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This month's newsletter focuses on how North Carolina has been using its share of the Federal Stimulus Funds.

Transportation Overview

To date, the State of North Carolina has received approximately \$816 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds for transportation and transit-related projects. In total, the NC Department of Transportation has identified 474 projects across the state that will receive Recovery Act funding.

Highway Infrastructure Program

The state received more than \$735 million in Recovery Act funding for Highway Infrastructure. This funding will support more than 334 contracts totaling more than \$948 million that have been awarded for highway and bridge projects across North Carolina since March. According to the Federal Highway Administration, every \$1 million spent on transportation creates 30 jobs; and according to the construction industry, every dollar invested in transportation generates \$6 in economic impact.

Transit Projects

In total, the state received about \$103,304,000 million for Transit Capital Assistance, which will support 140 transit projects in rural and urban areas across the state:

As of June 23, 2009, \$70,248,738 has been used to fund 70 transportation projects in urban areas across the state. The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carboro Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Capital Area Planning Organization have supplemented the state's amount with \$5.1 million of their funds.

State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF)

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program is a new one-time appropriation of \$53.6 billion (nationally) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These funds are distributed directly to states to:

- Help stabilize state and local government budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in education and other essential public services.
- Help ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) and public institutions of higher education (IHEs) have the resources to avert cuts and retain educational personnel and staff.
- Help support the modernization, renovation, and repair of school and college facilities.
- Help advance early learning through post-secondary education reforms to benefit students and families.

Each state is required to use 81.8 percent of its SFSF towards primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. States are required to restore funding for the next three state fiscal years, to the greater of state fiscal year 2008 or 2009 levels. North Carolina was required to restore funding to FY 2008-09 levels. The remainder of the SFSF, 18.2 percent, is directed toward other public services including public safety.

As of January 2010, \$1,037,016,819 in State Fiscal Stabilization funds have been awarded to North Carolina.

The following table demonstrates how the SFSF was distributed in North Carolina:

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Dept. of Public Instruction		\$379,668,352	\$373,281,648
UNC	\$84,749,517	\$137,815,944	\$144,202,648
Community College	\$42,213,454		
Education Total	\$126,962,971	\$517,484,296	\$517,484,296
Administrative Office of Courts	\$66,585,556		
Dept. of Correction		\$12,926,135	\$12,926,135

Title I, Part A- Supporting Low-Income Schools:

The ARRA provides \$10 billion in additional Title I, Part A funds to state education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) to support schools that have high concentrations of students from families that live in poverty in order to help improve teaching and learning for students most at risk of failing to meet state academic achievement standards.

As of January 2010, \$257,444,956 in Title I funds have been awarded to North Carolina.

IDEA Grants, Parts B & C - Improving Special Education Programs:

The ARRA provides \$12.2 billion in additional funding for Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part B of the IDEA provides funds to state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help them ensure that children with disabilities, including children aged three through five, have access to a free appropriate

public education to meet each child's unique needs and prepare him or her for further education, employment, and independent living. Part C of the IDEA provides funds to each state lead agency designated by the Governor to implement statewide systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary interagency programs and make early intervention services available to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

As of January 2010, \$340,987,742 in IDEA funds have been awarded to North Carolina.

Education Technology Grants:

The ARRA provides \$650 million in additional funding for Education Technology Grants. The primary goal of the Education Technology Grants program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. It is also designed to help ensure that every student is technologically literate by the end of eighth grade and to encourage the effective integration of technology with teacher training and curriculum development.

As of January 2010, \$16,337,364 in Education Technology Grants have been awarded to North Carolina.

Vocational Rehabilitation Funds:

The ARRA provides \$540 million in additional funding for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program. The VR State Grants program provides grants to states to help individuals with disabilities, especially those individuals with the most significant disabilities, prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment.

As of January 2010, \$18,029,008 in Vocational Rehabilitation Funds have been awarded to North Carolina.

Independent Living Services Fund:

The ARRA provides \$140 million in additional funding for the Independent Living (IL) programs. The IL programs support services to individuals with significant disabilities and older individuals who are blind to maximize their leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity, and to promote the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

As of January 2010, \$1,444,703 in Independent Living Services Funds have been awarded to North Carolina.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Funds:

The ARRA provides \$70 million under the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program to assist States and local educational agencies (LEAs) in addressing the educational and related needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our society - homeless children and youth - during a time of economic crisis in the United States.

As of January 2010, \$1,627,010 in McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funds have been awarded to North Carolina.

Pell Grant Funds:

The ARRA provides \$17.1 billion in additional funds for students across the country in need of Pell Grants. The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Students may use their grants at any one of approximately 5,400 participating postsecondary institutions. The additional funding allowed the Department of Education to raise the maximum Pell award from \$4,731 to \$5,350.

Pell Grants are awarded based on student applications, not by state. As of January 2010, \$207,035,879 in Pell Grants have been awarded to students attending colleges and universities in North Carolina.

Work Study Funds:

The ARRA provides an additional \$200 million to the Work-Study program, providing colleges and universities with additional funding to provide jobs to students to help with their college and living expenses. Work Study funds are distributed to qualifying schools which select students based on financial need.

As of January 2010, \$4,634,858 in Work Study funds have been awarded to students attending colleges and universities in North Carolina

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant is currently administered through the U.S. Department of Energy by the State Energy Office within the Department of Commerce. The controlling federal legislation for the program is the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. The purpose of the program is to assist cities, counties, states, territories, and Indian tribes to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation projects and programs. The Recovery Act marks the first time that the program has been funded by the federal government. Under the Recovery Act, \$3.2 billion was allocated to the program. North Carolina's share is \$58,050,300. Thirty-three designated cities, counties and the Cherokee Indians are receiving a total of \$37.4 million directly, based on a population formula. The remaining \$29.9 million is being distributed to non-designated communities, public school systems and community colleges based on a plan developed by the N.C. Energy Office and the state Office of Economic Recovery and Investment and approved by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Weatherization Program

The Weatherization Program is a part of the N.C. Energy Office in the Department of Commerce. The program receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program, created by the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976. Under the program, federal funding flows through the states to Community Action Agencies or other selected local providers, to perform energy efficiency related repairs to residences below a certain poverty threshold. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal program received an additional \$5 billion funds, compared to \$227 million in 2008. The state received \$131,954,536 in Recovery Act funds, compared to approximately \$9 million in SFY 2009. For more information on details of North Carolina's Weatherization Program, a list of local providers and information on eligibility, click on the Weatherization link on the N.C. Energy Office Web site at: www.energync.net.

State Energy Program

The State Energy Program is currently managed by the State Energy Office in the N.C. Department of Commerce. At the federal level, the program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program. The program was established by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, and has been altered since by subsequent federal legislation. The purpose of the program is to provide funding to the states to design and carry out energy related programs. Specifically, the program is designed to increase energy efficiency; reduce energy costs; improve energy reliability; promote and develop alternative resources of energy; promote economic growth; and reduce reliance on imported oil. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the program received \$3.1 billion dollars nationally, compared to \$185 million in FFY 2008. North Carolina received \$75,989,000 in Recovery Act funds, compared to \$750,000 in FFY 2008.

Smart Grid Investment Grant Program

North Carolina has received \$403,927,899 for the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program. Both Progress Energy and Duke Energy received awards directly from the U.S. Energy Department; however the funding will support projects in their service area (which will include areas outside of NC).

Summary

For more detail on State Programs, go to:
http://www.ncleg.net/DocumentSites/committees/SSCER/DECEMBER%202009/State_Energy_Office_Update.pdf

My office number is 733-5974 and my email address is darren.jackson@ncleg.net. I look forward to hearing from and working with you. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. As always, please contact me if I can be of service to you.

***Note: You are receiving this newsletter because you have either provided me with your email address or sent my office an email over the last several months. If you do not wish to receive future eNewsletters, please reply "unsubscribe."*

