



Eric Schmitt
15th Senate District
Capitol Building, Room 334
Jefferson City, MO 65101

MISSOURI SENATE
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Contact: (573) 751-2853

Sen. Eric Schmitt Encourages Local Communities to Watch for Federal Stimulus Funds Opportunities

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, today urged local governments and non-profit organizations to be aware of federal stimulus funding opportunities resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Some confusion has resulted because the act sets up the allocation of funds to local organizations through a variety of federal agencies.

“From social services to infrastructure improvements, there are many grant opportunities available that local communities have the opportunity to utilize,” said Sen. Schmitt. “I would hate for local agencies and community leaders to miss out on a valuable funding opportunity because of short deadlines or confusion about application procedures.”

Groups interested in funding need to closely look at any terms or definitions associated with any grant. Some projects for example, require 50 percent of funds to be used as early as June. In addition, community leaders need to pay close attention to deadlines and application periods. Some deadlines are especially tight while other funding opportunities will be available until funds are depleted.

“Local governments can also benefit from coordinating local activities while pursuing these one-time grants,” said Sen. Schmitt. “I am encouraging communities in St. Louis County to work together in order to make sure our area gets the full benefit from this federal legislation.”

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.

Entities seeking information on the federal stimulus plan can visit www.recovery.gov. Specific grant funding opportunities are listed at www.grants.mo.gov. For a listing of how federal stimulus money is allocated to Missouri state government agencies, visit www.auditor.mo.gov.

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