

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
Stimulus Package
INFRASTRUCTURE

Economic Stimulus Statement: On February 17th, President Obama signed into law a massive economic stimulus measure entitled the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**, or “ARRA” for short. The new law, which contains more than \$787 billion in spending and tax cuts, contains several major initiatives related to Health Centers, totaling well over \$2 billion.

Core Element: \$1.5 billion for Community Health Center infrastructure needs

What can the funds be used for? Construction, renovation, equipment, and acquisition of HIT, but details of the size and types of projects that will be eligible for funding will be up to HRSA to determine.

What is the time frame for accessing the resources? The timeline for the allocation and spending of the funds is still under discussion; however, NACHC is examining the legislation to determine if overall deadlines for stimulus payments will apply to these funds. HRSA must develop a plan for spending the funds within 90 days of the signing (mid-May 2009) and it must report progress back to Congress every six months thereafter.

What will Health Centers have to do to receive funding? First – be ready! Collect information about your project (cost, design, financing, projected impact) and share that information with your HRSA project officer, your State or Regional Primary Care Association, Capital Link (www.caplink.org) and other local officials. NACHC will also be maintaining a list of projects and we ask that you also share your information with Dawn McKinney, NACHC Director of State Affairs.

If you receive funds/resources, what kinds of reporting/accountability can you expect? It is important that Health Centers understand that they are some of the earliest recipients of funds going out under the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA), and that transparency and accountability are critical elements of the ARRA. Health Centers, therefore, should anticipate close scrutiny and be able to respond to a high level of accountability in their use of these funds. ***Note: HRSA may establish its own specific reporting requirements.***

What resources are available to assist Health Centers to receive the funding?

- 1) Information updates: Dawn McKinney (dmckinney@nachc.com)
- 2) Capital planning and financing assistance: Capital Link (www.caplink.org)
- 3) Upcoming training:
 - ◆ 2009 NACHC Policy + Issues Forum, March 24-28, 2009, Washington, D.C.
 - The Stimulus and Capital Funding: The New Opportunities (March 27)*
 - Update on Regulatory and Administrative Policies that Impact Centers (March 28)*
 - The Stimulus and Capital Funding: Understanding the Current Financial Crisis and Using the Recent Recovery Funding and Other Financial Tools to Complete Your Building Project (March 28)*