

A Message from Senator Noland

The \$787 billion federal stimulus package, which is also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”), is complex and developments are moving fast. Because a bewildering array of programs and agencies are involved, factual information can be hard to find.

The good news is that substantial sums are already allocated to the 22nd District, as partially outlined in the following materials, including a large number of infrastructure improvements throughout the District, but opportunities exist to bring even more resources back to the District.

According to the DCCC, Illinois stands to benefit greatly from the ARRA:
Benefit of the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Jobs Created or Saved by Plan	148,000
Families Receiving Making Work Pay Tax Credit	4,890,000
Additional Students Receiving College Tax Credit	156,000
Children Receiving Child Tax Credit	626,000
Taxpayers Protected by the AMT Patch	1,021,000

Sources (Top to Bottom): White House; White House; CBPP, 1/22/09; CBPP, 1/22/09; CRS, 2/4/09. <http://www.dccc.org/content/recovery>

In an effort to assist the many organizations and individuals in the 22nd District that may be eligible to participate in ARRA opportunities, I have formed a Stimulus Team. My Stimulus Team is working to assemble timely information to help local governments, not-for-profits, individuals and others navigate the process and participate to the fullest extent possible.

This team will research the available funding and try to match these funding opportunities with those agencies that could potentially benefit. We will work to contact those identified as eligible and distribute information that may help them to qualify (This communication is the first such effort.), answer questions about the application process (which varies widely depending on the agency administering the program), and will assist in any other way needed to maximize the flow of stimulus dollars to the local economy.

For example, many of the stimulus opportunities are aimed at improving education. The stimulus currently includes: Title I Grants; IDEA, Part B State Grants; K-12 Repair and Modernization; Higher Ed Repair and Modernization; Education Technology; Child Care Development Block Grants; Head Start; and

Pell Grants. Adding to the confusion is the fact that several different state entities are managing the education stimulus programs, including the State Board of Education, DCFS, and the IL Department of Education. Accordingly, the team is currently focused on working with U-46 and District 300 to make sure they are aware of every opportunity, and to assist them in any way possible to get the job done for the 22nd District taxpayers and students.

We are also reaching out to a variety of not-for-profits that may qualify for funding to hopefully serve as a catalyst for their increased resources in a time of increased need for their services. For example, perhaps PADS or the Community Crisis Center might qualify for Emergency Shelter Grants.

Finally, we are using all of the resources at our disposal to hold government, at all levels, accountable and to promote transparency, so that we can all work to see that these tax dollars are being spent wisely and not wasted.

We welcome your questions, and encourage any individual or entity that may be eligible for one or more of these programs to start work now, before this once in a lifetime opportunity slips away.

My Stimulus Team is led by John Dalton (johngdalton@gmail.com). Please contact him if you have any questions or suggestions. We will help you in any way we can to identify and obtain the available funding to save or restore jobs and build the infrastructure needed for a sustainable 21st century economy in the 22nd District.

This initial communication contains a wealth of information and helpful links. It includes information on programs for small businesses, school districts, not-for-profits, individuals, municipalities and other governmental entities. It is organized both by the type of applicant (individual, not-for-profit, etc.), as well as by the type of funding (transportation, energy, etc.).

We hope you find all of this helpful.

Additional links are provided here on the "Links & Services" page of my website.

With Highest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Noland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Senator Michael Noland