

# The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

## Education & Training

### By Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz



On February 13, 2009, Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz (TX-27) joined the majority of the House of Representatives in passing H.R. 1, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. This historic piece of legislation will save and create approximately 3.5 million jobs, stimulate the nation's economy, and transform the economy to promote long-term growth and stability. In Texas, approximately 269,000 jobs will be saved or created as a result of this legislation.

### Educating Our Youth

The goals of this legislation are the same as they have been from day one: to strengthen the economy now and invest in our country's future. An important aspect of that is providing for our country's education system and job training programs. This bill will make key investments to help states avoid teacher layoffs and other damaging education cuts in this recession, help make college more affordable, and make other key education investments. The job training programs included in this bill are employment services for adults as well as youth, grants to states for re-employment services, and the Job Corps. Overall, the agreed upon legislation has allocated **\$105.9 billion** for education and training, with **\$6,045,671,004** going to Texas.

### **Investments in Education and Training include:**

#### Stabilization Fund

The agreement provides **\$53.6 billion** for a state fiscal stabilization fund. Of that total, **\$39.5 billion** would be used to enhance local school budgets. States would be permitted to use funding out of that total for school modernization projects. Texas is estimated to receive **\$ 3,973,437,816** for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. Estimated state grants are based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) data and were determined as follows: 61% based on each state's relative share of the population ages 5-24 and 39% based on each state's relative share of the total population. The governor will determine how much will be allocated to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Education Agency.

#### Pell Grants

The agreement provides **\$15.6 billion** for Pell grants. Under the measure, the (discretionary) maximum Pell grant would increase by \$500, to \$4,860 from \$4,360 for the 2009 through 2010 academic year. When these funds are combined with the "mandatory funding" authorized and appropriated by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act — which increased the maximum award by \$490 — the maximum Pell award would be **\$5,350**.

#### Title I Grants

The agreement provides **\$13 billion** for Title I grants for disadvantaged children programs. Title I grants provide funding in high-poverty areas for programs that provide academic support to poor children who are struggling to meet state education standards. Of this money, Texas should receive **\$944,630,905** in Targeted and Education Incentive Finance Grants for Local Education

Agencies (LEAs) as stated in the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title I-A and **\$285,212,000** for school improvement grants under ESEA, Title I-A. Estimated state grants are based on the sum of the estimated grants that would be made to LEAs in each state with hold harmless applied. A set-aside of 1% (\$100 million) was reserved for the outlying areas and BIA. The remaining funds were split equally between the Targeted Grant formula and the Education Finance Incentive Grant formula. Estimates are based on each state's proportional share of FY2008 grants under ESEA Title I, Parts A, C and D.

### **Disabled Students State Grants**

The measure provides **\$12.2 billion** for grants to states authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which help states to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities. Texas should be receiving **\$ 945,636,328** for IDEA, Part B, sec. 611 (children from 3 years old to 21) and **\$39,418,541** for IDEA, Part C (children from birth to 2 years old). These estimates were prepared using state population and poverty data used in making FY2008 allocations, and preliminary FY2009 state full-funding data provided from the Department of Education.

### **Head Start/Early Start**

The conference agreement provides **\$2.1 billion** for these programs, which provide comprehensive education, health and nutrition, and social/emotional development services for low-income children. Early Start is aimed at infants and toddlers. The House Appropriations Committee estimates that these additional funds would enable approximately 110,000 additional children to be served annually by the programs, "with a particular emphasis on early intervention services to infants and toddlers under Early Head Start." The House committee also estimated that approximately 50,000 jobs would be created for Head Start teachers and staff.

### **School Improvement Programs**

The measure provides **\$720 million** for school improvement programs, including **\$650 million** for the Advancing Education through Technology program. Of this money, Texas should receive **\$ 59,395,748**. Of the \$720 million, **\$70 million** will be set aside for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. Of this Texas should receive **\$ 3,454,000**.

### **College Work-Study**

The agreement provides **\$200 million** for the College Work-Study program, which supports low and moderate-income students who work while at school. Those funds would have to be matched with 25% non-federal funds. Colleges and universities would also be required to use at least 7% of their allocation for payments to students employed in community service activities.

### **Impact Aid Construction**

The measure appropriates **\$100 million** for construction of schools that educate "federally-connected students or have federally-owned land." According to the Education Department, Impact Aid disburses payments to local school jurisdictions that are "financially burdened by federal activities."

### **Job Training Programs**

The measure includes **\$1.2 billion** for youth services, and raises the age of eligibility for such programs to 24. It also appropriates **\$1.3 billion** for states and localities to administer re-employment services to dislocated workers, and **\$500 million** for job training services for adults.

### **Jobs in High Growth Sectors**

The agreement provides **\$750 million** for competitive job training grants for "high growth and emerging industry sectors." Of that total, **\$500 million** would be used for jobs relating to energy efficiency and renewal.

### **State Employment Grants**

The measure provides **\$400 million** for state employment and re-employment service grants, which state employment agencies use to match unemployed residents with appropriate job openings. Half of this appropriation would be designated for expedited re-employment services for unemployment insurance claimants.

### **Job Corps**

The agreement provides **\$250 million** for the Job Corps program, a network of residential facilities that serves at-risk youth. In its report, the House Appropriations Committee notes that the average Job Corps center is 42 years old, and describes some buildings as "unserviceable." These funds would be used for the reconstruction and repair of such facilities, as well as the acquisition of new ones.

### **Community Service Employment for Seniors**

The measure provides **\$120 million** for the Community Service Employment for Older Americans program, which offers grants to nonprofit organizations to subsidize part-time work in community service for low-income seniors.

### **Administrative Funds**

The measure provides **\$80 million** for Labor Department oversight activities to enforce worker protection laws and regulations, as well as to provide resources for the department's "oversight and coordination of activities related economic recovery funding." Under the agreement, funds could be used for administration of the unemployment insurance program.

### **Accountability and Transparency of Taxpayer Investment**

Funds appropriated in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act will be distributed via existing formulas and programs with proven track records when possible. Through various measures, the legislation promotes swift obligation of funds to immediately stimulate the economy, while still ensuring transparency and accountability. Measures are in place so that taxpayers will be able to see exactly how their investment in our nation's economy is being spent at <http://www.recovery.gov/>. Any obligation of funds by a federal, state or local entity and all competitive grants must be posted for the public on this website. There are no earmarks in this bill.

To find out more information concerning infrastructure and science investment in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, please visit <http://ortiz.house.gov/> and <http://www.recovery.gov/>.

**Estimated allocations to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in Texas District 27:**

<b><u>LEA</u></b>	<b><u>Title 1-A</u></b>	<b><u>IDEA Part B</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Agua Dulce ISD	\$ 60,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 126,000
Aransas Pass ISD	\$347,000	\$ 486,000	\$ 833,000
Banquete ISD	\$136,000	\$ 189,000	\$ 326,000
Bishop Consolidated ISD	\$101,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 350,000
Brownsville ISD	\$ 28,094,000	\$ 10,808,000	\$ 38,901,000
Calallen ISD	\$ 288,000	\$ 874,000	\$ 1,162,000
Corpus Christi ISD	\$ 10,689,000	\$ 9,005,000	\$ 19,694,000
Driscoll ISD	\$ 77,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 152,000
Flour Bluff ISD	\$ 485,000	\$ 1,042,000	\$ 1,527,000
Gregory-Portland ISD	\$ 260,000	\$ 866,000	\$ 1,126,000
Harlingen ISD	\$ 6,535,000	\$ 4,221,000	\$ 10,756,000
Ingleside ISD	\$ 150,000	\$ 411,000	\$ 560,000
Kenedy ISD	\$ 198,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 378,000
Kingsville ISD	\$ 1,111,000	\$ 1,001,000	\$ 2,112,000
La Feria ISD	\$ 1,822,000	\$ 736,000	\$ 2,558,000
Lasara ISD	\$ 287,000	\$ 93,000	\$ 379,000
London ISD	\$ 15,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 53,000
Los Fresnos Consolidated ISD	\$ 5,997,000	\$ 1,955,000	\$ 7,953,000
Lyford Consolidated ISD	\$ 628,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 953,000
Port Aransas ISD	\$ 50,000	\$ 101,000	\$ 151,000
Point Isabel ISD	\$ 1,086,000	\$ 639,000	\$ 1,725,000
Ricardo ISD	\$ 147,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 322,000
Raymondville ISD	\$ 1,563,000	\$ 616,000	\$ 2,179,000
Rio Hondo ISD	\$ 1,110,000	\$ 498,000	\$ 1,607,000
Riviera ISD	\$ 83,000	\$ 73,000	\$ 156,000
Robstown ISD	\$ 1,984,000	\$ 966,000	\$ 2,950,000
San Benito Consolidated ISD	\$ 5,840,000	\$ 2,438,000	\$ 8,278,000
San Perlita ISD	\$ 193,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 258,000
Santa Gertrudis ISD	\$ 13,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 31,000
Tuloso-Midway ISD	\$ 368,000	\$ 527,000	\$ 895,000
West Oso ISD	\$ 495,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 945,000

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