



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Provisions Impacting Border Communities

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 represents the largest and most complex piece of domestic legislation since the New Deal. As part of The Council of State Government's ongoing efforts to ensure states are provided critical information on the Recovery Act, CSG-WEST has outlined Recovery Act programs potentially impacting Border States.

Department of Homeland Security

The Recovery Act provides \$420 million to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for construction at land ports of entry. Additional funding is available through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and the SAFER Grant program.

Additional funding is provided for several other CBP programs:

- \$720 million for construction at land ports of entry (\$300 million GSA; \$420 million CBP)
- \$100 million for Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology
- \$100 million for border technology on the southwest border
- \$60 million for tactical communications equipment and radios

The legislative text of the Recovery Act provides additional details on CBP funding:

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses", \$160,000,000, of which \$100,000,000 shall be for the procurement and deployment of non-intrusive inspection systems; and of which \$60,000,000 shall be for procurement and deployment of tactical communications equipment and radios: Provided, That no later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for expenditure of these funds.

BORDER SECURITY FENCING, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY

For an additional amount for "Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology",

\$100,000,000 for expedited development and deployment of border security technology on the Southwest border: Provided, That no later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for expenditure of these funds.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for "Construction", \$420,000,000 solely for planning, management, design, alteration, and construction of U.S. Customs and Border Protection owned land border ports of entry: Provided, That no later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for expenditure of these funds.

As required by the White House Office of Management and Budget, all federal agencies are required to publish a [weekly report](#) on their Recovery Act progress. These reports typically outline pending Recovery Act actions by the agency as well as information regarding grant apportionment.



[Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - \\$210 Million](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency awards competitive grants for communities to modify, upgrade or construct state and local fire stations. Each grant may not exceed \$15 million. Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) provides financial assistance directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations to enhance their capabilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. Agency e-mail: firegrants@dhs.gov.

[SAFER \(Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response\) Grant Program](#)

The Recovery Act waives all non-federal matching requirements for SAFER Grants for FY 2009 and FY 2010. The SAFER Grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities. Specifically, SAFER funds should assist local fire departments to increase their staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies whenever they may occur. Agency e-mail: firegrants@dhs.gov.

Recovery Act Website:

[Department of Homeland Security Recovery Act Website](#)

Point of Contact:

Brian de Vallance
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Government Services Administration - \$300 Million

The Recovery Act provides \$300 million to GSA for land ports of entry renovation and construction. GSA has not as of yet published any guidance on how or when this money will be apportioned.

Recovery Act Website:

[Government Services Administration Recovery Act Website](#)

Point of Contact:

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(202) 501-1226
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Washington, DC 20405

Department of Justice

The Recovery Act provides \$50 million through the Department of Justice’s [Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\) Programs](#). A complete list of BJA programs, including deadlines for grant applications, may be found in the following [fact sheet](#).

[Assistance for Law Enforcement along the Southern Border and in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas \(HIDTA\) - \\$40 million](#)

Bureau of Justice Assistance will make awards to provide assistance and equipment to local law enforcement along the Southern border to combat criminal narcotics activity. This is a competitive grant program to provide assistance and equipment to law enforcement along the Southern border and in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas to combat criminal narcotics activity stemming from the Southern border. The deadline to submit applications for the Assistance for Law Enforcement along the Southern Border and in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program is **April 17, 2009**.

[The Southwest Border Initiative - ATF's Project Gunrunner - \\$10 million](#)

The Administration's southwest border initiative will reduce cross border drug and weapons trafficking, and the associated high level of violence occurring on the border between the U.S. and Mexico. The primary role of ATF's Project Gunrunner in support of this initiative is to stem the illegal trafficking of firearms across the border and to reduce the firearms violence occurring on both sides of the border.

\$10 million in ARRA funding is hiring 37 ATF employees to open, staff (via new hire and relocation of senior personnel,) equip, and operate new Project Gunrunner criminal enforcement teams in McAllen, TX; El Centro, CA; and Las Cruces, NM (which includes a subordinate satellite office in Roswell, NM.). Additionally, these funds support the assignment of two special agents to each of the U.S. consulates in Juarez and Tijuana, Mexico to provide direct support to Mexican officials on firearms-trafficking-related issues.

[Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Program - \\$2 billion](#)

The JAG Program allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. JAG grants support all components of the criminal justice system, including but not limited to, multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces; crime prevention and domestic violence programs; and courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives.

The deadline to submit applications for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program is **April 9, 2009** for the State Program; the deadline to submit applications for the Local Program is **May 18, 2009**. Agency e-mail: JAGRecovery@usdoj.gov. BJA State Policy Advisor at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/resource/stcont.htm.

[The Edward Byrne Competitive Grant Program - \\$225 million](#)

Byrne Competitive Grants are available to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime (other than compensation) and for youth mentoring initiatives. These grants help state and local communities improve the capacity of local justice systems and may be used for national efforts such as training and technical assistance. Applicants may be national, regional, state, or local public and private entities, including for-profit (commercial) and nonprofit organizations, faith-based and community organizations, institutions of higher education, tribal jurisdictions, and units of local government that support the purpose areas of this grant program. The deadline to submit applications for the Edward Byrne Competitive Grants Program is **April 27, 2009**. Agency e-mail: Byrne.Discretionary@usdoj.gov. BJA State Policy Advisor at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/resource/stcont.htm.

[Community Oriented Policing Services \(COPS\) Program](#)

The Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. Up to \$1 billion in grant funding will be available for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers. There is no local match requirement for CHRP, but grant funding will be based on current entry-level salary and benefits packages and therefore any additional costs for higher salaries or benefits for particular individuals hired will be the responsibility of the

grantee agency. Applications for CHRP grants will be accepted online via the COPS Office web site at www.cops.usdoj.gov beginning March 16, 2009 through April 14, 2009. Agency e-mail: ask.Cops@usdoj.gov.

Recovery Act Website:

[Department of Justice Recovery Act Website](#)

Point of Contact:

Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 307-0703
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/home/contactus.htm>

Additional Information

For comprehensive information of potential funding for states as part of the Recovery Act, please visit www.staterecovery.org.