

ARRA Experience:

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • www.dvrpc.org
215.592.1800 (t) • 215.592.9125 (f)

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is dedicated to uniting the region's elected officials, planning professionals and the public with a common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment and enhancing the economy. DVRPC serves a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer in New Jersey. DVRPC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Philadelphia Region - leading the way to a better future.

Did your state include you in ARRA discussions? Were you briefed, given up-to-date information and kept aware of the opportunities for your organization(s) and members (i.e. local governments)? Please describe your overall experience on ARRA coordination with your state.

There was close coordination with both Pennsylvania and New Jersey to share information as soon as it became available. DVRPC was able to negotiate successfully with both states regarding a fair distribution of state projects vs. local projects. Both states looked to us to lead the process to identify local projects.

What types of outreach/educational tools did your organization use or is using for ARRA? Please describe any website, public outreach, surveys, email blasts, newsletters, social networking tools, etc. that you may have used and if it was effective.

We coordinated with our local governments to identify potential projects and met collectively to develop the final list. As soon as that list was approved by our Board, [a DVRPC ARRA web page](#) was created that listed all of the projects, with a description and funding levels. A press release was issued and several papers published stories with links to the website. Our staff was also interviewed and quoted extensively regarding stimulus spending in our region.

Please describe the ARRA funding or tax initiatives your organization or member local governments are directly receiving or involved with.

Transportation funding - direct selection of projects and allocation of funds.

Water and Sewer - reviewed project proposals for consistency with regional plan and provided comments back to State agencies.

Energy - currently putting together a proposal for a regional energy conservation grant program for local governments that do not qualify for formula funding under the EECBG program.

How is your organization or member local governments tracking all of the ARRA opportunities? How will you meet the reporting requirements of ARRA if you receive funding?

A variety of staff are tracking a variety of programs. State DOTs are sharing information with us as they receive it, but for other programs it has had to be more of a pull on our end rather than a push from theirs.

Are you or have you been in contact with your Congressional delegation? If so, please describe the context of this correspondence, which offices you reached out to and what staff you contacted.

We were contacted by several of our Congressional delegation that were advocating for specific transportation projects during the selection process, specifically Reps. Murphy, Sestak and Schwartz in PA and Rep. Andrews in NJ.

Please share any relevant details of your ARRA experience. Your story is important in measuring progress and overall success!

As the MPO, the transportation allocation was relatively easy for us and a good chance to shine. We are now working toward a regional program on energy conservation, which will support our work to date on climate change and GHG reduction.

