

The logo features the word "ARRA" in large, bold, red letters with a green outline, positioned above the word "The Stimulus" in a smaller, green, serif font. A large, stylized green dollar sign (\$) is integrated into the center of the text, with its vertical line passing through the middle of the "A"s and "S".

ARRA The Stimulus

CAP Riverside is responding to and implementing the greatest influx of resources to the Community Action program since its inception in 1964. The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) ("The Stimulus"), President Obama and Congress' response to the worldwide economic crisis, will fund over \$10 billion to Community Action agencies nationwide. The primary purpose of the funds is to create, retain and train for jobs. For example, the President would like to weatherize more than one million homes nationwide, a staggering increase over past funding. As Community Action well knows, weatherization puts energy cost savings right into the pockets of low-income residents, and the new initiative will create many new jobs.

CAP Riverside is slated to receive \$7,639,783 from the US Department of Energy in ARRA funding for weatherization. We are in the process of increasing our weatherization subcontractor pool to meet the increased funding by implementing the following strategies:

- By increasing the number of subcontractors from three (3) to ten (10);
- By contacting various organizations, such as private contractors, Chambers of Commerce, Building Industry Association and Housing and Urban Development;
- By conducting a mass mailing to several prospective small contractors county-wide;
- By maintaining open Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to recruit and establish a contractor list for future contractors.

One exciting new initiative is Green TEAMWorks, a program that will place Foster Youth that have turned 18 and are no longer eligible for the program into weatherization jobs with our subcontractors. In the first three months, the youth will be skills tested, receive financial literacy and job preparation education and take basic weatherization training at CAP San Bernardino's new training center. They will then be matched with a subcontractor, receive tools and begin on-the-job training (OJT). Each will receive an \$8 per hour stipend from CAP Riverside, which will increase to \$8.50 in the fourth month.

Additional training and OJT will continue in months 4-6 and in months 7-9 their stipend will be increased to \$10 per hour, half paid by CAP and half by the subcontractor. At the end of nine months, they will receive a post-test and have a graduation at the Board of Supervisors meeting. The goal is for them to then receive permanent employment, at least one per subcontractor, having been trained and experienced in weatherization and home repair.

CAP Riverside will be receiving \$3.3 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds from the stimulus. We expect to channel these resources into existing and proven programs to meet the job outcomes. As can be imagined, much work is being done in a very short time to implement this large stimulus. New agreements and contracts are being negotiated in a very short timeframe. CAP Riverside operates with the highest standards of accountability, and this funding will have very close national scrutiny. We are prepared and ready for this challenge! Keep watching this website for new stimulus programs as they are announced