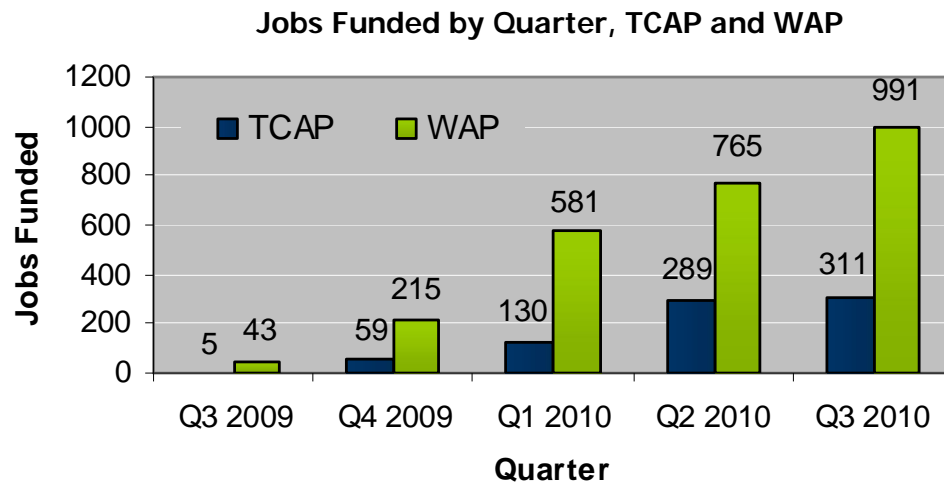
Administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), CDBG-R program funds are used to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the State's infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care. These initiatives are creating suitable living environments, providing decent affordable housing, and creating economic opportunities primarily benefiting persons of low- and moderate-income. Jobs funded include laborers, machinery operators, surveyors and electricians.

Total Funding: \$12.9 million -- **Expenditures:** \$7.8 million -- **Jobs Funded:** 39

Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP)

TCAP provides direct funding assistance to eligible Low-Income Housing Tax Credit projects. The program primarily intends to supplement affordable housing developments that have been unable to secure adequate equity commitments in the current market. Forty-seven projects will provide approximately 4,527 units of affordable housing to families at or below 60% of Area-Median Income (AMI). Jobs supported range from carpenters and bricklayers to landscapers and elevator mechanics.

Total Funding: \$252.7 million -- **Expenditures:** \$129.2 million -- **Jobs Funded:** 311



Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

The Weatherization program is working to reduce the energy expenditures of low-income households by conducting instrumented energy audits and installing energy conservation materials including weather-stripping, high-efficiency heating and efficient building materials such as windows and doors. ARRA funds are expected to provide energy conservation assistance for a total of 45,000 dwelling units upon program completion.

Total Funding: \$396 million
Expenditures: \$110.8 million
Jobs Funded: 991

Stimulus Success Stories

Sharon Daniels – Rochester



Sharon Daniels (left) with her children at their new apartment in Union Meadows II. (Source: NYS Homes and Community Renewal)

ARRA Gives Single Mom and her Children a New Home and New Hope

Meet Sharon Daniels. Sharon is a single mother of four children living in Rochester. Prior to the passage of the Recovery Act, Sharon and her children (two have developmental disabilities) lived in a crime-ridden and often violent area of the City of Rochester, in a poorly maintained apartment with high rent. She was desperate to move to a safer, more affordable environment for herself and her family.

While Sharon was looking for better housing options, her apartment caught fire and she and her family became homeless. Sharon was living in a shelter with her children before an opportunity in the stimulus-funded Union Meadows II housing development came along. She jumped at the opportunity to move and achieve her dream of living in a safe neighborhood.

Union Meadows II is a 42 unit family housing project, consisting of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments. The project received ARRA funding from the Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP). The TCAP program, administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), jumpstarted development of affordable housing that had been stalled due to funding gaps and devaluation of tax credits caused by the economic crisis. The stimulus funds, of \$553,859, closed a funding gap and allowed the project to move forward, which otherwise may never have seen completion.

Sharon and her family were able to move into a brand-new, three bedroom apartment at Union Meadows II. The new project has had a life-changing impact on Sharon's family as well as her new neighbors, many of whom were in situations similar to her own. Sharon loves her new apartment and since moving, her children have made significant progress in school. Sharon has expressed how happy she is to be able to offer her children a healthier and better lifestyle.

Human Services and Public Safety

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

The ARRA allocation for CCDF, administered by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), provides child care financial assistance to low-income working families and funds activities to improve the quality of child care. All New York State child care districts receive a CCDF allocation, supporting teaching and classroom staff jobs across the State.

Total Funding: \$96.8 million
Expenditures: \$38.1 million
Jobs Funded: 2,319

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)

ARRA HPRP provides assistance to households that have been identified as at-risk and who otherwise without such assistance would experience homelessness. HPRP is also intended to rapidly re-house individuals and families who are homeless. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has contracted with 28 sub-recipients to administer HPRP funds. In the third quarter, 2,271 households were served with financial assistance and 3,328 were assisted with support services.

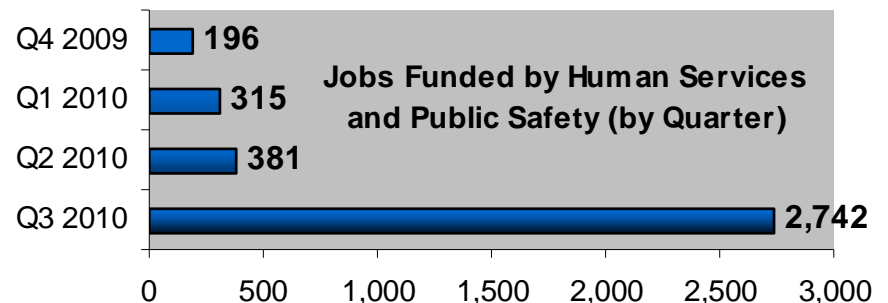
Total Funding: \$26.9 million
Expenditures: \$13.6 million
Jobs Funded: 82

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) used the bulk of the \$67 million in JAG funds to support implementation of the drug law reforms enacted in 2009. The new State law

provides greater discretion to judges, eliminates mandatory prison sentences for the vast majority of drug offenses, and authorizes a variety of alternative dispositions, including many incorporating substance abuse treatment and community supervision. To date, the program has provided 1339 individuals with job training, and 325 individuals have been obtained permanent employment.

Total Funding: \$67.3 million
Expenditures: \$11.2 million
Jobs Funded: 320



Victim Assistance Program (VAP)

The ARRA Victim Assistance Program, administered by the Office of Victim Services delivers services to aid innocent victims of crime. These services may include therapy, legal advocacy, safe shelter, emergency financial assistance, court accompaniments, etc. In addition to helping victims, the program also funds several community, social, and victim service jobs.

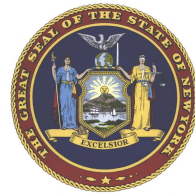
Total Funding: \$1.79 million
Expenditures: \$728,000
Jobs Funded: 20

Stimulus Success Stories

Stimulus Funding Provides Hope for Victims of Domestic Violence

The Office of Victims Services (formerly Crime Victims Board), which provides compensation and other services to innocent victims of crime in New York State, received ARRA funding for its Victim Assistance Program (VAP). Services provided by VAP include counseling, emergency legal assistance, personal and criminal justice advocacy, and assistance filing for compensation benefits. From October 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, the stimulus funded program served 97 crime victims across New York.

One of the victims (who will not be identified for confidentiality) helped by the program was a victim of domestic violence brought on by her husband. The VAP helped the woman obtain a final order of protection against her husband. The order of protection will protect the client and her two children.

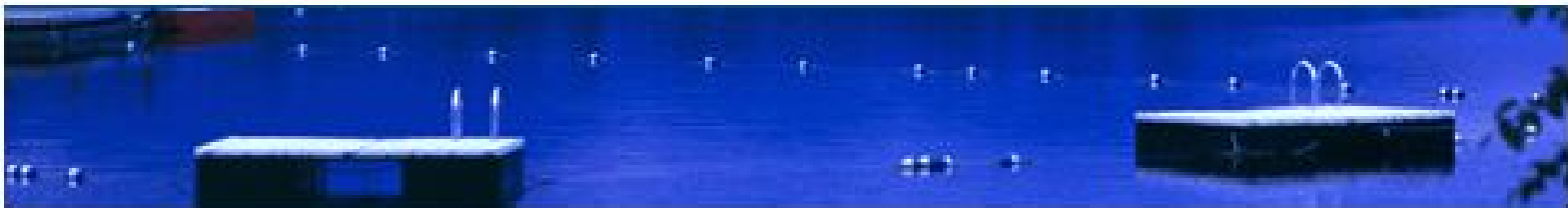


VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The client came to the VAP for legal and social services after her husband threatened her family and her children. She believed that he would carry out his threat to hurt her children. The client described that her husband believed he has a right to enforce his will on her and this created a life of fear and destroyed her self esteem. She also reported that her husband used coercion and threats to control her.

Throughout her relationship with her husband, she suffered physical and psychological abuse. She has since left her husband and is focusing on her academic studies. The VAP has assisted her with safety planning and referred her to an agency which installed an alarm system at her home. She is currently in therapy and is addressing the effects of the abuse. She was also provided with information on how to obtain specialized services for her two children who witnessed the domestic violence. A NYS Office of Victim Services claim application has been completed for the victim and both her children to assist in any costs related to counseling.

The effect of stimulus funding for the victim assistance program has been two-fold: Not only did the program fund jobs within the Office of Victim Services, but it has also assisted numerous innocent victims across the State.



This report, as well as further information about the Recovery Act in New York State, is available online at www.recovery.ny.gov.

(Banner Photos Source: <http://www.ny.gov>)