

February 18, 2009

TO: Interested States
FR: Joel Rogers, CSI Director
RE: High-Road ARRA Implementation

Here's some more on the event we wrote to you about last week.

What we at CSI are informally calling ARRACON (for ARRA-conference) is being organized as an advanced discussion with and among state chiefs of staff, budget directors, policy directors, DC reps, and stimulus czars — joined by members of the administration involved in implementation and outside subject matter experts — on how states can best use ARRA to advance their high-road goals of shared prosperity, sustainability, and efficient democratic government.

The event will be packed with information and is being designed to be of maximum practical use to you. It will be a working conference, with a lot of back and forth exchange among states. It should be fun, but it will also be pretty demanding.

Program — We will *not* spend much time on the basic structure of ARRA (e.g., where the money is, what's competitive and what's not) since we assume those attending know that already. We will focus instead on what we recommend you do with the money and on: (1) reporting and accountability requirements, criteria for competitive grants, and administration contacts for help; (2) best ways to deal with timing requirements while combining and leveraging funding streams for increased impact; and (3) effective management to avoid embarrassment, produce results, and further your long-range policy agenda. We will pursue this focus within and across most major program items in ARRA, including transportation, energy, water, education, health, and housing.

No single event can possibly cover everything of interest or importance to you about ARRA, but at the close of the meeting we will identify those issues on which you most need further discussion and set up a series of teleconferences/webinars, to begin immediately after this event, to deal with them. We'll also introduce you to some additional technical assistance available to states.

In advance of the event, we will get attendees a briefing book on its contents. Please read this, as we'll be referring to it throughout.

Logistics — The conference will run from 12 PM March 9 — 4 PM March 10 in Washington DC. We have reserved meeting space near Union Station, convenient to the Capitol and Hall of the States, and are closing on a room block at a hotel during the evenings of March 8 and 9. More on both shortly. In the meantime, please note that attendance at this event is limited and that we need your list of confirmed attendees (with name, title, phone number, email) to guarantee space. Please get this to Breann Boggs (bboggs@stateinnovation.org, 608-263-0819) ASAP. We have some money to cover travel costs as necessary.

Agenda — A skeletal agenda, with topics listed but no indicated speakers or resource people, follows. We'll get you a populated one shortly. Note that we're not looking for stars and speeches, but people who can help you get this important work done right. We have several lined up already, but it makes sense to give them to you all at once.

HIGH-ROAD ARRA IMPLEMENTATION
Center for State Innovation
&
Brookings Institution, Center for American Progress,
Economic Policy Institute, Smart Growth America

MARCH 9-10
WASHINGTON, DC

MARCH 9

11:30-12:00	Registration
12:00-12:15	Welcome, introductions, review of agenda
12:15-1:00	Working lunch – ARRA overview, general requirements, possibilities
1:00-2:45	Transportation
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-4:45	Energy
4:45-6:30	Housing
6:30-8:00	Reception

MARCH 10

8:00-8:30	Breakfast
8:30-8:45	Review of previous day's discussion, plan for this one
8:45-9:30	Measuring job impact
9:30-10:15	Health
10:15-11:00	Water
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:45	Education and work supports
12:45-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:15	Integrating strategies (transportation, EWD, climate prosperity/green jobs)
3:15-3:30	Break
3:30-4:00	Topics for follow-up discussion, TA availabilities, other CSI help needed

Contacts & Questions

I will be traveling the next several days so best to contact CSI Managing Director Sam Munger (smunger@stateinnovation.org, 608-262-9588), or CSI Policy Director Anthony Gad (agad@stateinnovation.org, 608-262-8794) with any questions on program content, or contact Fratney Miller (fmiller@stateinnovation.org, 608-265-9668 for any questions on logistics.