



Extended Learning and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) offers tremendous opportunities for the education sector, including afterschool and extended learning programs. Much of the ARRA funding for afterschool programs will come through existing funding streams, such as the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and AmeriCorps. Some ARRA funding offers new, one-time only cash infusions that may also benefit afterschool programs.

The SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool is a resource that can help afterschool and extended learning

leaders navigate the funds that are available and use them in a way that meets federal guidelines. Included here is an outline of some of the different ARRA funds that are available for afterschool and extended learning programs and how they can use the funds.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Title I, Part A

The greatest ARRA funding opportunities for afterschool and extended learning programs come from existing Department of Education programs. About 10% of the entire ARRA allocation for education, or \$10 billion, will be distributed under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Since 1965 Title I, Part A has supported school districts serving disadvantaged children to help them catch up academically to higher achieving districts. This \$10 billion will be provided to local education agencies for schools that have "high concentrations of students from families that live in poverty in order to help improve teaching and learning for students most at risk of failing to meet state academic achievement standards."¹ Many afterschool and extended learning programs meet this criteria.

The grants also provide professional development funds for teachers who teach Title I-eligible students, and for "quality, online courseware as supplemental learning materials" in these same schools. The Department of Education guidelines explicitly state that ARRA funds can be used for "establishing or expanding fiscally sustainable extended learning opportunities for Title I-eligible students in targeted assistance programs, including activities provided before school, after school, during the summer, or over an extended school year."²

The department plans to award 50% of each state's ARRA allocation by the end of March 2009. (For an estimate of what each state may receive under the ARRA Title I, Part A allocation, see www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/titlei/fy09recovery/index.html.) These grants will be awarded in accordance with the state's existing and approved ESEA consolidated application. To receive the second round of AARA funding, however, states must submit an amended application demonstrating how the state will meet the stimulus bill's recordkeeping and reporting guidelines.

These AARA funds are in addition to the fiscal year 2009 funds that the department plans to distribute on July 1 and October 1, 2009. In other words, local education agencies will receive



"In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity—it is a pre-requisite. The countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
February 24, 2009

The SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool helps state education agencies and local practitioners develop high-quality programs for academic enrichment as well as youth development activities.

www.sedl.org/afterschool

^{1,2} *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Title I, Part A Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Education Agencies.* (n.d.) Retrieved from www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html

a total of four grant awards of Title I funds in the next 2 years. In keeping with the ARRA principles, the Department of Education urges states to spend the money as quickly and sensibly as possible. States must spend 85% of the funds of its total fiscal year 2009 Title I, Part A (including the ARRA money) by September 30, 2010.

Title I, School Improvement Grants

Another area of funding opportunities within the Department of Education is Title I, School Improvement Grants. Three billion dollars will be available in Fall 2009. Forty percent of these grants should go to middle and high schools.³

Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Special education funding under Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will also receive a boost from ARRA. Part B of the IDEA provides funds to state and local educational agencies “to help them ensure that children with disabilities, including children aged 3 through 5, have access to a free appropriate public.”⁴ About \$11 billion is available under Part B Grants to States; \$400 million is available under Part B Preschool Grants; and \$500 million is available under Part C Grants for Infants and Families.⁵

The Department of Education plans to award 50% of the IDEA, Part B Grants by the end of March 2009. The other 50% will be awarded by October 1, 2009. As in the case of the Title I, these awards will be in addition to the regular fiscal year 2009 appropriations. Like all ARRA stimulus funds, these funds should be used primarily for short-term investments that have the potential for long-term benefits, and not for expenditures that organizations may not be able to sustain once the recovery funds are spent.

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)

The Department of Education will also be distributing funds from the newly created State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). The SFSF’s main goal is to address budget shortfalls that many states are currently experiencing and to stabilize state and local budgets. First and foremost, these funds should be used to retain teachers who might otherwise be laid off. As many day-school teachers are also afterschool and summer school teachers, this fund will help keep these teachers employed. Governors may also use the funds to support the modernization, renovation, and repair of school facilities.⁶ Governors will direct the distribution of 80% of this one-time infusion of \$53.6 million.

A particularly promising funding opportunity for afterschool programs are the competitive grants that will be awarded to schools and nonprofits from the stabilization fund. These grants will reward what Secretary of Education Arne Duncan calls “islands of excellence,”—schools and nonprofits using innovative techniques to narrow achievement gaps. The department will award up to \$650 million under the “Invest in What Works and Innovation” fund and an additional \$4.35 billion for “Race to the Top” competitive grants. Applications for these grants will be available later in the spring, with the first round of winners receiving funds beginning in October 2009.

Other funds that may be available to afterschool programs from the Department of Education include education technology grant funds, funds for summer-school initiatives, and funds to create assessment systems to track how afterschool programs affect day-school performance.

³ Association for Career and Technical Education (2009, March). *Education and Workforce Development Provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. Baltimore, MD: author. Retrieved from www.actonline.org/uploadedFiles/Issues_and_Advocacy/files/ARRASummary.doc

^{4,5} *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: IDEA Recovery Funds for Services to Children and Youths with Disabilities*. (n.d.). Retrieved from www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/idea.html

⁶ State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. (n.d.). Retrieved from www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/stabilization-fund.html

⁷ Dillon, S. (2009, February 1). For Education Chief, Stimulus Means Power, Money and Risk. *New York Times*, p. A1.

GUIDELINES



Spending ARRA Funds

In all of these funding opportunities, state and local governments, school districts, and nonprofits must remember the four overriding principles of ARRA:

1. Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs. For example, on March 7, 2009, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that he wanted his department to distribute \$44 million within 30 to 45 days. The first round of funding is intended to eliminate teacher layoffs due to state budget shortfalls.
2. Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform. This principle creates a mandate to improve the education system and to demonstrate how particular programs will lead to improved achievement.
3. Ensure transparency, reporting, and accountability. In order for many programs to receive a second round of ARRA funding after the initial infusions, they will have to provide receipts, and track and measure results.
4. Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff.” ARRA funds should not be used for projects that cannot be sustained after the ARRA funds are spent.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG)

Moving outside the Department of Education, another funding opportunity for afterschool and extended learning programs comes from Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG). Administered by the Health and Human Services Department, these grants subsidize child care costs for children under the age of 13. The ARRA has allocated \$2 billion in additional funds for this program, which will be available through September 30, 2010. About one third of these funds will be used to support children in afterschool programs.⁸

AmeriCorps

The stimulus bill includes \$201 million in funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA programs. AmeriCorps members currently staff many afterschool programs. These funds will allow existing AmeriCorps state and national grantees to add more Corps members, and may support as many as 10,000 new Corps members. Afterschool Alliance, a national organization dedicated to increasing awareness of afterschool programs, recommends that “afterschool programs approach existing AmeriCorps grantees about having new Corps members placed in their afterschool programs.”⁹ Afterschool Alliance also suggests exploring whether any current afterschool program staff could qualify as Corps members, in which case ARRA funds could be used to pay the living allowance that Corps members receive.¹⁰ On the Corporation for National Service on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Web site (www.nationalservice.org/about/recovery/index.asp), afterschool programs can search a list of existing grantees for partnership opportunities.

ARRA funds will also provide \$65 million for 3,000 AmeriCorps VISTA member positions to new and existing sponsors. AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers focus primarily on fighting poverty. They commit to 1 year of service at a nonprofit or local government agency that addresses the root causes and consequences of poverty.¹¹ Many afterschool programs would qualify as a suitable placement for these VISTA volunteers.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Some afterschool program funds may also be available from the \$2.95 billion provided for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). This act provides cities with funds for job training and employment services for dislocated workers, youth, and adults. The act also raises the age limit for the youth program from 21 to 24, allowing more people to qualify for the program. In addition, \$50 million has been provided for YouthBuild, a youth and community development program that addresses key issues facing low-income communities, such as housing, education, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development. Low-income participants of



YouthBuild, aged 16 to 24, build affordable housing while working toward their GEDs or high school diplomas and learn valuable job skills.

These funding opportunities for afterschool programs represent just some of the new and existing funding streams that are part of the massive stimulus bill. With \$787 billion at stake, it can be difficult to explain where all of it will go and how it will be distributed. Most importantly, afterschool programs must act quickly to ensure that they will receive some ARRA funds, or they will potentially miss out on once-in-a-lifetime national investment in U.S. education.

⁸ Afterschool Alliance. (n.d.) *CCDBG in Economic Recovery Act*. Retrieved March 20, 2009, from www.afterschoolalliance.org/PolicyEconRecovCCDBG.cfm

⁹ Corporation for National and Community Service (n.d.) *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. Retrieved from www.nationalservice.gov/about/recovery/index.asp

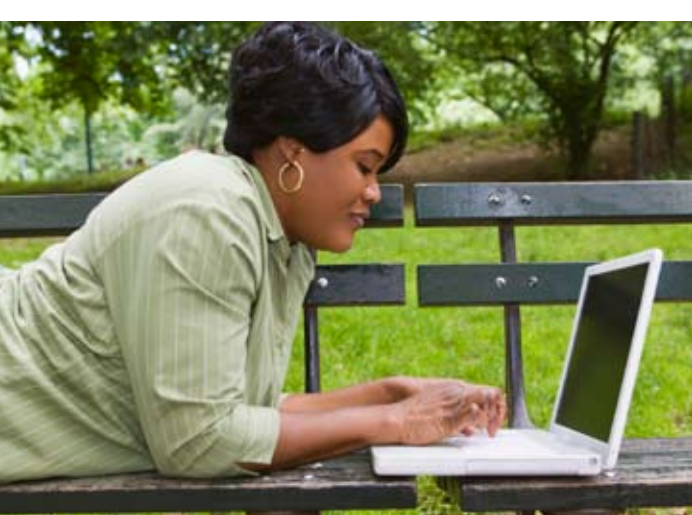
^{10, 11} Afterschool Alliance. (n.d.) *Service & Afterschool in Economic Recovery Act*. Retrieved March 20, 2009, from www.afterschoolalliance.org/PolicyEconRecovService.cfm



Stay Updated

For updated information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit the following Web sites

- **Recovery.gov**
The federal government's main portal on the ARRA
www.recovery.gov
- **Department of Education home page**
Includes updates on how ARRA funds will be distributed
www.ed.gov
- **Department of Education ARRA Overview**
www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/implementation.html
- **Afterschool Alliance**
afterschoolalliance.org
- **Afterschool Alliance Wiki**
afterschoolwiki.org
- **AmeriCorps**
www.americorps.gov
- **U.S. Department of Labor**
www.dol.gov/recovery
- **Corporation for National and Community Service**
www.nationalservice.org/about/recovery/index.asp



services and resources

Looking for research-based professional development for afterschool or expanded learning programs?

Use your 2009 stimulus funding to make a sustainable investment in SEDL's suite of services and products to boost staff capacity and student achievement. Visit www.sedl.org/afterschool/recovery.

VIRTUAL ACADEMY FOR AFTERSCHOOL

This interactive professional development resource includes five online courses for professionals in a variety of expanded learning settings. Each course includes links to help align afterschool to day-school learning, effective instructional strategies, guided practice in project planning, and evidence-based instruction models that keep students engaged. Choice of 1-, 2-, 3-year subscriptions. View more information including a demo at www.sedl.org/afterschool/academy.

ON-SITE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The National Center for Quality Afterschool offers high-quality, fee-for-service professional development designed for expanded learning project directors, site coordinators, instructors, and staff from community organizations. Choose from professional development sessions ranging from 90 minutes to 2-days in length, or let us customize a staff development experience especially for your program.

Newsletter available online at www.sedl.org/afterschool/afterwords

Produced by

NATIONAL CENTER FOR QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL

Advancing Research, Improving Education



Editor: Laura Shankland
Designer: Shaila Abdullah

Copyright © 2009 by SEDL.

You are welcome to reproduce issues of AfterWords and distribute copies at no cost to recipients. Please credit SEDL as publisher. If you want to link to PDF versions of AfterWords from your Web site, please use the URL www.sedl.org/afterschool/afterwords/archive.html. For additional uses, please fill out and submit a copyright request form at www.sedl.org/about/copyright_request.html.

Contact Us

For more information or for a customized quote to meet your state's needs, please contact us.

Joe Parker
SEDL
4700 Mueller Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78723
512-476-6861 ext. 6543
Fax: 512-476-2286
E-mail: afterschool@sedl.org

EVENTS *calendar*

The National Center for Quality Afterschool will offer pre-conference workshops at the conferences listed below. Workshops are funded by the C. S. Mott Foundation. Participants must register for workshops in advance.

- April 1-4 National Afterschool Association 2009 Convention
Pre-Conference Session: What Works in Quality Afterschool Programs? (April 1)
Partner Networking Session (April 2)
www.naaconvention.org
NEW ORLEANS, LA
- April 16-17 National Conference on Summer Learning
Pre-Conference Session: Extending Student Learning Beyond the School Day and Year (April 15)
www.summerlearning.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=105&Itemid=427
CHICAGO, IL
- April 22-25 BOOST Conference
Pre-Conference Session: What Works in Quality Afterschool Programs? (April 22)
www.boostconference.org/registration.php
PALM SPRINGS, CA

For more events, visit our calendar at www.sedl.org/afterschool/training/calendar.html.