

Stimulus Accelerator Program Helps Companies Seize ARRA Opportunities

What's at stake with ARRA funding programs?

In the face of a global economic crisis, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) represents a strategic—and significant—investment in America's future. Programs under ARRA and other federal initiatives seek to create more than 3 million jobs, modernize the nation's health care industry, improve schools and infrastructure, and invest in clean energy technologies of the future.

Among the provisions relating to the renewable energy and biofuels industries in the ARRA are:

- **\$480 million for integrated pilot- and demonstration-scale biorefineries.** These projects will work to validate integrated biorefinery technologies that produce advanced biofuels, bioproducts, and heat and power in an integrated system, enabling private financing of commercial-scale replications. These integrated biorefineries will reduce dependence on petroleum-based transportation fuels and chemicals and facilitate the development of an "advanced biofuels" industry to meet the federal Renewable Fuel Standards.
- **\$176.5 million for commercial-scale biorefinery projects.** These funds increase the federal funding ceiling on two or more demonstration- or commercial-scale biorefinery projects that were selected and awarded within the last two years. The goal of these efforts is to reduce the risk of the development and deployment of these first-of-a-kind operations.
- **\$110 million for fundamental research in key program areas.** The Biomass Program plans to use these funds in key program areas to:
 - Expand the resources available for sustainability research through the Office of Science Bioenergy Research Centers and establish a userfacility/small-scale integrated pilot plant (\$25 million)
 - Create an advanced research consortium to develop technologies and facilitate subsequent demonstration of infrastructure-compatible biofuels through a competitive solicitation (\$35 million)
 - Create an algal biofuels consortium to accelerate demonstration of algal biofuels through a competitive solicitation (\$50 million)
- **\$20 million for ethanol research.** The Biomass Program is planning to use this additional funding in a competitive solicitation to:
 - Optimize flex-fuel vehicles operating on high octane E85 fuel (an 85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline blend)
 - Evaluate the impact of higher ethanol blends in conventional vehicles
 - Upgrade existing refueling infrastructure to be compatible with fuels up to E85

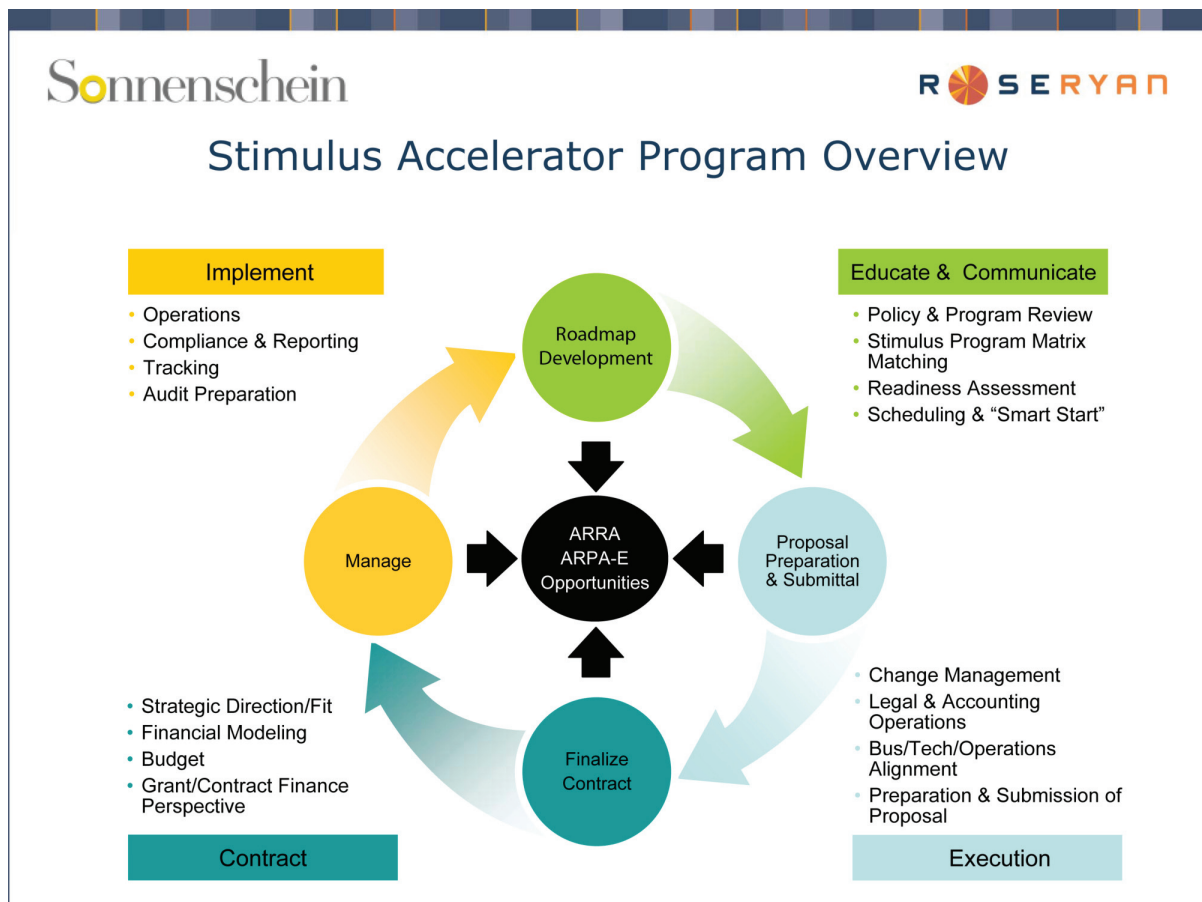
How to Apply for ARRA Funds


While some of the ARRA programs listed above are already open for application, most have yet to be formally implemented. However, now is the time to prepare for these millions of government dollars, and interested companies should start readying themselves for Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs).

Before submitting a proposal under an FOA, companies must take a series of steps to register with the federal government. And, after receiving funding, many companies will need to put in place internal compliance strategies. Fortunately, many life science, biotechnology, green building and biofuels companies have experience in this area.

The Stimulus Accelerator Program by Sonnenschein and RoseRyan

Because so many companies need legal and public policy assistance as well as financial expertise to navigate the complex provisions of ARRA funding, Sonnenschein and RoseRyan have collaborated to develop a Stimulus Accelerator Program. The program aims to help companies accelerate the process of evaluating and applying for ARRA benefits.





National law firm Sonnenschein brings its 800 attorneys and policy professionals to the project, while RoseRyan, a finance and accounting consultancy headquartered in Newark, California, contributes senior-level finance expertise.

Together, the two organizations help interested businesses do everything from analyzing ARRA opportunities as they become available, to creating and submitting grant and loan guarantee proposals, to the implementing the necessary compliance programs needed to accurately track the use of ARRA funds.

Key components of the Stimulus Accelerator Program include detailed education and communication, ensuring companies stay on top of government policy and apply for programs that fit with their strategic business plans; assistance with FOA application preparation and submissions; operational support including budgeting, financial modeling and compliance with contracts; and oversight of ARRA fund management and audit preparation.

The combined elements of this program help ensure that companies strategically utilize ARRA benefits to expand their business, develop stronger partnerships and diversify their revenue streams.

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