

## Discussion Points

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

1. The Governor's budget incorporates an estimated \$5.183 billion over two fiscal years in federal stimulus funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. According to a table on page 42 of the Governor's abbreviated budget, the State will use \$3.074 billion (\$854 million in FY 2009 and \$2.220 billion in FY 2010) from ARRA for budget relief. In addition to these funds which will offset revenue shortfalls, \$2.109 billion will be used for new or expanded programs or initiatives. The ARRA allocates funds to states both by formula and by competitive awards. Most executive departments anticipate stimulus funding in either FY 2009, FY 2010 or both.

- *Question:* Please itemize the federal stimulus funding, other than portions of the \$3.074 billion allocated for budget relief, included in the department's budget, by fiscal year and federal program, setting forth program goals and eligible uses together with the amount for state administrative expenses and the amount for allocation to local public and private recipients, respectively. Please identify intended and actual recipients and the process by which the Parole Board determines recipients and funding awards. Are there ARRA funds that flow through your department for which the State has no discretion? Please also set forth the timetable for obtaining federal approval of funding, obligation and allocation of funding to recipients, and use by recipients. Could any of this funding be used to offset other State appropriations, and if so, what programs and in what amount? What additional positions, if any, have been and will be hired with these funds? If this money is being used for new or expanded activities, will the new or expanded activities be continued in FY 2011? If so, how will they be funded?
  
- *Question:* In addition to funding incorporated in the FY 2010 budget, what specific competitive grant opportunities has the Parole Board identified that it is eligible to pursue, has applied for, and has been awarded, respectively?

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

The State Parole Board (SPB) is not a direct recipient of ARRA funds. The SPB is working to secure funding opportunities through the Federal stimulus plan with various departments.

Other federal grants include the following:

Greater Mercer Prisoner Reentry Initiative – Grant award received 8/29/08 from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, in the amount of \$536,633.00. Funding shall be utilized to strengthen employment readiness and job sustainability for 200 offenders returning to the Another Chance Initiative City of Trenton as well as the surrounding Mercer County area. Level of Service Inventory–Revised and discharge plan will be reviewed to select appropriate candidates for PRI participation. Organizations receiving grant funding include the City of Trenton, Mayor’s Office of Employment and Training (providing employment specialists to connect offenders to employment and employment training opportunities) and Opportunities for All (providing Community Resource Center program services, employment retention and employment training services). Initiative will be evaluated by Dr. Bonita Veysey of the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Grant – Grant award received in February 2009 in the amount of \$20,979.77 from the Division of Criminal Justice under the auspices of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Grant Program. The New Jersey State Parole Board (NJSPB) will refer appropriate individuals to the Reentry Substance Abuse Program at Volunteers of America facilities. In addition to RESAP services at VOA, RSAT participants will receive additional screening, assessments and medical care as well as linkages to community health care upon entry into the program and as needed thereafter.

Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant – Notice of grant award received in March 2009 in the amount of \$33,600 to fund the positions of Counselor In Training and Vocational Specialist at the transitional housing program in Perth Amboy, New Jersey to build upon the successful initiation of these services during Year 2 of Byrne Grant funding. The Counselor In Training and Vocational Specialist positions will continue to be responsible for not only monitoring the progress of and providing employment-related assistance to the

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

offenders at the program, but will also assist the offender's supervising Parole Officer in connecting the offender to employment resources and social services providers. The State Parole Board (SPB) is also seeking additional Byrne funding.

**Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative Grant Funding** – The NJSPB is currently collaborating with the Statewide Reentry Coordinator from the Office of the Attorney General concerning the development and submission of a grant application for FY 2009 Second Chance Act funds. Each Second Chance Act grant award provides up to \$750,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The proposal submission deadline is April 20, 2009.

**Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Grant** – The State Parole Board received a \$25,000 grant from the National Institute of Corrections. NJ was one of just three jurisdictions (along with Texas and Federal Bureau of Prisons) selected for this grant. The NJ SPB is New Jersey's lead agency in applying for and securing the grant, and in executing it on behalf of multiple agencies in our State. The grant enables the SPB to train its own employees, and those of other reentry agencies (State, Municipal and Community/Faith-Based) to become Offender Workforce Development Specialists, using federally certified methods to help ex-offenders find sustainable careers. Nationwide research shows that employment is vitally important to crime prevention and to the successful reentry of ex-offenders. SPB's efforts in securing this grant have enabled training for employees of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, New Jersey Department of Corrections, New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission, the Judiciary, Federal Probation, and the community-based providers Kintock, Opportunities for All and Volunteers of America–Delaware Valley. We are planning further training sessions later in the year, funded by this grant, for other agencies.

2. Over the past several years, the overall staffing level in the executive branch has been reduced through restrictions on hiring and an early retirement program. The FY 2010 budget proposal envisions continuation of the hiring restrictions coupled with possible furloughs or further reductions in positions.

- **Question:** How has the reduction in staffing affected the State Parole Board? What strategies has the department employed to deal with staff