



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

HOMELAND SECURITY

On Tuesday, February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a federal economic recovery package, which intends to stimulate economic growth, sustain and create jobs, improve our nation's infrastructure, and assist States and local governments.

The funding in this Act is set up as an emergency designation to fulfill emergency requirements and needs. Funds from this Act will have no effect on funds from the 2009 Continuing Resolution (PL 110-329) and is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year. All funds will be made available for obligation until September 30, 2010 unless otherwise stated.

The law contains provisions important to homeland security issues in Division A, the spending/appropriations portion, Title VI, Department of Homeland Security. The provisions most important to regional planning organizations are:

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants to State and Local Governments**
 - \$300 million in 100 percent federal grants
 - \$150 million for public transportation security assistance, railroad security assistance and systemwide Amtrak security
 - \$150 million for port security grants
- **Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account**
 - Loans issued pursuant to the Stafford Act for major disaster occurring in Calendar Year 2008 may exceed \$5 million and may be equal to no more than 50 percent of the annual operating budget of the local government that has suffered a loss of 25 percent or more in tax revenues.
- **General Provisions**
 - President shall establish an arbitration panel under the FEMA public assistance program to expedite recovery efforts from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita within the Gulf Coast Region.
 - All items procured with this funding under the Department of Homeland Security are required to be grown, processed, reused or produced in the United States.

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