

ARRA-Stimulus Update September, 2009

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)-Where's the \$\$?

By Christine Zoppi

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The Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Partnership's (The Partnership) staff has spent the first half of 2009 getting prepared to receive ARRA funds. "Where is the money?" is the most commonly asked question. It will nearly be fall before we begin implementation of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Department of Energy (DOE) ARRA activities. Because of the state budget situation, the release of much of the ARRA funds has been delayed. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds are the primary funds that we have had to work with so far. State agencies have patiently reminded us saying, "the money is going to

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ARRA: Accountability & Results

By Christine Zoppi

The Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Partnership staff teams have worked very hard over the past several months to prepare for the release of ARRA funding.

There are several key outcomes from ARRA funded initiatives.

- Job creation and retention
- Increasing resources to those hardest hit by our economic downturn
- Stimulation of our local economies

Due to these very important outcomes, staff has been taking on significant workloads to ensure that the Partnership's ARRA funded programs will produce results, and meet all reporting requirements.

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"You can find more
information at
www.recovery.gov or
www.recovery.ca.gov"

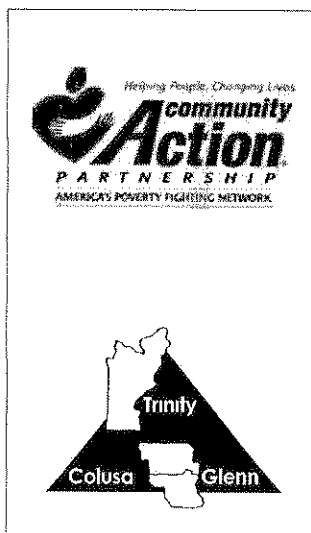
Action so far...

By Christine Zoppi

"The lines were out the door and around the corner."

Colusa-Glenn-Trinity CAP

1. Over \$1,300,000 has been awarded to CGT Community Action formula programs from ARRA.
2. Five (5) grant applications for \$2,170,000 competitive ARRA funds have been submitted by the Partnership as the lead entity.
3. Three (3) grant applications for \$2,560,000 competitive ARRA funds have been submitted in partnership with other organizations.
4. Over 100 surveys have been received from building contractors in Colusa, Glenn and Trinity counties stating their interest and capacity to work in partnership through contract to weatherize homes in 2009 and 2010.
5. Several ARRA plans have been developed and submitted.
6. Four (4) Public Service Employees have been hired and trained to assist Weatherization crews and in Energy and Housing programs.
7. Six (6) Limited Term Positions were approved by the Governing Board. Interviews have been completed. Filling of positions will be contingent on budget, contracts award and authority.
8. The Partnership has awarded \$15,000 to agencies and organizations in Trinity and Colusa County through a competitive RFP process in May, contingent on receipt of ARRA funds.
9. Management responsibilities, changes in unit structure and staffing have been realigned to prepare for the release of ARRA funds.
10. The Partnership has explored options of potential partnership with education and/or private firms to leverage ARRA in meaningful ways to promote career pathways in green industries.
11. The Glenn County Board of Supervisors has approved 100% of the request put forward in support of the ARRA releases for regular program formula funds, staffing and new applications.
12. An extended Job Development contract with Community Development Services has been approved by the Glenn County Board of Supervisors.
13. Over 110 youth participated in the WIA Summer Youth Program in Glenn County.



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come your way, and it is just a question of when..." Due to state furloughs, and very limited administrative funds awarded to the state agencies associated with ARRA, there are fewer hours available for state staff to address the tremendous amount of work to develop ARRA-required plans and contracts, interpret ARRA guidelines, and assist agencies in carrying out the ARRA deliverables. The work being carried out with ARRA funding is in addition to existing agreements that must be implemented and overseen.



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While some managers have been busy writing grant applications and developing new methods to manage the anticipated workloads, others were beginning implementation of the Partnership's first ARRA funded programs. Staff just completed the 2009 ARRA Summer Youth Program.

Over 110 Glenn and Colusa youth were placed in paid work experience and job readiness training. Although, Glenn County normally has a summer youth program, this year due to ARRA funding the program served far more youth than normal and provided about 15 youth from Colusa and Glenn Counties with paid work experience in the Community Action Weatherization Program. This proved to be a great opportunity for the youth to learn about home weatherization, and gain valuable mentoring from the very talented and caring weatherization crew members. Some of the stories were simply heartwarming. Bill Wathen, Housing and Weatherization Manager, shared how one morning a youth was found screwing a screw into a tree. Clearly this young person was quite off task, and Bill's crew member was pretty upset with the youth. Bill told me how he helped his crew members, from this early example of challenging behavior, to be patient and see their role as teachers, providing firm guidance mixed with patience and understanding to these impressionable young workers. Another youth told Bill, "This has changed my life."

The program was monitored and passed all monitor reviews at the close of the program. Great Job Employment Services and Weatherization for a new partnership that served many youth providing life-long impact and change for our valuable young people.

I have observed our managers and analysts in their offices writing grants until late at night, participating on webinars, trying to make connections with partners in nine (9) other counties, and all while sorting through and interpreting information from state and federal agencies. The results have been astounding!

- New partnership with Tehama County to apply on behalf of nine (9) counties for a \$1,000,000 capacity development grant.
- New partnership with Lassen, Plumas and Sierra Counties for \$60,000. CGTCAP to administer their HMIS for their HUD grant.
- Competitive award announced for \$1,600,000 partnership between Colusa-Glenn-Trinity and Tehama for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing.
- Award of \$50,000 to continue and expand VITA and Earned Income Tax Assistance to low-income households.
- Award of WIA Youth Program for Glenn County.

This is only a part of the story of what has been accomplished by your talented, hard working Community Action team!

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