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## Federal Stimulus Funding Available to Montana Tribes

The \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides many funding opportunities for tribal governments. Some of these opportunities are contained in Montana's House Bill 645, the state stimulus bill. There are two types of funding contained in HB645:

- ARRA contained increased funding to the states for Medicaid, education, and a flexible grant to maintain government services. Montana was able to replace general fund dollars originally dedicated for those purposes with the new federal dollars, thus freeing up general fund dollars for other purposes.
- The bulk of the ARRA funding flowing to the state is dedicated for specific purposes and can not be used for any other purpose (these have been commonly referred to as 'silos'). Some of the funding in these silos will flow through the state to tribes.

This fact sheet will outline some of the funding opportunities for tribal governments in HB 645 derived from both freed up general fund and the ARRA-defined silos. Also, significant funding in ARRA will be allocated directly from the federal government to Montana tribes, primarily through grant applications. Some of the allocations that have been clarified as of the publication of this fact sheet, as well as resources for finding additional information, have been listed at the end of this fact sheet.<sup>1</sup>

### **Funding Made Available Through HB 645**

#### **Tribal Share of Distribution to Local Governments, Tribal Governments, and School Districts- \$5+ million**

Under HB645, the Department of Commerce will receive a total of \$45 million to distribute to local governments, tribes, and school districts for improvements to infrastructure or energy efficiency. \$5 million of these funds must be distributed to tribal governments through the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission for projects that are "shovel ready" and deemed priorities by the appropriate tribal government. Each tribe in Montana must be allocated at least \$200,000 of this funding.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, or more recent information, check often at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)

### **Tribal Economic Development**

Tribal governments will receive an additional \$1.6 million for economic development activities over the biennium. The funding will be distributed by the Montana Department of Commerce. HB645 does not appear to offer guidance on the allocation of these funds.

### **Water Compact Settlement Funds**

The Fort Belknap water compact and the Blackfeet Tribe water compact settlement bills are funded in HB 645, utilizing freed up money from the general fund. Upon approval of the Fort Belknap compact, \$1 million will be made available for the cost of improvements for irrigation in the People's Creek Basin. Upon approval of the Blackfeet Tribe water compact, \$4 million will be made available for infrastructure improvements within the boundaries of the Blackfeet reservation.

Funding for both water compacts were contained in the Governor's proposed budget. Because they were one-time-only expenditures, they were both moved to HB 645. If HB645 is passed with the water compact appropriations in place, the appropriations for the same purposes in HB161 and HB135 will be void.

### **Tribal College Assistance**

HB645 appropriates an additional \$900,000 over the biennium to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for the Tribal College Assistance Program for non-beneficiary students. When combined with approximately \$900,000 for the program in HB2, the HB645 appropriation reinstates the funding for the Tribal College Assistance Program at the level recommended in the Governor's original 2011 proposed biennium budget.

The Tribal College Assistance Program reimburses tribal colleges a portion of the costs associated with educating non-beneficiary students attending the colleges.

### **Indian Property Exemption in Medicaid Determinations**

ARRA included changes to the way that assets of Indians are counted in determining eligibility for Medicaid. The purpose of these changes is to make more Indians eligible for Medicaid. HB645 allocates \$541,842 from the General Fund for Montana's portion of this program, which will be matched by \$1.5 million in federal funds.

### **Facility Improvements for Food Distribution**

HB645 appropriates \$154,000 for "facility improvements and equipment upgrades" to increase the efficiency of food distribution on reservations. This funding is Montana's estimated portion of the \$5 million available under ARRA for reservations nationally for food distribution improvements. In the event the funding is received, it will be distributed through the Human and Community Services Division of DPHHS.

## **Funding for Montana Tribes Appropriated Directly from the Federal Government**

### **Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund**

ARRA includes additional funding to help states and tribes deal with potential caseload increases in TANF (or eligible tribal family assistance plans) during the economic downturn. The funds will be administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and will be distributed directly to eligible tribes based on caseload and expenditure data submitted by the tribes. The eligible tribes and maximum funding available under this provision are:

- Blackfeet Nation—\$1,544,908;
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation – \$629,329;
- Fort Belknap Community Council – \$503,251;
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes – \$1,069,958.

Indian members of other tribes will continue to be served by the state's TANF plan.

For more information on the TANF Emergency Funds see <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/tanf/index.html>.

### **Additional Funding for Tribal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

ARRA includes approximately \$1 billion in additional funding for CSBG to be distributed to state and tribal governments based on the same formula for traditional CSBG funding. As with regularly appropriated CSBG funds, the additional funding may be used for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient. The tribes eligible for this additional funding and the estimated amounts are:

- Assiniboine/Sioux-Fort Peck- \$129,305;
- Blackfeet Tribe- \$127,480;
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation- \$45,530.

Tribes are required to submit to the U.S. DHHS Office of Community Service (OCS) an amendment regarding the use of the recovery funds to the FY 2009 CSBG Application and Plan.

For more information on the additional funding for Tribal Community Services Block Grant see <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/acf/csb.html>

### **Child Care and Development Fund Tribal Allocations**

ARRA also included approximately \$2 billion in additional funding for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for states and tribes to increase childcare quality and services for low-income parents and parents receiving TANF who work, are looking for work, or are participating in educational or training programs they need in order to work. Funds may also be used to serve children in protective services. In addition, a portion of CCDF funds must be used to enhance child care quality and availability.

The tribes in Montana who will receive these funds and the amounts they will receive under the formula are:

- Assiniboine/Sioux-Fort Peck- \$196,549;
- Blackfeet Nation—\$180,045;
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation - \$82,458;
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes/Flathead Reservation - \$192,292;
- Crow Tribe of Montana - \$220,521;
- Fort Belknap Community Council—\$215,346;
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe - \$163,409.

For more information on the additional funding for the CCDF, see

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/acf/childcare.html>

### **Tribal Senior Nutrition Service Programs**

ARRA provides \$3 million nationally for tribal nutrition programs for seniors. The funding will be provided based on a formula to the following tribes in the following amounts:

- Assiniboine/Sioux-Fort Peck-\$14,340;
- Blackfeet Tribe— \$16,610;
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation - \$11,500;
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes - \$16,610;
- Crow Tribal Elders Program - \$16,610;
- Fort Belknap Community Council—\$12,960;
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe - \$10,140.

For more information on the nutrition programs, see

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/aoa/arra.html>

## **Native American Housing Block Grant Program**

ARRA provides increased funding for the Native American Housing Block Grant Program. The program provides funding for new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, and infrastructure development activities. Funds can also be used to leverage private sector financing for new construction, renovation, and energy retrofit investments. The tribes of Montana will receive the following amount of money according to the traditional Housing Block Grant formula.

- Blackfeet Tribe—\$2,672,486;
- Crow Tribe –\$1,199,986;
- Fort Belknap Indian Community –\$1,074,613;
- Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux – \$2,321,872;
- Northern Cheyenne-\$1,343,929 ;
- Rocky Boy Chippewa-Cree –\$1,074,791;
- Salish and Kootenai Tribes –\$1,722,057.

Eligible tribes must complete an Indian Housing Plan (IHP) amendment to their 2008 IHP and a Funding Approval Agreement with Special Conditions, both to be submitted by the tribe to the relevant Area Office of Native American Programs.

Tribes must prioritize projects that can be started within 180 days of receipt of the funding. The funding comes with additional time requirements for obligating and expending the funds, including the requirement that funds must be 100% obligated within one year of receipt of the funds and 100% expended within three years of receipt of the funds. More housing funds will be available on a competitive basis.

For more information on the Housing Block Grant, see <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/native-american-formula.cfm>.

## **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant**

ARRA provides \$3.2 billion in additional funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The program provides grants to U.S. local governments, states, territories, and tribes, to fund projects that reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and that improve energy efficiency. Money will be allocated primarily through a formula, with the following Montana tribes eligible to receive the following amounts:

- Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation- \$262,500;
- Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana- \$335,900;
- Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation- \$137,500;
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation- \$283,400;
- Crow Tribe \$261,200
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation- \$122,100;
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation- \$177,000.

Applications for the block grant are due June 25, 2009. Competitive grants will be announced separately. For more information on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, see <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>

### **Additional Resources**

In addition to the funding listed above, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes many opportunities for tribes to apply directly to federal departments for grants that will allow tribes to stimulate their local economies, assist their most vulnerable members during the economic downturn, and build and improve infrastructure. Many of the grant deadlines have either passed or are rapidly approaching. The following list of resources may be helpful to tribes in tracking available funding and deadlines.

- <http://www.recovery.gov> provides general information about ARRA and links to useful information about the various funding opportunities under the bill.
- **For a comprehensive list of funding opportunities available to tribe, visit the National Congress of American Indians at <http://www.indiancountryworks.org>.**
- The grants.gov website allows users to search for ARRA funding opportunities listed by application deadlines. To search the opportunities, go to <http://grants.gov/applicants/recovery.jsp> and click on “Find Recovery Act Opportunities.”