

## **Opportunities for Non-Profits under the 2009 ARRA:**

Delaware Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)  
Administered by First State Community Action Agency  
***Deadline for Applications: June 12, 2009***

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009 was signed into law on February 17, 2009 by President Barack Obama. The legislation authorized supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization. The Recovery Act provides \$1.0 billion in additional funds to Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2009

States and local entities that provide services with CSBG funding (First State Community Action Agency, Inc.) are encouraged to focus their efforts on creating sustainable economic resources in communities. States should help to ensure that the eligible entity:

- 1) provide a wide range of innovative employment-related services and activities tailored to the specific needs of their community;
- 2) use funds in a manner that meets the short-term and long-term economic employment needs of individuals, families and communities; and
- 3) make meaningful and measurable progress toward the reform goals of the Recovery Act with special attention to creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities.

Under the CSBG program, First State uses fund to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, and better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health to combat the central causes of poverty. Such services continue to be supportable under the CSBG Recovery Act funds.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services is the Federal agency responsible for administering this program. There was \$1 billion allocated for the CSBG Stimulus, American Recovery Act of 2009 with \$5,000,000 allocated for FY 2009 to the State of Delaware.

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PROJECT**

CSBG Recovery Act funds may be used to support activities which will enable the target population to meet the following goals outlined in the CSBG Recovery Act and the established priorities of First State Community Action Agency.

### **CSBG Recovery Act Goals:**

- A. Reduction of poverty serving individuals and/or families at or below 200% of poverty guidelines
- B. Empowerment of low-income individuals and/or families to become self-sufficient
- C. Revitalization of low-income communities

### **First State Community Action Agency Priorities:**

- A. Job creations, education and /or skills training
- B. Youth development, intervention or enrichment programs
- C. Grassroots initiative for community stabilization, revitalization or coordination

Eligible applicants should apply for programs that are designed to assist the targeted population in the following activities:

1. Providing a wide range of innovative employment-related services and activities;
2. Supporting employment-related services and activities that create and sustain economic growth;
3. Securing, creating and/or retaining meaningful employment;
4. Removing obstacles and solving problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency (including self-sufficiency for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a state program’
5. Attaining an adequate education with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the communities involved which may include carrying out family literacy initiatives;
6. Obtaining and maintaining adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
7. Addressing the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, give priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth;
8. Supporting the development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs that have demonstrated success in preventing or reducing youth crime, such as, programs for the establishment of violence-free zones that would involved youth development and intervention models (such as models involving youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation and entrepreneurship programs) and after-school child care programs.

To apply for the stimulus funds a Request for proposals (RFP) has been issued. The period to apply for this grant is May 11 – June 12, 2009. Applications can be downloaded from First State’s web site [www.firststatecaa.org](http://www.firststatecaa.org) or call 302-856-7761 ext. 103 to have an application mailed.