Preface

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The stated purpose of the ARRA is:

> *(1) To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery.*
> *(2) To assist those most impacted by the recession.*
> *(3) To provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health.*
> *(4) To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.*
> *(5) To stabilize State and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.*

The ARRA funds investments in many programs, including health care, energy, infrastructure, education, and public safety. The total cost of the package is $828 billion, and consists of nearly $396 billion for upgrades to transportation, infrastructure, construction, health care programs, education and housing assistance, and energy efficiency projects, $144 billion in state and local fiscal relief, and $288 billion in personal and business tax credits.

Unprecedented accountability and transparency requirements are also included in the ARRA. To meet these requirements, the government has set up a website (http://www.recovery.gov) that will list each recipient of funds and project details.

The State of North Carolina has also set up a website to meet ARRA transparency and accountability requirements: **www.ncrecovery.gov**

North Carolina municipalities have expressed great interest in the ARRA and the funding it offers. The North Carolina League of Municipalities has compiled* and consolidated this "Guide" to assist municipalities in their pursuit for funding. There will be regular updates made available on the League's website at www.nclm.org/stimulus as more information becomes available.

*****Special thanks to the League of California Cities for the initial research for this guide.*