

## **Stimulus Fund Possibilities for Legal Services**

November, 2009

### **Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG):**

Goes to local governments for housing and infrastructure works, community facilities, job training and placement, housing counseling, etc.

\$60 million in Pennsylvania

### **Community Services Block Grant Funds (CSBG):**

Goes to existing Community Action Agencies to support food, housing and health care for low income participants up to 200 percent of the poverty level; an across the board increase based on poverty and unemployment statistics.

\$42 million in Pennsylvania

### **Homelessness Prevention Emergency Shelter Grant Funds (ESG or HPRP):**

Goes to local governments for rental assistance, housing relocation, housing search, mediation or outreach to property owners, credit repair, security deposits, utility payments, other appropriate activities for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing for persons who have become homeless. Legal services was envisioned as eligible service.

\$90 million to Pennsylvania

### **Emergency Contingency Fund for State TANF Programs**

Goes to state TANF agencies to pay for specific costs, including increased expenditures for TANF Nonrecurring Short Term Benefits, which can include legal services that meet criteria. Note that stimulus funds provide only 80% "match" to 20% of other funds, which can be private or public funds, and state must demonstrate increased expenditures over base year. These funds were used in NYC for match to OSI grant for funds for back to school expenses of TANF eligible families.

Estimated \$600 million could be drawn down in Pennsylvania, \$5 billion nationally