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## Senator Wright-Jones Points to Federal Grant Opportunities

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JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Robin Wright-Jones, D-St. Louis, is encouraging non-profit organizations and service groups to closely watch for federal funding opportunities made available as part of the federal government’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by the president last month. Many recovery-related grant opportunity timelines are narrow and require swift application action.

“Federal stimulus money is already flowing to all parts of the country,” Sen. Wright-Jones said. “If groups and organizations in the 5<sup>th</sup> Senate District community don’t fully capitalize on these newly-available grant opportunities, communities in other parts of the state and the nation surely will.”

Sen. Wright-Jones noted that groups with potentially grant-eligible projects should closely look at terms and definitions associated with a grant. Some projects presented in grant applications are required to be “shovel-ready,” a term essentially meaning they must be ready to be started in a matter of months, or even weeks.

Federal stimulus fund grants are available in a number of areas, including clean water and other environmental efforts, social services, health services, energy efficiency, education, nutrition, broadband communication, and USDA grants for agriculture. Agencies distributing federal recovery grants include at least 25 national departments and organizations.

More information on possible federal funding is online at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), where a list of Recovery Act opportunities is available. For more information on the planned timeline for the legislation or full text of the federal stimulus bill, visit [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

On a taxpayer accountability note, Missouri State Auditor Susan Montee has launched a website ([http://auditor.mo.gov/fedstim/federal\\_stimulus.htm](http://auditor.mo.gov/fedstim/federal_stimulus.htm)) to easily track federal stimulus money as it flows from Washington through Missouri. Site visitors can subscribe to E-mail alerts, which will notify in real-time when stimulus funds have been received and distributed.

“As important as federal stimulus money is to the recovery of the economy, transparency is equally vital to the process,” Sen. Wright-Jones. “The recovery act is funded by taxpayer dollars and the act’s funding process needs to be easily accessible to taxpayers.”

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