

Client Alert



Accessing Stimulus Dollars A Guide for Local Governments

The Senate passed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, on February 10, 2009 by a 61 to 37 vote. The House and Senate must reconcile their two versions of the bill. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned that Congress will not leave for the Presidents Day recess (scheduled to begin at the end of this week) until a final stimulus measure is cleared for President Obama's signature.

Below is an updated matrix prepared by The Ferguson Group that compares the funding levels for the various programs proposed in the House- and Senate-passed stimulus bills. After Congress passes the compromise measure, The Ferguson Group will release specific guidance for all programs included in the final economic stimulus package.

Before passing its version of the measure, the Senate adopted a number of amendments, which include:

- A tax provision was removed that would make movie productions eligible for an additional 50 percent depreciation deduction in the first year;
- A provision that creates a temporary tax deduction for interest payments on car loans and for state excise and sales taxes paid on new cars. It would apply to purchases made between November 12, 2008, and January 1, 2010, and be available to individuals with adjusted gross incomes up to \$125,000 or married couples making up to \$250,000;
- A provision that prohibits the use of stimulus funds for gambling establishments, aquariums, swimming pools, zoos, golf courses, stadiums, community parks, museums, theaters, art centers, and highway beautification projects;
- A provision that requires competitive procedures in awarding grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements funded in the bill;

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- A provision to allow 100 percent expensing of manufacturing equipment to make electric vehicles for equipment in use before Dec. 31, 2011. It would increase tax credits for the cost of batteries for consumers who convert existing hybrid cars to plug-ins, and also would shorten the depreciation schedule of "smart grid" and "smart meter" equipment to five years; and
- A provision that allocates funding for agencies to ensure that reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) "are completed on an expeditious basis and that the shortest existing applicable process" be used. It also requires the Administration to report to the Senate Environment and Public Works and the House Natural Resources committees every 90 days on the status and progress of stimulus projects with respect to NEPA requirements.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT / AGENCY	FEDERAL PROGRAM	HOUSE	SENATE
USDA	Farm Service Agency	\$245M	\$54M
USDA	NRCS- Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	\$350M	\$275M
USDA	NRCS- Watershed Rehabilitation	\$50M	\$65M
USDA	Rural Community Facilities Program	\$200M (\$63M for direct loans and \$137M for grants)	\$127M (\$67M for direct loans, \$10M for loan guarantees, and \$50M for grants)
USDA	Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program	\$1.5B (\$400M for direct loans and \$1.1B for grants)	\$1.375B (\$412M for direct loans and \$963M for grants)

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USDA	Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program	\$2.825B (broadband grants only)	\$100M (\$80M for DLT grants and \$20M for DLT loans)
USDA	Rural Energy For America Program	\$0	\$50M
USDA	Child Nutrition Programs	\$0	\$100M
USDA	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	\$100M	\$500M
USDA	Forest Service’s Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program	\$650M	\$650M
USDA	Forest Service’s Wildfire Management	\$850M	\$485M
Commerce	EDA-Economic Development Assistance Programs	\$250M	\$150M
Commerce	National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program (Broadband Mapping)	\$350M	\$350M
Commerce	National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Wireless and Broadband Deployment Grant Program (House)/ Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (Senate)	\$2.825M	\$6.650B
Commerce	National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Construction of Research Facilities	\$300M	\$357M

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Justice	Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grants	\$3B	\$1.5B (\$1.2B for formula grants and \$300M for competitive grants)
Justice	COPS- Hiring	\$1B	\$1B
Justice	Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution	\$0	\$300M
Justice	State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	\$0	\$1.14B
Corps of Engineers	Operations and Maintenance	\$2.25B	\$1.9B
Corps of Engineers	Mississippi River and Tributaries	\$250M	\$500M
Corps of Engineers	Construction	\$2B	\$2B
Corps of Engineers	General Investigations	\$0	\$25M
Energy	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)- Grants and Loans to Institutional Entities for Energy Sustainability and Efficiency Recovery	\$1.5B (\$1B for grants and \$500M for loans)	\$1.6B (grants)
Energy	EERE- Weatherization Assistance Program	\$6.2B	\$2.9B
Energy	EERE- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants	\$3.5B (by formula)	\$4.2B (\$2.1B by formula and \$2.1B for grants)
Energy	EERE-State Energy Program	\$3.4B	\$500M

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Energy	EERE- Transportation Electrification	\$200M	\$200M
Energy	EERE- Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program and Energy Star (Middle-Income Families)	\$300M	\$0
Energy	EERE- Alternative Fueled Vehicles Pilot Grant Program (House)/ State and Local Efficient Trucks and Buses (Senate)	\$400M	\$350M
Energy	EERE- Advanced Battery Manufacturing	\$2B	\$2B
Energy	Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability	\$4.5B	\$4.5B
Energy	Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program	\$8B	\$50B
Homeland Security	FEMA- State and Local Programs	\$0	\$950M
Homeland Security	FEMA- Firefighter Assistance Grants	\$0	\$500M
Interior	Bureau of Land Management- Construction	\$325M	\$180M
Interior	United States Fish and Wildlife Service-Construction	\$300M	\$110M
Interior	National Park Service-Construction	\$1.7B	\$589M
Interior	National Park Service- Historic Preservation Fund	\$0	\$0
Interior	Bureau of Reclamation- Water and Related Resources	\$500M	\$1.4B
Interior	United States Geological Survey-Survey Investigation and Research	\$200M	\$135M

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EPA	Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$800M	\$600M
EPA	Leaking Underground Storage Tank	\$200M	\$200M
EPA	Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund	\$2B	\$2B
EPA	Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund	\$6B	\$4B
EPA	Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grants and Loans	\$300M	\$300M
EPA	Brownfields	\$100M	\$100M
Labor	ETA-Training and Employment Services	\$4B	\$3.25B
Labor	Community Service for Employment for Older Americans	\$120M	\$120M
HHS	Health Resources and Service’s Administration’s Health Resources and Services Program	\$2.188B	\$1.958B
HHS	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	\$1B	\$0
HHS	Administration for Children and Families (ACF)- Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$2B	\$2B
HHS	ACF- Social Services Block Grant	\$0	\$400M
HHS	ACF- Head Start and Early Head Start	\$2.2B	\$1.05B
HHS	ACF- Community Services Block Grant	\$1B	\$200M
HHS	Administration on Aging’s Aging Services Program	\$200M	\$100M

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HHS	Health Information Technology	\$2B	\$3B
HHS	Public Health and Social Service’s Emergency Fund, Prevention and Wellness Programs	\$3B	\$0
Education	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	\$79B	\$39B
Education	Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965	\$13B	\$12.4B
Education	Impact Aid	\$100M	\$0
Education	School Improvement Programs (Education Technology)	\$1B	\$1B
Education	School Improvement Programs (Education for Homeless Children and Youth)	\$66M	\$70M
Education	School Improvement Programs (School Modernization, Renovation, and Repair (K-12))	\$14B	\$0
Education	Innovation and Improvement	\$225M	\$0
Education	Higher Education Modernization, Renovation, and Repair	\$6B	\$0
Education	Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research (Vocational Rehabilitation)	\$200M	\$610M
Education	Special Education – Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)	\$13.6B	\$13.5B
Education	Student Financial Assistance (Pell Grants)	\$15.636B	\$13.869B

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Education	Student Financial Assistance (Perkins Loans)	\$0	\$61M
Education	Teacher Quality Enhancement, State Grants (Higher Education)	\$100M	\$50M
DOT	FAA- Airport Improvement Program	\$3B	\$1.1B
DOT	FAA- Facilities and Equipment	\$0	\$200M
DOT	Surface Transportation Infrastructure Investment	\$0	\$5.5B
DOT	FHWA- Highway Infrastructure	\$29.45B	\$27B
DOT	FHWA- Federal Land Highway	\$550M	\$500M
DOT	FHWA- Ferry Boat	\$0	\$60B
DOT	FRA- Grants to States for Intercity Passenger Rail Service	\$300M	\$250M
DOT	FRA- Amtrak	\$800M	\$850M
DOT	FRA- High Speed Rail Corridors	\$0	\$2B
DOT	FTA- Section 5307 Grants (urban area formula grants)	\$6.9B	\$5.9B
DOT	FTA- Section 5311 Grants (rural transit assistance)	\$600M	\$840M
DOT	FTA- Growing States and High Density States formula	\$0	\$1.59B

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DOT	FTA- Fixed Guideway Modernization Grants	\$2B	\$0
DOT	FTA-New Starts	\$2.5B	\$0
HUD	Public Housing Capital Fund	\$5B	\$5B
HUD	Elderly, Disabled, and Section 8 Assisted Housing Energy Retrofit	\$2.5B	\$2.25B
HUD	Native American Housing Block Grants	\$500M	\$510M
HUD	CDBG	\$1B	\$0
HUD	Neighborhood Stabilization Program	\$4.19B	\$0
HUD	HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$1.5B	\$2.25B
HUD	Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program	\$10M	\$0
HUD	Homeless Assistance Grants	\$1.5B	\$1.5B
HUD	Lead Hazard Reduction	\$100M	\$100M