



ARRA (STIMULUS) GLOSSARY TERMS

Appropriation – The action of a legislative body that makes funds available for expenditure with specific limitations as to amount, purpose, and duration. In most cases, it permits money previously authorized to be obligated and payments made.

Americorps - [AmeriCorps](#) is a national service program that provides full- and part-time opportunities, called memberships, to serve their communities in the areas of environment, education, human needs, and crime control/public safety. Within these four issue areas, programs may submit proposals for consideration. Americorps is also the umbrella agency for [VISTA](#).

ARRA – An acronym for the [American Reinvestment and Recovery Act](#), the economic stimulus program passed by Congress on February 17, 2009 as US Public Law §111-5.

Award - A legally binding contract for goods and/or services authorized through a purchase order signed by a contracting officer, usually through competitive bidding; or an ARRA allocation to an authorized agency or non-profit based on a federally-mandated formula.

Brownfield Program – The Brownfield Program seeks to develop abandoned, idled or under-used real property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination. Most stimulus Brownfield projects are under the oversight of HUD or the EPA.

Budget Stabilization (SFSF) – [State Fiscal Stabilization Funds](#) (SFSF) are used to shore up [lagging](#) state budgets. There are two categories of SFSF funding available. Education SFSF grants are to be used for pre-K, K-12, and higher education and are distributed by formula from the state to local education agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHE). Government Services SFSF grants are distributed by governors for education (including school modernization), public safety, or other government services.

Business Fund Indicator – The Business Fund Indicator represents the source of funding made available through a legislative action such as American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund awards related to a specific purpose. [USAspending.gov](#), a federal spending reporting site, tracks award obligations using such business indicators separately for transparency and accountability purposes.

Capacity Building – Under ARRA, Capacity Building Grants are included under the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce. They are designed to assist local non-profits in partnership with their local governments in developing appropriate and competitive projects using state CDBG funds of other grant categories.

CDBG – An acronym for the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#).

CFDA – An acronym for the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program, a database maintained by the General Services Administration that classifies all federal programs that provide funding to local government agencies, private institutions, and individuals. Each program is assigned a number and name.

Child Services – Child Services includes the Child Nutrition Fund, which reimburses schools, and residential child care institutions for meals service to children under the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Program. Funds are based on the number of reimbursable meals served. Other [Food Distribution Services](#) include assistance to residential child care and summer camps.

Clean Diesel Program – The Clean Diesel Program is a competitive grant program that supports the creation of national, state or local innovative financial programs in which loan recipients receive a unique financial incentive (i.e., better than regular market rates or conditions) for the purchase of retrofitted vehicles or equipment.

Clean Water Fund – Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, North Carolina will receive an estimated \$285,760 for [Clean Water Act](#) Section 205(j) pass-through projects to Council of Governments. These funds are to support projects that create or preserve jobs, aid innovative, include green infrastructures or water efficiency improvements and are water quality management planning related. These funds cannot be used for implementation of plans, but are just for planning purposes per Section 205(j)(3) of the Clean Water Act. The funds are administered through the Division of Water Quality of the NC Department of Environmental Health & Natural Resources.

CNCS – An acronym for the [Corporation for National & Community Service](#), which was awarded \$201 million in funding from ARRA to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State & National and AmeriCorps VISTA programs by putting approximately 13,000 additional AmeriCorps and VISTA members to work through national service to meet the needs of vulnerable populations and communities during the current economic recession. Funding from the Recovery Act may also be used to provide current grantees with relief from requirements to provide matching funds. The CNCS also received funding to improve its information technology systems.

Commodity Assistance – Commodity Assistance is a child nutrition program that provides school lunches and other subsidies through the stimulus package to low-income or foster children.

Community Development – The [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) is administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce and addresses several areas, including economic development, community revitalization, infrastructure needs, housing development, capacity building, and other needs that are deemed “urgent” by the community.

Community Revitalization – Under ARRA, Community Revitalization grants are included under the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce. Grants are used for revitalization, preservation, or development of residential areas. Eligible activities include housing (acquisition, disposition, clearance, relocation and rehabilitation), street improvements, public water and public sewer.

Community Service Block Grants (CSBG’s) – CSBG’s are funded under ARRA for a variety of anti-poverty activities. Local nonprofits, called Community Action Agencies, administer the CSBG funds within communities. At the federal level, the amount of funding a particular community action agency receives is based on the amount of funding the same agency received in previous years. At the [state level](#), CSBG’s are [administered](#) by the Office of Economic Opportunity, within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Consumer Debt – Refers to debt which is used to fund consumption rather than investment, frequently credit card debt.

Consumer Income – The term "consumer income" is often used synonymously with a country's gross domestic product (GDP). In technical national income account terms, consumer income should more specifically refer to disposable income or household income, which would be approximately 70 percent of GDP.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) – The CPI is a price index that measures the cost of a fixed basket of consumer goods with weights based on consumption shares of urban consumers. It is published by the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS) for the United States.

Creative Workforce – Creative Workforce grants are made to arts organizations with budgets exceeding \$100,000 and at least one full-time staff member. ARRA funds are administered through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), then locally by the [NC Arts Council](#).

Crime Control – Crime Control refers to any ARRA-funded program administered through the Governor’s Crime Commission or the NC Department of Crime Control & Public Safety.

CSBG – An acronym for Community Service Block Grants, which are funded under ARRA for a variety of anti-poverty activities. Local nonprofits, called Community Action Agencies, administer the CSBG funds within communities. At the federal level, the amount of funding a particular community action agency receives is based on the amount of funding the same agency received in previous years. At the [state level](#), CSBG’s are [administered](#) by the Office of Economic Opportunity, within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Data Systems – ARRA allocated \$250 million in [Statewide Data Systems funds](#) for all states, with oversight by the US Department of Education. Funds were to be made available in the fall of 2009 for competitive grant applications. The [programs](#) are designed to enable state education agencies (SEAs) to design, develop, and implement statewide, longitudinal data systems to manage, analyze, disaggregate, and use individual student data.

De-allocation – A reduction in the stimulus amount allocated for a particular project.

Depression – The term “depression” is generally applied to any economic downturn where real GDP declines by more than 10 percent.

De-obligation – ARRA allows agencies to retract (de-obligate) funds for grant awards that demonstrate an insufficient level of performance, or wasteful or fraudulent spending. Funds are then re-allocated to another award applicant.

Direct Jobs – For ARRA reporting purposes, a direct job refers to any job directly supported by ARRA dollars. An example is a road construction worker on a highway project funded by ARRA.

Direct Loans – The term “direct loans” refers to any financial assistance provided through the lending of state or federal funds for a specific period of time, with a reasonable expectation of repayment. Such loans may or may not require the payment of interest.

Drinking Water Fund – The [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) is a program administered by the Public Water Supply section of DENR which provides guidance, technical and financial assistance to units of local government and certain non-profit water corporations, in order to provide safe drinking water in the state of North Carolina. County governments, municipalities/towns, water and sewer authority districts, and others may apply for both state & federal funding, with priority going to failing systems and to systems which fail to meet federal standards for drinking water or sewage disposal, or for areas which are struggling with drought.

Economic Development – Under ARRA, Economic Development grants are included under the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce. Grants are provided to local governments for various types of infrastructure improvements to assist for-profit businesses “create or retain jobs.” Funding for projects is based on the number of jobs to be created and the level of distress in the community applying for the funds.

Economic Stimulus – The term “economic stimulus” refers to the use of fiscal policy – generally in the form of government spending or tax measures – to support or revive an economy in recession. For the purpose of this glossary, terminology applies to funds allocated through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), an economic stimulus program passed by Congress in February 2009. How the various ARRA programs are funded depends on their type (category).

Educational Technology – ARRA funds have been set aside to provide resources to local school districts with the goal of improving student achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools. The fund merges the federal Technology Literacy Challenge Fund & the federal Technology Innovation Challenge grants and are administered through the [US Department of Education](#).

EPA – An acronym for the United States [Environmental Protection Agency](#), which is responsible for administering more than [\\$7 billion in projects & programs under ARRA](#) to spur technological advances in science and health and to invest in environmental protection and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits, with a focus on “greening” ARRA investments.

FAA – An acronym for the [Federal Aviation Administration](#), which received \$1.3 billion in ARRA funding for projects and programs [to protect and promote jobs](#) through construction projects at airports and investments in FAA's air traffic control infrastructure.

FAADS – An acronym for the [Federal Assistance Award Data System](#), one of the current databases maintained by the federal government to report information and data on all types of financial assistance awards made by federal agencies listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (see CFDA). The data includes the type and amount of financial assistance, the type and location of the recipient, and the geographic place of performance.

Federal Assistance – The term “federal assistance” refers to a broad category of federal spending including direct payments to individuals (like Social Security), loans, insurance, and grants.

Federal Department Direct Grants – This terminology refers to ARRA funds which go directly to federal entities, like national parks and military bases, and are not administered by the state.

Food Stamp Program – The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) was created by ARRA to supply additional funding to be used for the purpose of providing additional administrative funds to existing program participants. The program is administered through the Food Distribution section of the US Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Other [Food Distribution Services](#) include assistance to schools (public and private), charitable institutions, soup kitchens, food banks, emergency feeding organizations, and individuals.

Formula Grant – Formula grants are non-discretionary allocations of money to states or their subdivisions in accordance with distribution formulas prescribed by law or administrative regulation, for activities of a continuing nature not confined to a specific project.

Foster Care/Adoption Assistance – Stimulus funds are administered through to provide assistance through the Family Support & Child Welfare Services division of the NC Department of Health & Human Resources and are used for the [Foster Care](#) Program, which provides temporary care for children who have been removed from the home as a result of abuse or neglect, services to help families to strengthen their parenting abilities, individualized services to help children with health, educational, mental health and developmental needs, and services to young adults who are aging out of the foster care system. [Adoption](#) Programs strive to achieve a permanent legal relationship between persons who are not so related by birth.

FTA – An acronym for the [Federal Transit Authority](#), a division of the US Department of Transportation which received \$18.3 billion in ARRA funding for a [wide range](#) of transit projects, including [Transit Investments in Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction \(TIGGER\)](#) and capital investment grants.

Grant - An authorized expenditure to an entity for a defined public or private purpose. This classification of spending comes in two types - "Formula Grants" and "Project Grants" and may require application for funding.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – The value of the total final output produced inside a country during a given year. The GDP equals the Gross National Product (GNP) minus overseas remittances.

Gross National Product (GNP) – The value of all final goods and services produced during a year by the factors of production in a country. The GNP is the sum of expenditures by consumers and governments, gross investment spending, and total merchandise exports minus imports.

GSA – An acronym for the [General Services Administration](#), whose ARRA agenda includes the promotion of initiatives to [increase green construction and reduce dependence on fossil fuels](#) through nationally managed, regionally executed programs. The GSA is also charged with promoting transparency in government projects.

Hazard Mitigation – Funds are awarded through ARRA and administered through the Forest Resources Division of the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources for preparation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), firewise plans, and to conduct fuel reduction treatments on identified high fire risk areas.

Highways & Bridges – Highway and bridge funding flows through the North Carolina Department of Transportation, which puts each project out for competitive bidding. The amount allocated for North Carolina projects is based on a state formula for spending road money.

Homeless Assistance – ARRA funding for [Homeless Assistance Programs](#) provides technical assistance to local communities applying for federal homeless funding; provide technical assistance and support to mayors and county executives engaged in creating local 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness; develop data on cost-benefits of permanent supported housing for homeless people; coordinate efforts by publicly funded systems to reduce post-discharge homelessness; encourage activities to improve employment opportunities for homeless people and homeless persons access to mainstream services and income supports; provide technical assistance to communities on how to conduct homeless point in time surveys; facilitate coordination activities and data-gathering among State agencies. Funds are administered by the Division of Central Management & Support of the NC Department of Health & Human Resources.

Housing Development – Under ARRA, Housing Development grants are included under the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce. Grants focus on the creation of multi-unit rental developments and single-family units, while also providing support for homeownership activities for LMI families. Preference for housing development grants goes to local governments in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, municipalities that have designated state development zones, and 21st Century Communities.

HPRP – An acronym for the [Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Program](#). ARRA allocated \$22 million over three years for North Carolina HPRP grants to assist homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and homeless individuals to obtain housing.

HUD – An acronym for the [US Department of Housing & Urban Development](#). ARRA includes \$13.61 billion for projects & programs administered by HUD, nearly 75 percent of which was allocated to state & local recipients on February 25, 2009, about a week after ARRA was signed into law. HUD says that the fund will create “[tens of thousands](#)” of jobs, modernize homes to make them energy efficient, and help the families & communities hardest hit by the economic crisis.

IDEA – An acronym for the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#), which governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

IDEA Part B – Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B grants are intended to assist states in providing a public education to children with disabilities (ages 3 through 21) in a learning environment free of restraints. Part B grants may include special education and related services to children with disabilities (ages 3-5, as well as 2-year-olds who will turn 3 during the school year).

IDEA Part C – Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C grants are intended to support families in meeting the special needs of their children with disabilities (infants and toddlers from birth to age 3).

Impact Aid – Of the \$100 million allocated by ARRA for [Impact Aid](#) for all states, 40-percent was to have been distributed in the spring of 2009 as formula grants, with the remaining 60-percent designated for competitive grants at a later date. The program is administered by the US Department of Education.

Independent Living – ARRA allocated \$500 million for all states for the [Independent Living Program](#), to be administered through the US Department of Education. While a portion of the money will be distributed as formula grants, the remaining will be subject to competitive bidding. Independent living services available throughout North Carolina include counseling, personal care skills, training in home management, safe travel skills and in-home care. Services for the [blind](#) are provided by social workers. Independent living rehabilitation (ILR) services may be provided in-home or in small community-based classes, and are delivered by Independent Living Rehabilitation Counselors.

Indirect Jobs – For ARRA reporting purposes, indirect jobs are those that support ARRA funded work, but are not directly paid by ARRA dollars. An example is an employee at an asphalt company that supplies asphalt for an ARRA-funded highway project.

Induced Jobs – For ARRA reporting purposes, induced jobs are those created by increased consumer activity. For example, if the construction worker goes to a restaurant more now that he has a job and the restaurant hires a new employee, that employee is an induced job.

Infrastructure – Under ARRA, Infrastructure grants are included under the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce. Grants assist local governments in correcting problems that pose severe health or environment risks, including the installation of public water or sewer lines and improvements to water or sewer treatment plants that have specific problems such as being under moratoriums or special orders of consent.

JAG Program – Justice Assistance Grants are administered by the US Department of Justice [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#). In addition to targeted local grants, states are required to pass-through ARRA [JAG](#) allocations to approved local governments & organizations, including non-profits, for technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, information systems, as well as research & evaluation activities that will improve or enhance law enforcement programs related to criminal justice.

LEA – An acronym for Local Education Agency. ARRA funds have been [awarded to LEA's](#) throughout the state on a formula basis for the purpose of expediting distribution in communities to avert layoffs, create jobs and improve student achievement over the next two years. Other funds allocated for distribution through LEAs will be awarded through a competitive grant process.

Lead Hazard – [Lead Hazard Control Programs](#) funds are awarded through the Environmental Health Services Section of the NC Division of Environmental Health Services under NCDENR with partnership commitments from counties, cities and private organizations for conducting unit evaluations, unit clearances, training sessions and outreach events for those impacted by lead-based paint hazards.

Medicaid (FMAP) – ARRA funding is being used to supplement the existing Medicaid program, a joint federal and state entitlement program created under the Title XIX of the Social Security Act to pay for medical assistance for certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. The program is administered by the [NC Division of Medical](#)

[Assistance](#) (DMA) of the NC Department of Health & Human Services, and is the largest source of health care funding for North Carolina's residents who may not otherwise receive health care coverage. The acronym "FMAP" stands for "Federal Medical Assistance Percentage."

Military Construction – Applies to direct grants to military bases in North Carolina, which are made for the purpose of construction or maintenance of facilities and are administered through the military base receiving the grant.

NAICS – An acronym for the North American Industry Classification System code, a categorization system within contracting data to give a higher level of detail about the type of economic or industrial output being done under a contract. These codes were created jointly by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and are assigned by the federal government according to the NAICS.

NCCVCS – An acronym for the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service, a federal and state-funded agency program administered under the umbrella of the Office of the Governor which administers funding for [North Carolina AmeriCorps programs](#). The NCCVCS received \$891,387 in ARRA funds to expand the capacity of four of its existing AmeriCorps programs for at-risk children and families in need. The [grants](#) are intended to fund positions with responsibilities ranging from translating to tutoring and mentoring to weatherization.

NCDENR – An acronym for the North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources, which is slated to receive approximately \$150 million in ARRA funding for [environmental projects](#) such as drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, local government planning for improving water quality, reduce diesel engine emissions, contaminated site clean up, restoration of beaches and waterways, oyster restoration efforts and improving forest resources.

NCDHHS – An acronym for the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, which administers [ARRA funding](#) will to current [programs](#) including Medicaid/FMAP, weatherization, emergency food and shelter, food stamp (SNAP) administration, immunization, foster care/adoption assistance, elderly nutrition, independent living, older individuals who are blind, child care, community services block grants, vocational rehabilitation, homelessness prevention and service for older Americans.

NCDOA – An acronym for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture

NCDOAd – An acronym for the [North Carolina Department of Administration](#). The [NC Division of Veterans Affairs](#), which is administering ARRA funds for new veterans homes in NC, is part of the NCDOAd.

NCDOC – An acronym for the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#), which oversees the state's Division of Workforce Development programs which have received ARRA funding to [train adults, dislocated workers and youth](#). The NCDOC's Division of Community Assistance is administering the ARRA-funded [Community Development Block Grants](#).

NCDOCr – An acronym for the [North Carolina Department of Crime Control & Public Safety](#) of which the Governor's Crime Commission, which oversees the ARRA funded grants for the federal Justice Assistance Grant Program (known as [Byrne-JAG funding](#)), is a division.

NCDOT – An acronym for the [North Carolina Department of Transportation](#), which will receive and award approximately \$838 million in ARRA funding for [projects](#) (highway and bridge, transit and rail) across the state.

NC DPI – An acronym for the [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction](#), which oversees ARRA funding for NC in the amount of \$295 million for FY08-09 and \$387 million for FY09-10. [Programs](#) receiving ARRA funding include Title I, Title I School Improvement, IDEA Part B, IDEA Part B Preschool, Education Technology, Child Nutrition Equipment, Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) for construction, and Homeless Assistance.

NCESC – An acronym for the [Employment Security Commission of North Carolina](#), which tracks unemployment for the state of North Carolina and administers unemployment compensation benefits. Governor Perdue directed that all [ARRA funded job vacancies](#) be listed with the NCESC; consequently, the NCESC has a process for posting vacancies and accessing NCESC services and customer assistance, and is to ensure that vacancies are promoted and made available to NCESC job seeker customers including Reemployment Services program participants, Dislocated Workers and Military Vets.

NCGCC – An acronym for the Governor's Crime Commission (see NCDOCr). The Governor's Crime Commission is a division of the NCDOCr and has responsibility for the federal Justice Assistance Grants receiving ARRA funding.

NCHFA – An acronym for the [North Carolina Housing Finance Agency](#), a self-supporting public agency that [finances](#) homes and apartments and administers the \$52 million [tax-credit assistance program](#) in NC.

NC Office of Economic Recovery & Investment (OERI) – Operating under the umbrella of the Governor's office, the [OERI](#) office is charged with oversight and reporting of all ARRA spending in the state of North Carolina.

NCSEO – An acronym for the North Carolina State Energy Office, which [oversees](#) the \$58 million designated for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants; \$76 million to improve energy efficiency, promote greater use of renewable energy resources and create more green jobs; and \$132 million in federal weatherization funds to assist low-income homeowners with energy-efficient upgrades. NC is also eligible to apply for \$8.85 million in ARRA funds for Energy Star appliance rebates.

NEA – An acronym for the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), which plans to use ARRA allocations to “fund arts projects and activities that [preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector](#) threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn” through one-time grants to non-profit agencies, state arts agencies, and regional arts organizations.

Negative Numbers – When you see negative dollar amounts in the awards column of the [Capitol Monitor](#) stimulus chart, it means that the amount specified reflects an authorized downward adjustment (or reduction) of a previously recorded commitment to pay. This generally results from the cancellation of a project or contract, a price revision, or corrections of estimates previously recorded as obligations.

Non-Urban Transit – ARRA funding for rural or non-urban transit extends to public transit projects outside of the state’s metropolitan areas.

NPS – An acronym for the [National Parks Service](#), a bureau of the US [Department of the Interior](#) that oversees management & maintenance of 391 areas designated as national parks covering more than 84 million acres throughout the nation. ARRA funds designated for NPS programs include everything from repaving parking lots at park areas to refurbishing park cemeteries.

NSF – An acronym for the [National Science Foundation](#), which states that the \$3 billion allocated to the agency under ARRA will “have an [immediate impact](#) on investigators, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students, and teachers throughout the nation,” by providing funding for a wide range of research projects throughout the country.

OERI – An acronym for the [North Carolina Office of Recovery & Reinvestment](#), the state agency charged with oversight of ARRA spending in North Carolina. OERI operates under the umbrella of the Office of the Governor.

Office of Governor – Oversees the [North Carolina Office of Recovery & Reinvestment](#), the state organization charged with oversight of ARRA spending in the state.

PELL Grants – The federal [PELL Grant](#) program is [administered](#) through the US Department of Education and provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post-graduate students to give them access to postsecondary education. Grants depend on each student’s expected family contribution, the cost of attendance, the student’s enrollment status, and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less. Financial need is determined by the US Dept of Education using a standard [formula](#). The maximum PELL award for all eligible students has been [increased](#) from \$4,850 to \$5,550.

Project Grants – Project grants can include fellowships, scholarships, research grants, training grants, traineeships, experimental and demonstration grants, evaluation grants, planning grants, technical assistance grants, survey grants, and construction grants and are awarded for fixed periods for specific ARRA-approved projects.

Public Housing Funds – The US Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded formula-based [Public Housing Capital grants](#) with ARRA funds for job creation, to transform distressed public housing, to address the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities, and to improve energy efficiency and environmental performance of public housing.

Rail/Mass Transit – Over \$48 billion in ARRA funds are slated for investment in transportation infrastructure in North Carolina, including \$8.4 billion for transit capital improvements and flexible funding transferred from highway program allocations and discretionary allocations. As a [part of the USDOT](#), the FTA oversees [ARRA-funded](#) transit awards for [public transportation systems](#) such as buses, [light rail](#), commuter rail, and passenger ferry boats.

Recession – The term “recession” is generally applied to a decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for two or more consecutive quarters.

Research Support – Includes ARRA funding for programs like the [Trans-NSF Recovery Act Research Support](#) and other research-oriented projects.

RFI – An acronym for “Request for Information,” typically a fact gathering process prior to spending for information about goods, services or qualified vendors.

RFP – An acronym for “Request for Proposal,” typically used to refer to a solicitation of bids for the procurement of goods or professional services by the state or federal government.

RRB – An acronym for the federal [Railroad Retirement Board](#) (see USRRB).

Section 8 Housing – ARRA allocated \$250 million for the HUD-administered Section 8 Housing (project housing) Assistance Payments Program for grants or loans for energy retrofit and green investments in such assisted housing.

Senior Services – The Senior Services category includes services for older individuals who are blind, which assists states in providing support services for persons age 55 or older whose severe visual impairment makes competitive employment difficult to obtain, but for whom independent-living goals are desirable and reachable.

SFSF – An acronym for State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, the ARRA allocations which are used to shore up state budgets.

Small Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance – Under ARRA, Small Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance grants are included under the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce. Grants are designed to assist local governments that are already in the process of developing a coordinated effort to support and grow their community's small businesses. The local government identifies small businesses which are ready, but without funding, to hire additional full-time people.

Specified Use – The term “specified use” refers to financial assistance from the federal government that is provided directly to individuals, private firms, and other private institutions to encourage or subsidize a particular activity by conditioning the receipt of the assistance on a particular performance by the recipient. This does not include solicited contracts for the procurement of goods and services for the federal government.

SSA – An acronym for the Social Security Administration

State Data Systems – See Data Systems

State Fiscal Stabilization Funds – [State Fiscal Stabilization Funds](#) (SFSF) are used to shore up [lagging](#) state budgets. There are two categories of SFSF funding available. Education SFSF grants are to be used for pre-K, K-12, and higher education and are distributed by formula from the state to local education agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHE). Government Services SFSF grants are distributed by governors for education (including school modernization), public safety, or other government services.

Teacher Enhancement – ARRA allocated \$1 million in [Teacher Quality Enhancement](#) funds for all states, with oversight by the US Department of Education. Funds were to be made available in the fall of 2009, based on competitive grant applications. The program seeks to promote statewide teacher preparation reform activities through the linkage of K-12 and higher education institutions; focus on improving content knowledge, teaching, methods, and technology preparation; enhancing clinical experiences; mentoring new teachers; recruiting teachers for high-need schools; encouraging meaningful teacher accountability; and providing professional development activities.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/heatqp/index.html>

Teacher Incentive Program – ARRA allocated \$2 million in [Teacher Incentive](#) funds for all states, with oversight by the US Department of Education. Funds were to be made available in the fall of 2009 for competitive grants.

Title 1 School Improvement – ARRA allocated \$3 billion in [Title 1 School Improvement](#) funds for all states, with oversight by the US Department of Education. States were asked to submit applications for the competitive grants, which were to be made available in the fall of 2009, “conditioned upon receipt of further information that will be outlined in future guidance.”

Title 1/IDEA Grant – Federal [Title 1/IDEA grants](#) provide assets to local school districts as dictated in 2001’s No Child Left Behind Act by aiding low-achieving students in high-poverty schools to improve teaching and learning to help a state’s K-12 schools to meet national academic standards. IDEA funds aim to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youths with disabilities. The grants are administered through the US Department of Education by Local Educational Agencies (LEA’s).

Trade Adjustment – Targeted toward workers whose jobs have been outsourced, the Trade Adjustment Assistance program is administered by the US Department of Labor and is intended to help workers gain skills and support needed to become re-employed.

Unemployment Insurance – Under ARRA, states which relax unemployment insurance rules may receive additional funds to allow for extended assistance to provide temporary income for the unemployed.

Unrestricted Use – The term “unrestricted use” refers to financial assistance from the state or federal government which is provided directly to beneficiaries who satisfy eligibility requirements with no restrictions being imposed on the recipient as to how the money is spent. Included are payments under retirement, pension, and compensatory programs.

Urban Transit – ARRA funding for urban transit extends to public transit projects in the state’s metropolitan areas.

Urgent Needs – Under ARRA, Urgent Needs grants are included under the [Community Development Block Grants Program](#) administered by the Division of Community Assistance of the NC Department of Commerce. Grants provide funds to help communities recover from needs that have arisen during the preceding 18-month period that pose an imminent threat to the health or safety of the community where no other funds are available.

USACE – An acronym for the [United States Army Corps of Engineers](#), a division of the Department of Defense which is responsible for investigating, developing and maintaining the nation's water and related environmental resources. [ARRA funds administered through the USACE](#) include dredging, ecosystems restoration, and other projects to maintain lands & waterways under their jurisdiction in North Carolina.

USDA – An acronym for the [United States Department of Agriculture](#), which is charged with administering \$28 billion in ARRA funds for a “[host of guaranteed loan programs](#)” to ensure that farmers contribute to local economies, take steps to build and preserve critical infrastructure in communities across America and implement new resource conservation measures.

USDHHS – An acronym for the [United States Department of Health & Human Services](#) oversees [ARRA funds targeted toward health & wellness programs](#), developing health care information technology, scientific research, and other programs geared to improve and preserve health care. Most of the funding goes to state agencies, which then distribute funds through grants, contracts, subsidies, and loan programs within the state.

USDHS – An acronym for the [United States Department of Homeland Security](#), which is [using ARRA funds](#) for US Customs & Immigration Control, checkpoint security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other programs targeted toward improving the nation’s security.

USDOC – An acronym for the [United States Department of Commerce](#), an agency which received \$7.9 billion “[to create and save jobs for American workers](#)” through funding for business development, innovative research, construction projects, expanding broadband services and other programs that will create jobs in a broad range of occupations and industries.

USDOD – An acronym for the United States Department of Defense. As listed here, USDoD grants include those to the Dept. of the Army, Dept. of the Air Force, Dept. of the Navy, the civil Corps of Engineers, and the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home.

USDOEd – An acronym for the [United States Department of Education](#), which oversees a number of [education programs funded under ARRA](#), including the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation, the Teacher Incentive Fund, State Longitudinal Data Systems, Title I School Improvement Grants, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Parts B and C, and more.

USDOEn – An acronym for the [United States Department of Energy](#) which received [\\$36.7 billion in ARRA funding](#) for programs to increase energy efficiency, clean up cold war nuclear sites, loan guarantees for renewable energy, smartgrid technology, carbon capture & storage, and scientific research.

USDOI – An acronym for the [United States Department of the Interior](#), which received \$48.7 billion in ARRA funding for projects in North Carolina “[put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges](#)” through the National Parks Service, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the US Geological Survey, and Indian Affairs.

USDOJ – An acronym for the [United States Department of Justice](#) received more than [\\$4 billion in ARRA funds](#) for programs through its Office of Justice Programs, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, the Office on Violence Against Women, and to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, all of which operate under the USDOJ umbrella.

USDOL – An acronym for the [United States Department of Labor](#), which is charged with using [ARRA funding](#) for worker training and to ease the burden of the recession on workers and employers by providing extended and expanded unemployment benefits and assisting and educating them regarding expanded access to continued health benefits. Most of the money from the Department of Labor that [has come to North Carolina](#) is being used for Job Corps funding.

USDOT – An acronym for the [United States Department of Transportation](#), which uses ARRA funds to “[deliver jobs and restore our nation's economy](#)” by emphasizing sustainable investment and focusing its policies on the people,

businesses & communities who use the transportation systems. The USDOT hopes to expand transit capacity & modernize transit systems; invest in jobs to allow Amtrak to add and modernize cars & engines and upgrade its tracks; expand airport capacity; and make safety improvements to roads, highways, bridges & ports; and invest in jobs to launch high-speed rail in America.

USDVA – An acronym for the [United States Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) received [\\$1,408,200,000 in ARRA funding](#) to improve its medical facilities & national cemeteries; provide grants to assist states in acquiring, constructing, or remodeling nursing home & domiciliary facilities for veterans; hire and train temporary claims processors; pursue information technology initiatives; administer one-time payments of \$250 to eligible veterans and their survivors or dependents; and to oversee & audit other programs, grants, & projects funded under ARRA. ARRA also provided for an additional \$700 million for one-time \$250 economic recovery payments.

USRRB – An acronym for the [United States Railroad Retirement Board](#). [ARRA allocated a one-time economic recovery payment](#) of \$250 to be paid to most adults (including disabled adult children) who receive railroad retirement benefits.

USTREAS – An acronym for the [United States Department of Treasury](#), which administers nine programs with ARRA funding that “[will deliver an estimated \\$150 billion of direct relief to Americans and their families](#),” including programs involving Economic Recovery Act payments, Community Development Financial Institutions, a New Markets tax credit, the administration of a Health Insurance Tax Credit, Native American CDFI Assistance, tax provision oversight, new Energy Grants (in lieu of tax credits), new Low Income Housing Grants (in lieu of tax credits), and tax relief programs.

VISTA – An acronym for the [Volunteers in Service to America](#), a program of [Americorps](#).

Vocational Education – ARRA funding for these programs are intended to serve those most impacted by the economic crisis through the [spending of resources](#) to move adults and youth toward education and training, by aiding in the creation of summer youth jobs, and by connecting the human resource to the labor market, all through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which supplements PY2008 WIA Title I for Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Workers. The formula grants are administered by the Division of Workforce Development of the NC Department of Commerce. Other vocational education grants include [vocational rehabilitation programs](#) for persons with other physical disabilities, as well as vocational and technical re-training programs for the un-and-underemployed.

Weatherization – The [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) provides funds to local operators to perform energy efficiency measures, including air sealing; attic, wall and floor insulation; and measures that improve health and safety, in the homes of low-income families. Sub-recipients are required by federal rules to be local community action agencies or other nonprofit agencies and local governments who have a demonstrated ability to provide weatherization services. The program is administered by the Central Management & Support division of the NC Department of Health & Human Services.

Work Study – ARRA allocated \$200 million in [Work Study Program](#) funds for all states, with oversight by the US Department of Education. Funds were to be made available beginning July 1, 2009 for part-time jobs paying at least the minimum wage for undergraduate and graduate students with financial needs to encourage community service work and work related to the course of study. [Students can work](#) on campus, for private nonprofits, or for public agencies and the work is to be in the public interest.