

NYS STIMULUS OVERSIGHT WORKING GROUP

THE PUBLIC MUST BE PART OF THE PROCESS!

- **NEW YORK WILL GET AT LEAST \$24.6 BILLION – TO BE SPENT BY THE STATE AND MUNICIPALITIES**
 - \$14 billion in state fiscal relief
 - \$4.4 billion in health and human services
 - \$4 billion in infrastructure and energy
 - \$2.1 billion in education
 - \$107 million in public safety funding

- **THE GOVERNOR, STATE SENATORS & CONGRESS MEMBERS ARE TALKING - WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE?**
 - The Governor, State Senate, and members of Congress have been holding discussions with the public through the late-winter and early-spring – THAT'S GOOD.
 - **BUT, all info about grants, contracts and funding should be posted on the NYS Economic Recovery website and outreach efforts should continue and broaden.**

See the New York State Stimulus Oversight Working Group's
COMMON PRINCIPLES FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
WWW.COMMONCAUSE.ORG/NY/STIMULUS

- **WHAT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW**
 - This money is meant to be spent *FAST* - in the next 24 months - so tracking it is **ESSENTIAL** to be sure that it's used:
 - **ETHICALLY AND HONESTLY**
 - **EFFECTIVELY AND FAIRLY**
 - Track every penny from the U.S. Treasury all the way down to the state and local level, including details about every level of sub-grantee and sub-contractor
 - Tell us what's being gained – jobs created or saved, wages paid, programs saved or established – and other intended benefits, such as energy costs saved, **so WE CAN CHECK IT!** New York, follow the Common Principles for Transparency and Accountability!

- **WHAT THE MONEY IS MEANT TO DO**
 - Go to individuals and communities that are most likely to re-circulate the money in their communities and our economy – that means **get more bang for the buck!**
 - Address **clearly identified public needs**
 - **Do double-duty**, if possible – environmental protection *and* job creation, for instance
 - Help existing programs be **more efficient** and achieve their **long-term policy goals**

Visit the State's recovery website at: EconomicRecovery.NY.gov



Visit the City's recovery website at: nyc.gov/StimulusTracker



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TAXPAYERS RIGHT TO KNOW

Federal standards under the stimulus plan require new levels of disclosure, but don't go nearly far enough. The *New York State Stimulus Oversight Working Group* has crafted a Taxpayers Right to Know, which would ensure that New Yorker's can track stimulus-related investments all the way from the U.S. Treasury right on down to how it is being spent in their own community.

Under the Taxpayers Right to Know, New York's accountability standards would go beyond the federal standards and require reporting at the time an award is made to include:

- The expected impact of the stimulus project funded, including the rationale for its inclusion in the stimulus program, with an emphasis on employment and wages, economic growth and other economic indicators;
- Whether the funds represent new allocations, which are additional to monies already budgeted, or are replacing funds cut due to budget shortfalls.
- Other intended benefits of federal stimulus appropriations, such as energy efficiency improvements, avoided carbon dioxide emissions, and students' academic progress, for example;
- The written contracts, agreements or Memoranda of Agreement by which money is paid out; and,
- For each agency that receives or administers stimulus funds, the identity and contact information of the individual designated as its primary coordinator for recovery-related efforts.

Under the Taxpayers Right to Know, bi-monthly reports on stimulus-related investments would be uniform in nature and mandatory from all recipients of stimulus-related funds, *including all levels of sub-contractors*. The reports would be provided on a regular schedule for prompt internet posting and include an itemized description of:

- The total amount of the individual stimulus investment that is the subject of the report and the amount spent or committed by the reporter to date;
- The number of jobs created or retained and the wages paid for those jobs;
- The status of the 'other intended benefits' outline in the fourth bullet point above;
- Whether the investment is on track to meet the established metrics for success; and,
- Verifiable information as to what economic projections and goals have been realized once the total stimulus funding provided for each contract, program or allocation has been spent.

What is the NYS Stimulus Oversight Working Group? Members of the NYS Stimulus Oversight Working Group represent many different viewpoints. We do not necessarily agree on how the stimulus money should be spent or if it is the "correct" size. Members do, however, share Common Principles for Transparency and Accountability that amount to a 'Taxpayer's Right to Know.'

MEMBER OF THE NYS STIMULUS OVERSIGHT WORKING GROUP: Alliance for Quality Education || Campaign For Fiscal Equity || Citizens Budget Commission || Citizens Union of the City of New York || Common Cause/New York || Community Service Society || Concerned Citizens of Greenwood Hts. || Consumers Union || Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn || Drum Major Institute || Empire State Consumer Project || Environmental Advocates of New York || Fiscal Policy Institute || Good Jobs New York || NEDAP || New York Jobs With Justice || New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness || NYC AIDS Housing Network || NYPIRG/Straphangers Union || People's Production House || Pratt Center for Community Development || Queens Civic Congress || Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter || Tracking Change Wiki || Tri-State Transportation Campaign || Urban Alliance || Urban Justice Center (As of 3/23/09; list in formation)

To learn more about the Stimulus Oversight Working Group, contact Chris Keeley at Common Cause/New York at 212-691-6421 or ckeeley@commoncause.org.