

What's in it for us

Alaska's Take from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

*Prepared by Larry Persily, House Finance Committee Aide – April 21, 2009
Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Mat-Su Health Foundation*

Total for Alaska

- More than \$1 billion will be spent on/in Alaska
- \$100+ million ocean research vessel
- \$152 million IHS Nome hospital
- Other federal agency spending (GSA, ACE, DoD)
- Leaves about \$800 million for state, cities, boroughs, school districts and nonprofits

Big-ticket categories

- \$171 million for education
- \$200 million possible for Medicaid
- \$175 million roads, bridges, culverts
- \$42 million transit projects (\$32mm A/F)
- \$82 million for airports

More big dollars

- \$56 million weatherization, energy efficiency
- \$70 million clean water, sewer loan funds and grants, air quality grants, underground tanks
- \$20 million job training, voc tech, voc rehab, improvements to unemployment operations
- \$15.6 million deposit unemployment trust fund

And still more

- \$25 million electronic medical records
- \$4 million child care grants
- \$7 million public safety
- Almost \$7 million child support operations
- \$11 million public housing, shelters

What's left?

- Add it all up and there is no pot of money labeled “Discretionary Funds for Good Things”
- Legislature did appropriate \$20.7 million discretionary spending for revenue sharing
- That's not to say there is nothing in the bill for nonprofits and communities statewide

Grant possibilities

- Job training and summer youth jobs
- Electronic health records conversion
- Education Innovation and Incentive Grants, totaling \$5 billion nationwide
- Broadband services, totaling \$7.2 billion

The politics

- Governor said “maybe” to \$288 million
- Legislators were OK with “strings”
- The Legislature voted to accept 100% of \$\$\$
- But only the governor can request \$93 million education and \$20.7 million revenue sharing of State Fiscal Stabilization Funds

More politics

- Governor's March 31 letter only a reservation, not a commitment to take all of the funding
- Legislature adopted backstop resolution
- Legislature adopted changes in state law:
Jobless benefits; DEC grants; medical records

The waiting game

- Budget vetoes; line-item authority
- Deadline 20 days after transmittal
- Veto override requires three-quarters vote
- The question of refusing to apply for funds
- So far the governor has approved applications

What to do next

- Be realistic; 305 million Americans competing
- Alaska is not hurting as much as other states
- Start reading; find a grant writer
- Call the Alaska Clearinghouse 888-480-4321
- Be patient; not all the rules are written