

New Jersey Departments of Agriculture and Community Affairs

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds

To: All Municipal Governing Bodies and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders

From: Secretary Douglas Fisher Acting Commissioner Charles A. Richman
N.J. Department of Agriculture N.J. Department of Community Affairs

Date: August 18, 2009

Re: ARRA Stimulus Funds

The federal economic stimulus funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has begun making its way to states and individuals.

The New Jersey Departments of Agriculture and Community Affairs have been made aware that there are funds through US Department of Agriculture's USDA Rural Development program that could be accessed by eligible municipalities, counties, utilities authorities, non-profit groups and individuals. These are funds that would not come to our state departments as a primary recipient to then be disbursed to others.

However, the Departments strongly encourage eligible recipients, which include certain local and county entities, non-profit groups and Native American tribes, to apply for this funding.

Examples of projects that could benefit from these funds include: community facilities such as health-care clinics and fire stations; expansion of broadband capability and access in underserved or unserved areas; and business development grants in rural areas and municipalities.

For details on the twenty-five ARRA programs that the USDA administers, visit their website at www.usda.gov/wps/portal/arrapie?navid=USDA_ARRA_OVEW. Click on the headings next to the pie chart to view details.

Because of the diverse nature and complexity of each program, and the way in which USDA has structured the applications process, municipalities and individuals should determine for themselves if they are eligible. A useful text summary of the programs can be found at: <http://www.growingproduce.com/news/?storyid=1507>.

If you have additional questions regarding this funding or its applicability to your organization, please call NJDA's ARRA coordinator, Jeff Beach, at 609-292-5531, or email him at jeffrey.beach@ag.state.nj.us.

Thank you for your attention to this.