

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT WORKSHOP

Presented by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy & Governor James Douglas

March 6, 2009 - Burlington, Vermont

FIRST RESPONDERS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Helping our state and local law enforcement officials during this economic downturn will keep America safe and our economy moving. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes a long-overdue and crucial investment of \$4.2 billion in our emergency response and criminal justice systems – including first responders, state and local law enforcement, and victims of crime and domestic and sexual violence.

The substantial funding for these programs included in the recovery and reinvestment act will bring at least \$11.6 million to support Vermont's law enforcement efforts. This will have a profound effect on the safety of our families, neighborhoods and communities.

Effective state and local law enforcement is vital to our efforts to combat the scourge of drugs and crime, and the need for support from the federal government is more urgent than ever in difficult economic times.

In leading the effort to include first responders in the recovery plan, Senator Leahy noted that the plan investment in the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program will stimulate the economy as fast as, or faster than, other spending because nearly 100 percent of the money goes to creating jobs.

Supporting local police also helps economic development more broadly. As communities become safer, property value rises, businesses thrive, and local economies prosper.

The plan funds programs that combat child exploitation, protect victims of domestic and sexual violence, and victims of crime – addressing those who are most vulnerable to the likely increases in crime in a down economy. Funding these programs will help ensure that those already victimized by crime are not also victims of our struggling economy.

Specifically, the Act includes:

- \$1 billion for Community Oriented Policing Services Program to put more cops on the beat ;
- \$2 billion to support state and local law enforcement agencies through Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grants – **providing Vermont with nearly \$5 million;**
- \$225 million for competitive investments in state and local law enforcement through Edward Byrne Competitive grants;
- \$125 million for rural drug enforcement assistance to take special aim at solutions to drug crime in rural areas;
- \$210 million in competitive Firefighter Assistance Grants to build and improve non-federal fire stations;
- \$130 million in rural community facilities grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas;
- \$100 million to support state Victim Compensation and Assistance programs – **providing Vermont with \$541,000 in Assistance and \$57,951 in Compensation;**
- \$50 million to combat Internet Crimes Against Children – **providing Vermont with an estimated \$403,670;**
- \$175 million in STOP Formula Grants to address the needs of the growing number of domestic and sexual violence victims – **providing Vermont with an estimated \$888,733;**
- \$50 million to provide transitional housing for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

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