



DOA Local Government Report

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Money for Retro-Fitting of Municipal Buildings Available through the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant

Through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Wisconsin and Tribal governments will receive \$38.5 million for energy efficiency initiatives. The funds will help local and tribal governments make investments to improve the energy efficiency of their municipal buildings.

\$26.8 million will be awarded directly from the U.S. Department of Energy to the 10 most populous counties, the state's eleven Tribal governments and cities with more than 35,000 residents. The remaining \$11.7 million will be allocated by competitive grant to other local governments in the state.

The Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence and the Wisconsin Department of Commerce are working together to administer the \$11.7 million grant awards to the communities who do not receive funds directly from the U.S. government. These grant awards are for the retro-fitting of municipal buildings and can also be used to improve the efficiency of interior and exterior lighting using LED and other technologies.

In 2007, Wisconsin spent almost \$21.5 billion on energy – a new record and an increase of 9.9% over 2006. The State of Wisconsin will use these funds to increase energy savings, clean our air and water and create jobs. These grants will help municipalities install energy efficient windows, lighting, insulation, HVAC, and solar hot water.

The Office of Energy Independence and the Department of Commerce are hoping that the funds will be available for grants by early September. The maximum award per community will be \$225,000.

The Department of Commerce will be using its E-grants system to accept applications, to send emails, and to keep applicants informed about the process. This system will be active and available for use immediately, so that potential applicants will have the ability to test the system before the EECBG grant process begins. The system can be found at <http://egrants.commerce.wi.gov/eGrants/Login.aspx>.

E-grants questions:

Audrey Chase audrey.chase@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-7200

Application content questions:

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Holly O'Higgins holly.ohiggins@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-8052

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Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009, is a wide-ranging effort to jumpstart the weakened economy and to lay the groundwork for developing an economy that will be able to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Governor Jim Doyle created the Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment (ORR) to ensure that Wisconsin projects are fully considered for funding by the federal legislation. This new office is monitoring the ARRA's provisions and timetables and how they will impact state projects and programs. The ORR is also a clearinghouse and resource for applicants to help them determine if their projects and programs meet federal requirements and can provide detailed information on programs funded with recovery dollars.

The ORR is here to help the people of Wisconsin take full advantage of the funding opportunities provided by the ARRA. In addition to providing funds to state-administered programs, the federal legislation also provides funding to many programs and initiatives that will be directly awarded by the federal government to local and Tribal governments. While the State of Wisconsin does not administer or award any portion of these programs, Governor Doyle, ORR staff and state officials continue outreach efforts to make sure that the state, local, and Tribal governments all get their fair share of the ARRA funds.

Specific information on available grant programs, along with more detailed descriptions of the programs and additional links and contact information, can be found online at the ORR website, <http://recovery.wisconsin.gov>. The ORR website is designed to help all Wisconsin citizens:

- Understand where the recovery funds are going within our state and the types of activities, projects and programs that will be eligible for those funds;
- Understand the processes to ensure that Wisconsin is able to capture our fair share of the recovery funds;
- Learn about funding requirements and timelines;
- Understand the accountability and transparency provisions to ensure that these funds are well spent.

For potential recipients of recovery funds, including local and Tribal governments, this website will also:

- Help connect you to resources within state and federal government;
- Help you determine if potential projects fit the criteria and eligibility requirements for recovery funds;
- Help guide you through the application and funding process for eligible projects.

Please check the ORR website regularly for updates and new information. Additional information on the ARRA may be found at <http://www.recovery.gov/>.

For more information, please contact Shayla Dvorak at 608-266-7872 or shayla.dvorak@wisconsin.gov.

One Stop Shopping for State Grants

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) maintains a centralized, online listing of competitive, application-based state grants available to local and Tribal governments. The listing is located at <http://wigrants.wi.gov>. The catalog is one of several initiatives led by DOA to strengthen the working relationship between state, local and Tribal governments. The site contains information on over 150 programs from 14 state agencies.

The WIGrants Catalog is intended to make it easier for local governments to find and apply for state grants for their local communities. Please contact Chris Connor at (608) 267-2704 or christopher.connor@wisconsin.gov if you have any questions about the WIGrants Catalog.

Visit <http://wigrants.wi.gov> for a complete listing of grants offered by state agencies. For information on grants available from the U.S. Government, visit <http://www.grants.gov>.

In addition to grants, DOA has been working with local and Tribal governments through the Wisconsin Partnership initiative to help them learn about the many programs and services that exist in State government that can aid in saving money and resources. For more information on the Wisconsin Partnership and how it can benefit local and Tribal governments, please visit www.wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov.

Conserve Wisconsin: Promoting Water Conservation and Efficiency

Increasing demands for water, declining groundwater levels, concerns about the Great Lakes, and the need for substantial infrastructure investments are significant issues facing Wisconsin communities. Governor Jim Doyle's Conserve Wisconsin agenda identifies water conservation and efficiency as an important strategy for addressing these challenges. The recent passage of the Great Lakes Compact also directs states in the Great Lakes Basin to develop statewide conservation programs and requires public utilities to perform long-term resource planning to ensure the sustainable use of the resource.

Since the unveiling of the Governor's Conserve Wisconsin agenda in 2006, water conservation and efficiency has gained great momentum across the state. The Public Service Commission (PSC) continues to work closely with Wisconsin's 584 water utilities to design, implement, and fund conservation programs and reduce water lost due to leaky infrastructure and inaccurate meters. The PSC is also collaborating with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and others to develop a statewide water conservation strategy. In 2007, the Waukesha Water Utility set up a rate system that encourages residential customers to use water more efficiently. This system, called an "inclining block water rate system" has been a model for at least three more governments in Wisconsin. Many other governments are implementing educational outreach initiatives, toilet rebate programs, water sprinkling ordinances, and other strategies to reduce water consumption.

The PSC has developed a number of resources to help utilities and communities with developing their water conservation and efficiency programs. These include:

- *A Menu of Demand Side Initiatives for Water Utilities* – a 2006 PSC and DNR report to the Governor;
- *Survey of Water Conservation and Efficiency Efforts* – an analysis of conservation efforts already underway at Wisconsin water utilities published in September 2008; and
- *Water Currents* – PSC newsletter published bimonthly online with updates about water conservation-related news and events.

The PSC will continue to build on these initial steps to assist Wisconsin communities become more water efficient. Planned activities include benchmarking water usage, measuring the impact of conservation efforts, developing administrative rules to implement the water conservation provisions of the Great Lakes Compact, and developing tools and guidance to help communities in planning for their long-term water needs.

For more information, visit <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityinfo/water/conservation-index.htm>, or contact Jeff Ripp at 608-267-9813 or Jeffrey.ripp@wisconsin.gov.

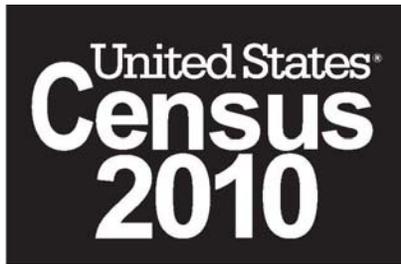
Coastal Management Program Grants Available

Wisconsin enjoys nearly 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. Continuing the state's efforts to enhance Wisconsin's coastal resources, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) at the Department of Administration is accepting proposals for its 2010-2011 grant program. Up to \$1.5 million will be available for wetland protection and habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, coastal resource and community planning, Great Lakes education, public access and historic preservation. Projects must be located in one or more Wisconsin counties on the shores of Lake Superior or Lake Michigan.

Towns, villages, cities, counties, Tribal governments, state agencies, colleges and universities, regional planning commissions and nonprofit organizations are all eligible to apply. The application deadline is November 2, 2009 and projects may begin no earlier than July 1, 2010. To assist with grant applicants, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program is sponsoring free application workshops throughout the state. For a schedule and list of locations, please visit the WCMP website coastal.wisconsin.gov.

Application materials and the Request for Proposals are available on the WCMP website at coastal.wisconsin.gov. Applicants are encouraged to contact WCMP staff early to discuss ideas for project proposals and application requirements.

Contact Michael Friis at the DOA's WCMP, 608-267-7982 or coastal@wisconsin.gov.



Preparing for the 2010 Census

In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation and a state. Taken every 10 years since 1790, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in federal and state funding.

Making sure that everyone in Wisconsin is counted in the census is very important to all governments in Wisconsin – local, Tribal, and State. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data, and millions of dollars in state and local funding are based on population information. In addition, local governments, businesses and corporations rely on accurate census data for locating new businesses and marketing. Census data guide local decision-makers in planning where to build new hospitals, roads, schools, and other community facilities. An accurate census affects your voice in our representative government by determining the number of representatives and boundaries of congressional and legislative districts.

Local Complete Count Committees

Local governments can encourage full participation in this monumental event by working together with the U.S. Census. One of the best ways to help Wisconsin have a complete and accurate census is for local and Tribal governments to form local "Complete Count Committees." Complete Count Committees are volunteer teams consisting of community leaders, faith-based groups, schools, businesses, media outlets, and others who are appointed by elected officials and work together to make sure that everyone is counted in the census. One of the goals is to help inform local residents, including those historically hard to reach, of the importance of responding to the census.

Local governments can now begin to form Complete Count Committees. The Census bureau has materials and support available on their webpage at: www.census.gov/2010census (click on "Partner With Us") for local and Tribal governments interested in forming their own committee. In the 2000 census, nearly 400 Wisconsin communities formed Complete Count Committees. In large part because of their efforts, Wisconsin communities had one of the best response rates of any state in the country. In 2010, we need even more of these committees to help educate and inform our increasingly diverse state.

Complete Count Committees can start now to create awareness within their communities about the upcoming 2010 Census. Some of the activities of Complete Count Committees include donating space for testing and training temporary census workers, publicizing recruiting efforts and obtaining endorsements from local leaders. They can conduct census rallies or parades, media luncheons, interfaith breakfasts, and weekend events as we get closer to Census Day.

In the coming months, staff from the U.S. Census Bureau will be contacting and working with Wisconsin's local and Tribal governments to promote the census and encourage the formation of Complete Count Committees. If you wish to find out more about Complete Count Committees, contact the Chicago Regional Office of the Census Bureau at 1-630-288-9200 or 1-800-865-6384, or chicago.regional.office@census.gov.

Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household in the United States in March, 2010. The questions ask you to provide information that is accurate for your household as of April 1, 2010.

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