

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
Stimulus Package
AMERICORPS and AMERICORPS* VISTA

Economic Stimulus Statement: On February 17th, President Obama signed into law a massive economic stimulus measure entitled the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**, or “ARRA” for short. The new law, which contains more than \$787 billion in spending and tax cuts, contains several major initiatives related to health centers, totaling well over \$2 billion.

Core Element: \$201 million through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

What can the funds be used for? Out of the \$201: \$89 million is set aside for existing AmeriCorps programs (to add positions and/or reduce match commitments on existing grants) and \$65 million is set aside for AmeriCorps*VISTA programs (to add new positions/programs). The difference between AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA programs are their “direct service” (AmeriCorps) and “indirect service/capacity building” (AmeriCorps*VISTA) components. For example, an AmeriCorps*VISTA member can develop funding for, design implementation, and train local communities on a new SCHIP outreach and enrollment campaign—while an AmeriCorps member can do the actual outreach and enrollment.

What is the timeframe for accessing the resources? As per OMB guidance (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m09-10.pdf), all federal agencies (including CNCS) must:

- Within twenty (20) days after enactment of the ARRA, agencies shall post funding opportunity announcements (i.e., “synopses”) to Grants.gov (est. 1st week of March);
- Within thirty (30) days of enactment, the Grants.gov synopsis shall link to the full announcement on the agency website (est. 1st-2nd week of March)

What will Health Centers have to do to receive funding? Grants will be posted to Grants.gov; however, funding will only be available to **existing** grantees. This would include NACHC’s Community HealthCorps and any PCAs that manage their own state AmeriCorps grants. It is undetermined yet, if organizations like NACHC would be able to select new sub-grantees for projects, since technically NACHC is the *existing* grantee. Also, CNCS may establish 5-10 goals/objectives (including health care areas), one or more of which programs will have to fit into.

If you receive funds/resources, what kinds of reporting/accountability can you expect? It is important that Health Centers understand that they are some of the earliest recipients of funds going out under the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA), and that transparency and accountability are critical elements of the ARRA. Health Centers, therefore, should anticipate close scrutiny and be able to respond to a high level of accountability in their use of these funds.

What resources are available to assist Health Centers to receive the funding?

- 1) For additional info on the NACHC Community HealthCorps Program: Jason Patnosh (jpatnosh@nachc.com)
- 2) Follow <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/recovery/index.asp> for updates from CNCS