



Indian Health Services: Sanitation Facilities Construction Program

The Recovery Act (ARRA) funds will be used to construct essential sanitation facilities including water supply, sewage, and solid waste disposal facilities to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) homes and communities. Funds are distributed to the 12 IHS Areas (IHS regional organizational level) based on relative need considering both the dollar amount of sanitation need and the sanitation need measured in the number of homes lacking facilities. The projects within each Area are prioritized to serve existing homes, based on an established formula that considers, among other factors, health impact, cost effectiveness, and ability to expeditiously complete the projects. Projects will be executed using a combination of Public Law (P.L.) 86-121 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) utilizing federal construction contracts, tribal procurement or tribal construction and Indian self-determination (P.L. 93-638) construction project agreements. Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) projects can be managed by the IHS directly (Direct Service) or they can be managed by Tribes that elect to use Title I or Title V authorization under P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The overall SFC goals, eligibility criteria, and project funding priorities remain the same, regardless of the delivery methods chosen by a Tribe. The IHS will use up to \$1 million of the funds for administrative costs, finance activities, and transparency reporting required by the Recovery Act.

A. Funding Table

(Dollars in Millions)

	Total Appropriated	Planned Obligations FY 2009	Planned Obligations FY 2010
Construct essential sanitation facilities, including water supply, sewage, and solid waste disposal to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) homes and communities	\$67.0	\$51.0	\$16.0
Administration	1.0	0.3	0.7
Total	68.0	51.3	16.7

B. Objectives

As of the end of fiscal year (FY) 2008, there were about 220,000 AI/AN homes in need of sanitation facilities, including nearly 35,000 AI/AN homes without potable water. As of April 24, 2009, the total cost of sanitation facilities needs for existing Indian homes totaled almost \$3 billion. Safe drinking water supplies and adequate waste disposal facilities are essential preconditions for most health promotion and disease prevention efforts, as well as being a major factor in the quality of life of Indian people. The SFC Program is a preventative health program that yields positive benefits in excess of the program costs. The Recovery Act funding will be used for sanitation facilities construction projects that accomplish IHS objectives including:



- Developing public health infrastructure with Tribes to support AI/AN communities mediate sub-standard conditions and upgrade to modern fire-life safety standards,
- Preventing the spread of infectious diseases,
- Protecting the public against injuries and environmental threats, and
- Providing economic stimulus and jobs.

C. Activities

Projects by Categories

Category	# of Projects	Cost (\$)*
Sanitation Facilities Projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provisions of water supplies; • sewage disposal facilities; • development of solid waste treatment sites; • provision of technical assistance to Indian water and sewer utility organizations. 	169	67,000,000

D. Characteristics

Types of Recipients

Sanitation Facilities Construction Projects by Recipient Type

Recipient Type	# of Projects	Cost (\$)
Tribal governments and/or Tribal Organizations	169	67,000,000

Types of Financial Awards

- Public Law (P.L.) 86-121 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) -- estimated funding: \$60 million. Approximately 10% will be funded through Buy-Indian or Commercial Contracts
- Tribal self-determination contracts -- estimated funding: \$6 million

Methods of Selection

The 12 IHS Areas, in consultation with Tribes, selected high priority sanitation facilities construction projects to be funded by the Recovery Act. Projects for water and sanitation services are ranked in priority using measures collected in the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) which is an inventory of the sanitation deficiencies of AI/AN communities. Sanitation deficiencies include needed water, sewer, and solid waste facilities for existing AI/AN homes. The sanitation deficiency data is continually updated and annually reported to Congress as required by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Public Law 94-437, as amended (25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq). Potential construction projects are prioritized considering measures of health impact, deficiency level, previous service, capital cost, operations and maintenance capability, Tribal contribution, Tribal priority and other considerations. The Recovery Act funding is intended to favor projects that can be started and completed expeditiously. The SDS scoring criteria were supplemented to comply with the Recovery Act by focusing on projects that could be delivered expeditiously and by lowering priority for projects where conditions and circumstances could



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impede completion on schedule. Tribal involvement has been a keystone of the Sanitation Facilities Program since its inception in FY 1959. Tribal project proposals are funded through agreements in which specify Tribal ownership responsibilities, including operation and maintenance.

Sanitation Facilities Construction ARRA Projects by Area			
IHS Regional Area	Number of Projects by State	Number of Projects by Area	Cost (in Dollars)
	Iowa – 1		
Aberdeen	Nebraska – 4	13	5,907,000
	North Dakota – 1		
	South Dakota - 7		
Alaska	Alaska - 14	14	14,291,000
Albuquerque	New Mexico - 6	6	3,053,000
	Michigan – 2		
Bemidji	Minnesota – 4	8	1,918,000
	Wisconsin - 2		
	Montana – 4		
Billings	Wyoming - 1	5	1,827,000
California	California - 16	16	4,068,000
	Florida 1		
	Louisiana -1		
Nashville	Maine -1	9	3,083,000
	Mississippi -1		
	New York - 5		
Navajo	Arizona - 14	30	5,750,000
	New Mexico - 16		
Oklahoma	Oklahoma - 31	38	8,074,000
	Kansas - 7		
	Arizona - 6		
Phoenix	California - 3	13	5,750,000
	Nevada - 4		
	Washington - 9		
Portland	Idaho - 1	11	2,237,000
	Oregon - 1		
Tucson	Arizona – 6	6	1,714,000
Totals		169	67,000,000

Each SFC project to be funded by the Recovery Act is listed in a separate IHS report that consolidates all Recovery Act funded projects. Many IHS SFC projects are funded by multiple contributors including States, Other Federal Agencies, and Tribes. All funds for ARRA SFC projects are tracked and accounted for separately by funding type.

E. Delivery Schedule

The projects will be implemented through September 30, 2013.



F. Environmental Review Compliance

- All Recovery Act projects will conform to standard IHS procedures that require documentation of an environmental review of each construction project to identify any exceptional or extraordinary circumstances and to ensure compliance with all environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders.
- To satisfy Section 1609(c) reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, the IHS will report the status and progress of the environmental review of all Recovery Act SFC funded projects using the prescribed President’s Council on Environmental Quality format.
- SFC projects comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other environmental regulations.

G. Measures

SFC projects provide potable water, wastewater disposal and solid waste systems to AI/AN homes and communities. Each project is different in size, scope and purpose with a variety of tangible, overlapping infrastructure items such as water storage tanks, microfiltration water treatment plants, slow sand filtration water treatment plants, pressure filter water treatment plants, water wells, water transmission lines, water distribution systems, individual service lines, creek intakes, infiltration galleries, septic tank drain fields systems, wastewater lagoons, solar powered systems, gravity sewer systems, pressure sewer systems, sewage lift stations, solid waste transfer stations, open dump closures, wetland wastewater disposal systems, sewage treatment plants and pump houses.

Measure	Type	Frequency Measured	Available for Public Access
Percentage of SFC Recovery Act projects completed.	Output	Quarterly	Supplemental information on HHS.gov/Recovery

Explanation of Measure: The percentage of SFC Recovery Act projects completed is the number of completed construction projects relative to the total number of sanitation projects funded by the Recovery Act. Progress will be tracked quarterly using milestone data from the IHS-SFC Program’s Project Data system (PDS). Projects are considered fully complete when all phases of construction at a site are completed and the facilities are certified to begin serving the community. The goal is to complete 100% of Recovery Act projects by the 4th quarter of FY 2013.

Measure	Type	Frequency Measured	Available for Public Access
Number of existing AI/AN homes provided with sanitation facilities on Recovery Act SFC funded projects.	Output	Quarterly	Supplemental information on HHS.gov/Recovery

Explanation of Measure: The outcome measure is number of currently deficient AI/AN homes that will be served by Recovery Act funded water and sanitation projects. Progress will be tracked quarterly using data gathered for the IHS-SFC Program’s Project Data system (PDS). As projects are completed and certified to begin serving the community, counts of additional homes served by each completed



project will be added to the cumulative total of homes served by all Recovery Act funded projects.

H. Monitoring and Evaluation

All sanitation projects selected for Recovery Act funding have a project management plan which defines the scope of project, construction stages, cost projections, analysis of potential risks and impediments such as a weather limited construction season, potential archaeological issues at the site, design complexity, and delivery lag time for necessary materials. Additionally, the IHS has in place internal controls and review processes as required by the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act, the Improper Payments Information Act, and OMB's Circular A-123 "Management's Responsibility for Internal Control."

- The Unified Financial Management System (UFMS) will record all Recovery Act funds and expenditures and allow program and project managers to monitor financial activity.
- SFC has a Project Data System (PDS) data base that tracks project milestones, project schedules, identifies project obstacles and generates progress reports.
- IHS will incorporate implementation of Recovery Act into its FY 2009 Management Control Plan, which is the agency's management control system for ensuring compliance with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act.
- Monitor project progress reports quarterly to identify and mitigate risks.
- Identify deviations from planned schedule or performance.

I. Transparency

IHS will be open and transparent in all of its contracting competitions and regulations that involve spending of Recovery Act funding consistent with statutory and OMB guidance.

IHS will also ensure that recipient reporting required by Section 1512 of the Recovery Act and OMB guidance is made available to the public on Recovery.gov by October 10, 2009. IHS will inform recipients of their reporting obligation through standard terms and conditions, grant announcements, contract solicitations, and other program guidance. IHS will provide technical assistance to grantees and contractors and fully utilize Project Officers to ensure compliance with reporting requirements.

- Post Recovery Act reports on Recovery.Gov and supplemental information on HHS.Gov/Recovery
- All tribal and commercial contracts and tribal agreements, including MOUs, will include relevant reporting requirements for use of Recovery Act funds.
- Post reports enabling the public to see how much Recovery Act funding has been awarded and to whom.
- Recipients submit Recovery Act reports to a web-based central data portal which routes raw reports to a central national data repository and to the IHS.
- IHS generates consolidated reports assembled from raw individual recipient reports.
- Types of data available to the public:
 - Recovery Act financial data for IHS



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- Recovery Act implementation plans
- Recovery Act award data
- Recovery Act program and project level status reports - individually by recipient and collectively synthesized as appropriate.
- No agency contact or oral communications with registered lobbyists regarding particular Recovery Act projects are allowed.
- Post any written agency communications with lobbyists to Recovery.Gov

J. Accountability

To ensure that managers are held to high standards of accountability in achieving program goals under the Recovery Act, IHS will build on and strengthen existing processes. Senior IHS Office of Environmental Health and Engineering program officials will meet regularly with senior Department officials to ensure that projects are meeting their program goals, assessing and mitigating risks, ensuring transparency, and incorporating corrective actions. The personnel performance appraisal system will also incorporate Recovery Act program stewardship responsibilities for program and business function managers.

- Incorporate Recovery Act into IHS FY 2009 Management Control Plan
- Track quantifiable outcomes and outputs for funded projects
- Track Recovery Act projects and funds in UFMS
- Incorporate Recovery Act implementation in the Director's Performance Plan and cascade to responsible Recovery Act managers.
- Projects comply with procurement standards and quality assurance
- SFC Projects comply with established design standards and value engineering criteria and with worker health and safety standards
- Track and report use of funds.

K. Barriers to Effective Implementation

The availability of materials and contractors at sites where some of the projects are located may potentially impede completion on schedule. The potential for delays is minimized by the selection of projects with lower risks - fewer conditions and circumstances that could impede the schedule.

L. Federal Infrastructure

- SFC projects incorporate green materials and designs that meet the Environmental Protection Agency's definition of Green Projects.
- SFC projects have always integrated low operation and maintenance systems and energy efficient practices into facilities because they are transferred to tribes and/or tribal organizations with limited economic resources to manage the facilities.