

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING

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TO: House of Representatives

FROM: Chairman Jim Dunnam

DATE: April 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Stimulus Advisory: Education; Housing and Community Affairs

Today the US Department of Education (the Department) announced that approximately half a billion dollars in Federal stimulus money will be available to the State within a few days. State education agencies were directed by the Department to obligate funds directly to local education agencies (LEA) "as soon as possible, consistent with prudent management, so the LEAs can begin using the funds."

The vast majority of this round of stimulus education funds, \$472.8 million, is tied to FY 2008 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B formulas; \$19.7 million is available under IDEA Part C formulas; and, \$22.4 million is available under the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program. Since this money is allocated based on preexisting Federal formulas, the money will only "pass through" the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and LEAs must use the money for purposes allowed under the aforementioned IDEA and VR programs.

States did not have to submit an application to receive this first half of IDEA funds. However, the second half, scheduled for delivery on September 30, 2009, will only be released, "after each state submits, for review and approval by the Department, additional information that addresses how the States will meet the accountability and reporting requirements in" the Recovery Act.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced that it will be holding three public input sessions on Weatherization Assistance, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing, and Community Services Block Grant Programs, respectively, in three different cities across the state: Houston, Dallas and El Paso. Please see below for details. For additional information on stimulus funding directed by TDHCA, please visit their website: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/>.

OK for Distribution

Houston

Monday, April 6th, 10:00 a.m.
Houston City Hall Annex Public Level Chamber
900 Bagby Street
Houston, TX 77002

Dallas

Tuesday, April 7th, 10:00 a.m.
Dallas Public Library, Main
West Room
1515 Young Street
Dallas, TX 75201

El Paso

Wednesday, April 8th, 9:00 a.m.
El Paso County Courthouse, Commissioners Court
500 E San Antonio Ave
El Paso, TX 7990