

# Nebraska Department of Education

301 Centennial Mall South • P.O. Box 94987 • Lincoln, Nebraska • 68509 • 402-471-2295

## Ideas for Using ARRA Funds

As you are looking for ideas for using ARRA funds remember that it is reform focused. In anticipation of how to best spend these funds, consideration should be given to the following questions (Source: Using ARRA Funds to Drive School Reform and Improvement, April 24, 2009, USDOE).

1. Does it drive results for students (improved results for students, including students in poverty, students with disabilities, and English language learners)?
2. Does it increase capacity (increase educators' long-term capacity to improve results for students)?
3. Does it avoid the funding cliff and improve productivity (avoid recurring costs that school systems are unprepared to assume when this funding ends)?
4. Does it foster continuous improvement (include approaches to measure and track implementation and results)?
5. Is it educationally appropriate (fixing a leaky roof is a necessity but other projects are judgement calls; idea is to make both school buildings and students high performing)?
6. Is it neighborhood friendly (what is the impact on the surroundings)?
7. Is it environmentally sound (energy efficiency should be a high priority for every project)?
8. What is the long-term impact (some schools need major short-term repairs just to keep functioning)?

### RESOURCES

The following resources are intended to spark ideas about how districts might use funds available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Note: In Nebraska State Fiscal Funds (SFSF) cannot be used for construction, modernization, renovation public school facilities.

- USDOE: Ideas from the Field on Using ARRA Funds
- USDOE: Using ARRA Funds to Drive School Reform and Improvement
- Smart Options: Investing the Recovery Funds for Student Success, Coalition for Student Achievement
- Learning Point Associates
- National Staff Development Council