STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 866 - 2471
(303) 866 - 2003 fax

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

D 012 09

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Designating the Colorado Nonprofit Association as the State's Authorized Entity for the ARRA-Strengthening Communities Fund-State, Local, Tribal Government Capacity Building Program Federal Grant

Pursuant to the authority vested in the office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order designating the Colorado Nonprofit Association as the State's Authorized Entity to serve as the coordinating agency for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009-Strengthening Communities Fund-State, Local, Tribal Government Capacity Building Program Grant (HHS-2009-ACF-OCS-0092) (the "SCF Grant").

I. Background and Purpose

A. Description of the SCF Grant

The SCF Grant arises under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") and is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS").

As described by HHS, the purpose of the SCF Grant is to build the capacity of government offices (and their designees) to assist nonprofit organizations in addressing the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities, including helping low-income individuals secure and retain employment, earn higher wages, obtain better-quality jobs, and gain greater access to state and federal benefits and tax credits.

The SCF grant provides that a State may designate an Authorized Entity, through an executive order, to apply for and administer this grant. The Authorized Entity will serve as a coordinating agency for nonprofit organizations to access information and services with regard to ARRA efforts and benefits.

B. Colorado's need for the SCF Grant

The economic downturn has negatively affected Colorado's businesses and residents. In May 2009, the State's overall unemployment rate was 7.6%. However, different regions of the State are experiencing greater economic challenges as indicated by the following county unemployment rates: in the northern part of the State, Weld County- 8.2%; in the Denver Metro area, Adams County -8.5% and the City and County of Denver – 8.0%; in the south, Pueblo County - 8.1%; in the San Luis Valley, Costilla County-10.2%; on the Western Slope, Mesa County-8.1%, Montrose County- 8.5% and Dolores County-14.9%. The SCF Grant will assist Colorado's nonprofits and state and local governments in addressing the needs of these communities and doing so in the most efficient manner.

While nonprofits and state and local government have existing working relationships in all regions of Colorado, these relationships can be made more effective, particularly around ARRA opportunities and economic recovery. Both governments and nonprofits could benefit from capacity building efforts that would increase communication, build stronger partnerships and establish more efficient ways of doing business between the government and nonprofit sectors.

C. The Colorado Nonprofit Association and its SCF Grant partners

Founded in 1986, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is a statewide membership organization that provides capacity-building and technical assistance resources to nonprofits in the form of educational workshops, training guides, consultation, conferences and communications on critical issues facing the sector. The Association also leads the nonprofit sector in influencing public policy and public opinion.

The Association is well positioned to serve as the Authorized Entity under the SCF Grant. As a statewide organization, the Association works with nonprofits in many communities. Its *Practices and Principles for Nonprofit Excellence* serves as the essential training and best practices guide for nonprofits throughout Colorado. Since the enactment of ARRA, the Association has collected and distributed ARRA funding information to nonprofits through conferences, its website and newsletter. As a public policy advocacy organization, the Association engages with state and local government entities on behalf of the nonprofit sector.

To effectively implement the SCF Grant, the Association has identified key strategic partners from across Colorado. The Association has partnered with the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships to provide linkage between the City and County of Denver and nonprofit organizations within the City and the surrounding Metro Area. The

Association will also include the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Governor's Commission on Community Service, the Colorado Municipal League, and Colorado Counties Inc. in carrying out SCF Grant activities.

II. Directives

A. The Colorado Nonprofit Association is hereby designated as the State's Authorized Entity to apply for and administer the SCF Grant.

B. I established the Colorado Economic Recovery Accountability Board to ensure that state and local agencies use ARRA funds with transparency, accountability and for the highest possible benefit. I direct the Board and its staff to make available pertinent information about ARRA funding programs and state agency ARRA plans to the Association for its activities under the SCF Grant.

C. To facilitate the flow of information and to track progress, I direct the Association to report monthly on its SCF Grant activities to the Board Chair or his designee and to file a quarterly written report to the full Board.

D. Agencies under my direct executive authority shall cooperate in the implementation of this Order. Specifically, I direct the Departments of Labor and Employment, Local Affairs, Human Services and the Governor's Energy Office to provide the Association with access to agency information and program staff involved with ARRA funded programs, to consider the Association's proposals to more effectively and efficiently involve nonprofits in participating in ARRA opportunities and to support the Association's efforts under the SCF Grant to strengthen linkages between nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies. I also direct the Association to report progress and activities to the Executive Directors of these departments on a monthly basis.

E. Other entities of State government not under my direct executive authority are requested to assist in the Association's efforts to provide capacity building and linkages between governments and nonprofits under the SCF Grant.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of Colorado
This 25th day of June, 2009

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor.