

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant

Eagle Pass Independent School District was recently awarded an emergency grant award under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's (ARRA) Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Program in the amount of \$1,225,400 to support the addition of an instructional wing to replace portable classrooms beyond repair at Ray H. Darr Elementary School.

The Eagle Pass Independent School District project located at Ray H. Darr Elementary will include the addition of an instructional wing to include the construction of eight instructional classrooms; a computer lab and restroom facilities. This construction project shall be completed no later than July 2011.

Use of Funds: Impact Aid Construction: Competitive Grants

* Awards must be used for construction activities, including the preparation of drawings and specifications for school facilities; erecting, building, acquiring, altering, remodeling, repairing or extending school facilities; and inspecting and supervising the construction of school facilities.

* Funds may only be used for the construction activities described in the approved application.

Accountability Principles

* As with all Federal funds, States and LEAs are responsible for ensuring that the Impact Aid ARRA funds are used in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

* The President and Congress are committed to spending ARRA dollars with an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability. Therefore, LEAs that receive Impact Aid ARRA funds should expect to report on how those funds were spent and the results of those expenditures. The administration will post reports on ARRA expenditures on the Recovery.gov website.

* LEAs will be asked to report these expenditures separately from those made under other Impact Aid construction grants and to estimate the number of jobs preserved or created.

* Recipients will need to maintain accurate documentation of all ARRA expenditures to ensure that the data reported are accurate, complete and reliable.

* The Department reminds all recipients of ARRA funding that they must promptly refer to the Department's Office of Inspector General any credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, contractor, sub-grantee, or subcontractor has committed a violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 U.S.C., or a violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. 3729-33). Also, significant new whistleblower protections are provided for ARRA funding. The Department's OIG may be contacted at 1-800-MIS-USED or oig.hotline@ed.gov .