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## **GOVERNOR O'MALLEY ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT INCLUSION OF MINORITY BUSINESSES IN MARYLAND'S ARRA FUNDED PROJECTS**

*\$84.6 million awarded to minority and disadvantaged firms*

**Annapolis, MD (April 9, 2010)** – Governor O'Malley announced today that during the past year, minority and disadvantaged business enterprises (MBE/DBE) were awarded \$84.6 million in procurements and contracts from projects that were fully or partially funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). As part of Governor O'Malley's commitment to promoting maximum inclusion efforts that will expand opportunities for Maryland's small, minority and women-owned businesses, the State has implemented measures to achieve and report MBE/DBE participation on ARRA funded grants and projects through the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs (GOMA).

"Maryland is home to a rich and diverse community of 250,000 minority and women-owned enterprises that employ hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and serve as the economic engine that will drive Maryland's recovery," said Governor O'Malley. "Obtaining MBE/DBE participation on all State projects has been a priority since day one, including ARRA funded projects. These efforts are helping to strengthen and grow our middle class, our economy, as well as creating or saving Maryland jobs."

State agency contracts and grants that included ARRA funding in 2009 totaled over \$601 million; and 14.08 percent (or \$84.6 million) were awarded to MBEs/DBEs. The bulk of the awards distribution was through the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) – totaling \$69.4 million, most of which was designated for highway infrastructure projects. Other reporting agencies include:

- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) – \$6.4 million for Water Quality Grants to Local Agencies;
- Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) – \$5.9 million for contracts and grants to Local Agencies; and,
- Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) – \$2.8 million for Weatherization Grants to Local Agencies.

"Soon after President Obama signed the ARRA into law, Maryland took immediate action to ensure that the State's MBE goals and policies were applied to Maryland's ARRA funded projects," said GOMA's Special Secretary Luwanda W. Jenkins.

Maryland is one of the first states to launch a recovery website and leads the nation in tracking and providing information on how the State is using its share of \$787 billion in federal stimulus dollars. Maryland will receive an estimated \$4.1 billion between 2009 and 2011. For information on Maryland's recovery website, visit <http://statestat.maryland.gov/recovery.asp>. A summary of the ARRA MBE/DBE Agency Award information can be obtained from the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs at 410-767-8232.

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