

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
Stimulus Package
HEALTH CENTER OPERATIONS

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: \$500 million for “services provided by community health centers”

What can the funds be used for? To support new sites and services areas, to increase services at existing sites, and to provide supplemental payments for spikes in uninsured populations. ***Grants for new sites and service areas are to be two years in length as startup is phased in.***

What is the time frame for accessing the resources? The timeline for the actual allocation and spending of funds is still under discussion; however, within 90 days of the signing (mid-May 2009), HRSA must develop a plan for spending the funds.

What will Health Centers have to do to receive funding? First – be ready! Collect information about your project (cost, design, financing, projected impact) and share that information with your HRSA project officer, your State or Regional Primary Care Association, and other local officials.

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. ***Note: HRSA may establish its own specific reporting requirements.***

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

- 1) Info on HRSA policy for distribution and use of funds: Roger Schwartz (rschwartz@nachc.com) or Pamela Byrnes (pbyrnes@nachc.com).
- 2) Consultation on application packages: Pamela Byrnes (pbyrnes@nachc.com)
- 3) Technical assistance re expansions that include new or renovated sites: Capital Link (www.capl原因ink.org).
- 4) Upcoming training:
 - ◆ 2009 NACHC Policy + Issues Forum, March 24-28, 2009 Washington, D.C.
Update on Regulatory and Administrative Policies that Impact Centers (March 28)
 - ◆ *Developing Effective FQHC Programs and Applications:* March 28–30, 2009, Washington, D.C.
 - ◆ *Developing Effective FQHC Programs and Applications:* June 2 – 4, 2009, Portland, Oregon
- 5) Assistance concerning expansion awards based on previously submitted grant applications:
 - ◆ *Orientation for New Start Health Centers:* dates to be determined
 - ◆ *Board Training for New Start Health Centers:* dates to be determined
 - ◆ Direct TA for New Starts