

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

Vermont's Infrastructure: *Housing, Water Projects & Transportation*

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One Baldwin Street • Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301 • 802-828-2295

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/jfo/>



Housing

- \$13 million of direct funding plus possible additional funding available via competitive grants
 - \$3.4 million for public housing, with priority to rehabilitation of vacant units and rapid awards
 - Other public housing funding is available for energy conservation and renovation
 - \$3.9 million for state housing entities to provide gap financing grants and catalyze stalled housing development projects involving low income tax credits
 - \$2.2 million in CDBG funds with priority to projects that can be awarded in 120 days
 - \$3.4 million for Vermont for homeless prevention
 - Other federal funds include: \$2.25 billion for project based assistance under the supportive housing for the elderly program and support for housing for the disabilities; \$2 billion for project based rental assistance; \$2 billion additional funding for the neighborhood stabilization grants

Housing

Key legislative concerns and priorities for use of funds:

- Support overall goals of the ARRA
 - Housing efforts that increase affordable housing and energy conservation
 - Rapid deployment of funds
- Maximize grant funding for Vermont
- Provide support for transitional housing which has been a challenge in corrections and mental health services
- Ensure that the funds are used efficiently by Vermont's housing community, including the Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), nonprofit organizations and others in the industry
- Ensure investments result in permanent affordability

Drinking Water & Clean Water

- \$19.5 million for Drinking Water infrastructure
- \$19.2 million for Clean Water infrastructure
- Current programs provide low interest loans (and principal forgiveness in DW)
- Legislature will need to adjust upward maximum level of subsidy that will be awarded initially
 - Current subsidy capped at 40%
 - ARRA requires 50% minimum subsidy level
 - Must reserve 20% of funding for “Green Infrastructure” for 180 days

Drinking Water & Clean Water

Key legislative concerns and priorities for use of funds:

- Funding should address the backlog of Drinking Water and Clean Water infrastructure needs
- Review incentives to encourage communities to apply for and use funds, including: increased subsidy, reduction in local match, and streamlined permit processing
- Ensure timely obligation of ARRA funds
- Support use of funds to build Green Infrastructure

Highway

- \$125.7 million in direct funding for Vermont
- Funding limited to projects currently eligible for federal aid (includes Town Bridge program)
 - Exception: \$4 million for enhancements
- State must obligate \$44 million within 120 days
- State project funding decisions will be based on AOT recommendations made using existing prioritization rankings, project eligibility and readiness

Highway

Key legislative concerns and priorities for use of funds:

- Legislature will look for opportunities to use ARRA funding for projects that will free state resources for local projects (that are not eligible for federal assistance)
- Legislature will promote efforts to draw down additional grant funding (ex: Bennington Bypass funding)
- Legislature authorizes spending in transportation bill and appropriates funding in appropriations bill

Rail, Public Transit & Airports

- Rail:
 - \$8 billion available via competitive grants
 - ARRA gives priority to intercity high speed rail

- Public Transit:
 - \$5.7 million direct funding for Vermont
 - Cannot be used to cover operating costs

- Airports:
 - \$200 million available via competitive grants for equipment
 - \$1.1 billion available via competitive grants for runway incursion prevention

Rail, Public Transit & Airports

Key legislative concerns and priorities for use of funds:

- Public transit money largely slated for bus purchases
- Legislature will pursue grant funds to support the Western corridor rail project, rail improvement projects and the DMU initiative which lacks a supplier of cars and funding
- Maximize grant funding for Vermont