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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding

Montana Board of Crime Control funding across the state

From Miles City to Missoula and from Plains to Poplar, dozens of programs and agencies dedicated to fighting crime and helping victims are benefiting from millions of dollars in federal grants.

The Montana Board of Crime Control has approved nearly \$4 million in federal funding to local and state governments, law enforcement and community organizations designed to provide additional resources for addressing crime problems and providing criminal justice services.

The funding comes from the federal stimulus legislation known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and was provided through the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs through formula and competitive grant procedures.

The board approved 60 grants to 46 agencies and organizations. The money will be used to finance drug treatment courts; regional drug task forces; community services for youth; records management; law officer training; equipment purchases for law enforcement; crime victims services, including domestic violence shelters; and legal assistance programs.

Twelve sheriff's offices, 11 police departments, four counties, three cities, four state agencies, one American Indian tribe and 11 community groups began receiving the money in July and October. Funding for most of the projects will continue through mid-2010, although some will continue through April 2011.

"This funding supplies critical tools for Montana communities and their law enforcement agencies to make headway in tackling some of the most serious crime we have, from illegal drug manufacture and sale to violence against family members," said Roland Mena, executive director for the Board of Crime Control. "We're proud to be part this process."

"These grant dollars are not only keeping our citizens safe, they are helping to prevent crime here in Montana. They are also creating jobs and helping smaller communities in rural Montana to get some of the most basic safety equipment for our law enforcement officers," said Mike Anderson, Chair of the Board of Crime Control. "The board has worked very hard to meet the needs of the people of Montana in as timely a way as they could. I'm proud of the hard work and time that the Board has put in to get these funds out to the people of our great State."

The largest portion of the funding – \$2.2 million – was through the Justice Assistance Program, which allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and

control crime and improve the criminal justice system. The procedure for allocating JAG grants is based on a formula of population and violent crime statistics in combination with a minimum allocation to ensure each state and territory receives an appropriate share of funding. About \$1.4 million went to seven drug task forces.

About \$826,000 in grants is provided through the STOP Violence Against Women Act program and another \$536,000 through the Victims of Crime Act program. The former is intended to promote a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violence against women. The latter provides direct assistance to victims of crime as soon as possible after the crime occurs in order to reduce the severity of the consequences of victimization, to improve the victim's willingness to cooperate with the criminal justice process, and to restore the victim's faith in the criminal justice system.

More information on the grants can be found at the following Web site:
<http://mbcc.mt.gov/ARRA/Awards/MBCCRecoveryActProjects.pdf>