



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Office of Community Services
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) -- \$50 Million

The focus of the Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) is to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations, faith-based or secular, to address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities, including helping low-income individuals secure and retain employment, earn higher wages, obtain better-quality jobs, and increase access to State and Federal benefits and tax credits. SCF is comprised of two separate programs.

The **SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building Program** will make awards up to \$1 millions to experienced lead organizations to provide nonprofit organizations, or project partners, with capacity building training, technical assistance, and competitive financial assistance.

The **SCF State, Local and Tribal Government Capacity Building Program** will make awards up to \$250,000 to State, city, county, and Indian/Native American Tribal government offices or their designees to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to better serve those in need and to increase nonprofit organizations' involvement in the economic recovery.

Community Services Block Grant Program -- \$1 Billion

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) provides for \$1 billion in additional funds to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program for Federal Fiscal Year 2009.

States, Tribes and Territories will receive Recovery Funds using the same formula used for funds allocated under regular annual appropriations. CSBG grantees are expected to receive \$985 million in Recovery Funds.

The remaining \$15 million of CSBG Recovery Act funds are reserved for Federal training, technical assistance, planning, evaluation, investigations, assistance to States in carrying out corrective action, monitoring, and reporting and data collection, development of performance measurement systems. Awards for training, technical assistance activities will be awarded through competition.

The Recovery Act mandates that States pass through no less than 99 percent of their Recovery Act allocations for grants to "eligible entities" under the CSBG Act, commonly referred to as Community Action Agencies or Programs (CAAs or CAPs).

OCS expects to issue guidance to grantees through:

- Conference Calls and Webinars
- Web-based information
- Information Memoranda
- Dear Colleague letters to interested parties

Important websites to visit for information and updates:

- www.grants.gov
- www.recovery.gov
- www.hhs.gov/recovery