



City of Cincinnati

Date:

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager

Subject: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Update - June 2009

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an update regarding City of Cincinnati activities related to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Background

ARRA was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009 and provided approximately \$787.2 Billion dollars in federal spending and tax cuts aimed at stimulating economic activity across the country. Approximately \$575.3 Billion of this \$787.2 Billion was allocated to spending, and of this amount, approximately \$8.8 Billion is expected to flow to the State of Ohio.

ARRA funds are being distributed through a number of different federal and state agencies using a combination of formula, competitive, and discretionary methods to a wide range of eligible recipients. Each ARRA funded program comes with its own set of eligibility criteria, program guidelines, deadlines, and application requirements. New details and funding announcements continue to emerge on an almost daily basis.

Since the ARRA was signed into law, City staff have been working to identify, track, and prepare applications for ARRA funding opportunities for which the City may be eligible with the goal of securing as much funding as possible for City activities. Given the often short timeframes between the posting of a funding opportunity and the application deadline, the ability of the Administration to turn around funding applications in a timely manner is crucial to the success of this effort. Toward that end, City Council passed Ordinance # 0094-2009 authorizing the Administration apply for grants pursuant to the ARRA. It should be noted that while this ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for funding under the ARRA, the City will not actually accept ARRA funds without specific ordinances approved by City Council which permit the City to accept and appropriate the funds.

ARRA Funding Awarded to the City to Date

To date, approximately \$50.3 Million in ARRA funding has been announced for the City of Cincinnati and its partners. The City has also submitted or will be submitting a number of applications to receive this funding. A summary of these funding opportunities follows:

1) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-R)

Summary: This is a formula grant program, allocated through the US Department of Housing & Urban Development. ARRA provided approximately \$1 billion in funding for this program nationwide. Of that, approximately \$43 million is expected to go to Ohio jurisdictions and of that, Cincinnati expects to receive \$3,490,694.

Status: The City Administration outlined a proposed plan for the use of these funds in an FYI memo dated May 18, 2009. At its meeting on June 3, 2009, City Council passed an ordinance which set up the accounts (Ord #0148-2009) and an ordinance (Ord #0150-2009) authorizing the submission of a Substantial Amendment to the 2008 Consolidated Plan/Action Plan reflecting the proposed CDBG-R use plan.

2) Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Grant Program (HPRP)

Summary: This is a formula grant program, allocated through the US Department of Housing & Urban Development, "to provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless...and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless." ARRA provided \$1.5 billion in funding for this program nationwide. Of that, Ohio jurisdictions are eligible for up to approximately \$65.7 million, and of that, Cincinnati is eligible for up to \$5,339,182. Hamilton County is eligible for up to \$1,396,621.

Status: Pursuant to program guidelines, City staff worked with the Hamilton County Continuum of Care to develop a recommended plan for the use of these funds. On May 15, 2009, City Council passed Ord. # 0127-2009, authorizing the submission of a Substantial Amendment to the City's 2008 Consolidated Plan/Action Plan reflecting the proposed Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Plan. The application was submitted to the US Department of Housing & Urban Development by the deadline of May 18, 2009.

3) Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant Program (JAG)

Summary: This is a formula grant program, allocated through the US Department of Justice, to fund criminal justice activities. ARRA provided \$2.0 billion in funding for this program nationwide. Of that, Ohio jurisdictions are eligible for up to approximately \$61.6 million, and of that, Cincinnati is eligible for up to \$2,418,209.

Status: On April 15, 2009, City Council passed Ord.# 0096-2009 authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept this funding in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding required by the grant guidance and attached thereto. The application was submitted to the US Department

4) **Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)**

Summary: This is a formula grant program, allocated through the US Department of Energy, to fund projects that reduce fossil fuel emissions, total energy use, and improve energy efficiency in all sectors. ARRA provided \$2.7 billion for formula grants through this program nationwide. Of that, Ohio jurisdictions are eligible for up to approximately \$84.1 million, and of that, Cincinnati is eligible for up to \$3,520,600.

Status: The Administration submitted a report (Doc. #200900661) to City Council dated May 4, 2009 outlining the recommended allocation plan for this funding. The plan was developed under the guidance of the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ), who solicited input from City departments and other stakeholders. An amended plan was approved by City Council ([Doc. 200900799](#)) on June 3, 2009. The deadline for submitting the City's application is June 25, 2009.

5) **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program (CWSRLF)**

Summary: This program, administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides funding for water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, non-point source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management. ARRA provided approximately \$4.0 Billion nationwide to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program. Approximately \$220.6 million of this was allocated to the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, administered by the Ohio EPA.

Status: Ohio EPA conducted a solicitation for projects among Ohio jurisdictions and announced awards on April 23, 2009. ARRA funding is provided as a subsidy to reduce the principal on loans awarded through CWSRLF. \$5.0 million in funding was announced for five Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) projects:

- 1) Charlemer Sewer Replacement - \$266,700
- 2) Hengehold Pump Station Elimination - \$720,270
- 3) Kemper Lane Sewer Repair - \$556,651
- 4) Mill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements - \$1,345,000
- 5) Little Miami River Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements - \$2,111,379

The Office of Environmental Quality also submitted a grant application for \$5 million to expand their Green Roof Loan Program. The OEQ's Green Roof Loan Program (GRLP) is an incentive program that promotes the use of vegetated green roofs in the Cincinnati community by facilitating low-interest loans to participating residents to help cover

up-front expenses for installing green roofs on new buildings and/or retrofitting existing buildings.

6) **Transportation Funding through ARRA**

Summary: ARRA allocated approximately \$27.5 billion nationwide for highway infrastructure. Of this, approximately \$936 million was allocated to the State of Ohio. While the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for distributing much of this amount across the state, local Metropolitan Planning Organizations, such as the OKI Regional Council of Governments (OKI), were also charged with distributing funds among their regional jurisdictions.

Status: OKI received approximately \$30 million for distribution among eight counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, including Hamilton County. Three projects in Cincinnati will receive ARRA funding totaling \$5,575,000 through the OKI 2030 Regional Transportation Plan:

- 1) Waldvogel Viaduct Rail Relocation – \$1,075,000
- 2) Computerized Traffic Control system Interconnect - \$2,750,000
- 3) Ohio River Trail (Wilmer to Carrel) - \$1,750,000

OKI also allocated \$1.5 million to Hamilton County for the Cincinnati Central Riverfront Intermodal Center & Street Grid in support of The Banks project.

In addition, ODOT has allocated another \$49.6 million in ARRA transportation funding for Cincinnati/Hamilton County projects:

- 1) \$23.5 million of this allocated to Hamilton County for The Banks project in Cincinnati:
 - Banks Transit Center - \$5,000,000
 - Riverfront Intermodal Center Phase 2 - \$10,500,000
 - Banks Street Grid - \$8,000,000
- 2) I-75 Rehabilitation - \$6,100,000
- 3) Eastern Corridor Development - \$20,000,000

Recent Postings/Pending Applications

In addition to the grant opportunities described above for which the City has been awarded ARRA funds, there are a number of opportunities for which the City is preparing or has submitted applications for which no award has yet been made. A summary of these opportunities follows:

1) **Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (Competitive)**

Summary: This is a competitive grant program, allocated through the US

Department of Justice, to fund criminal justice initiatives in eight areas: 1) preventing and reducing violent crime through community-based data-driven approaches; 2) providing funding for neighborhood-based probation and parole officers; 3) reducing mortgage fraud and crime related to vacant properties; 4) hiring of civilian support personnel in law enforcement (training staff, analysts, dispatchers, etc.); 5) enhancing forensic and crime scene investigations; 6) improving resources and services for victims of crime; 7) supporting problem-solving courts; and 8) national training and technical assistance partnerships. ARRA provided \$225 million in funding for this program nationwide, of which, \$38 million flowed through the State of Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) to be awarded through the state on a competitive basis.

- Status: Application deadline for this program was April 27, 2009 for the Federal Applications and May 1, 2009 for the State Applications. The Cincinnati Police Department submitted five applications totaling approximately \$3.9 Million for the following initiatives:
- 1) Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) – To extend and evaluate a pre-existing and effective violence reduction initiative, while simultaneously creating 12 new jobs.
 - 2) Video Forensic Response & Analysis – To fund the expansion of the Cincinnati Police Department's Video Laboratory, through the hiring of additional personnel, the acquisition of technologically advanced hardware/software, and the ability to provide mobile response to crime scenes.
 - 3) 3) Hiring of Civilian Staff in Law Enforcement – To hire staffing for the Information Analysis Unit. Create a Virtual Private Network, allowing personnel away from their networked computers, greater access to critical crime information
 - 4) 4) Innovations in Reducing Crime (State Application) - To use Cincinnati as a "social laboratory" to test innovative approaches addressing two interrelated topics - preventing crime related to gangs and predicting crime and violence.
 - 5) 5) Sex Offender Monitoring Program (State Application) - To work in collaboration with the Hamilton County Probation Department to monitor sex offenders.

The Cincinnati Law Department submitted one application for the State's program for \$63,070 for the Post-Booking and Jail (PB&J) Mental Health Diversion Program. The grant funding will cover the start-up costs of implementing a new and innovative approach that is a prosecutorial driven post-booking and jail diversion/intervention program referred to as "PB&J" Mental Health Diversion Program currently being planned by the CJ-MHI Committee. Such a prosecutorial driven program will be the first of its kind in the nation in which law enforcement entities will strive to connect offenders with their mental health providers and will be a crucial initiative to add to traditional court based diversion efforts.

2) COPS Hiring Recovery Grant Program (CHRP)

Summary: This is a competitive grant program, allocated through the US Department of Justice, to provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for 3 years (36 months) for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts. ARRA provided \$1 Billion in funding for this program nationwide.

Status: Application deadline for this program was April 14, 2009. Cincinnati Police submitted one application totaling \$42,390,157. This program is expected to be highly competitive. Applicants will be notified whether they will receive CHRP funding no later than September 30, 2009.

3) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program (Competitive)

Summary: This is a competitive grant program, allocated through the US Department of Justice to the Ohio Attorney General which provides funding for grants to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring) to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring. DOJ is committed to working with national, state, local and tribal partners to ensure this funding invests in the American workforce. Under this solicitation, the Ohio Attorney General's Office will be competitively awarding VOCA Recovery funds to eligible public and non-profit organizations providing direct services to victims of crime in Ohio. ARRA provided \$1 Billion in funding for this program nationwide. The Case Manager will maintain a comprehensive resource referral system for the purpose of referring families of homicide victims to needed services.

Status: Application deadline for this program was June 1, 2009. Cincinnati Police submitted one application totaling \$48,790 with a 25% match which will come from budgeted resources. The grant will be used to contract with a professional in social work field to offer Case Management to families of homicide victims. The Case Manager will maintain a comprehensive resource referral system for the purpose of referring families of homicide victims to needed services.

4) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP 2)

Summary: This is a competitive grant program, allocated through the US Department of Housing & Urban Development, to address home foreclosure and abandonment and for the provision of capacity building and support for NSP grantees. ARRA provided \$1.98 Billion in funding for this program nationwide.

Status: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFA) for the NSP 2 program was issued on May 4, 2009. Application deadline is July 17, 2009. City staff is reviewing program guidance and will be preparing an application for submission by the deadline.

5) National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program

Summary: ARRA provided \$156 million in new funding for the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program to support the implementation of verified and certified diesel emission reduction technologies.

Status: The Request for Applications (RFA) closed on April 28, 2009, and EPA is evaluating the applications. Public Services submitted an application for \$354,751 to be used to retrofit 48 trucks with advanced emissions.

6) Fire Station Construction Grant Program

Summary: This is a competitive grant program, administered through the Department of Homeland Security, to fund construction and modification of fire stations. ARRA provided \$210,000,000 in funding for this program nationwide. Grants are limited to \$15 million per award, with a \$5 million limit per project within an award.

Status: City staff is reviewing the grant guidance and will be preparing an application for submittal by the July 10, 2009 application deadline.

7) US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forestry Service/Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Summary: At the request of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Cincinnati parks submitted a request for approximately \$2.2 million dollars in ARRA funding through the USDA Forestry Service. This request was submitted to USDA as part of a larger ODNR request for funding to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) problem across the state. The Cincinnati Parks proposal would expand the Urban Timber Program. This program is a partnership between Cincinnati Parks, Hamilton County Solid Waste District, and the Cincinnati Public Schools. Grant funds would be used to harvest the ash trees in the city before they are destroyed by the EAB. Then the wood would then be planked so it can be used to install hardwood floors and make furniture for the new Cincinnati Public Schools.

Status: ODNR has submitted its request, which includes the Cincinnati Parks proposal, to USDA Forestry Service. No awards have yet been made.

Tracking/Website Developments

The Office of Budget & Evaluation and the Finance Department are working to implement accounting procedures that will allow the Administration to accurately track and report on funding in accordance with ARRA requirements. In addition a “Cincinnati Stimulus Funding” page has been created as part of the City of Cincinnati website to provide general information about ARRA and ARRA-funded City projects. The webpage can be accessed at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/noncms/projects/stimulus/index.cfm>.

The Administration is continuing to explore and pursue additional grant opportunities and will continue to provide updates on ARRA activities on a regular basis. This report is for informational purposes only. No action by City Council is required at this time.

MDJ/cje