



## Charlotte Stimulus Information

<http://newsroom.charmeck.org>

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### **City Website Information on Stimulus Funding**

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Corporate Communications has established information on the City's Electronic Newsroom regarding the various Federal Stimulus Programs that the City is engaged in. This information will be continuously updated to keep citizens informed of projects and programs available to our community. Staff continues to track 26 areas of stimulus funding and is still awaiting regulations on some of the programs. You can click on the following link to access this information.

<http://newsroom.charmeck.org>

### **Stimulus Grant Applications**

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In order to respond to the various Federal Stimulus programs in a timely manner, a work team meets weekly to track the funding categories, application deadlines, anticipated Council actions, program components and reporting responsibilities. The work team is tracking 27 different categories of stimulus funding. In many cases, guidelines are still being written for the programs. At the same time, there are short deadlines set by the Federal government, whose intent is to get stimulus money flowing into the communities as quickly as possible. City Council will be asked to take actions on several stimulus programs on their April – June agendas.

### **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant - \$6.7 million**

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This funding will come in 3 phases, with all of the funding committed within 18 months:

**Initial phase:** Funding to develop an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy to be approved by the Secretary of Energy

**Second phase:** Half of the \$6.7 million to begin implementing the strategy

**Third phase:** the balance of the \$6.7 million as approved by the Department of Energy after progress reviews demonstrating appropriate obligations of funds, reporting requirements and job creation.

Staff has begun conversations with the Mecklenburg County and Huntersville, which are also receiving these funds, our energy partners – Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas, and the Charlotte Chamber. City Council will receive an update on this program in early May.

### **Toilet Replacement Program**

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At the March 9 Council meeting, staff introduced a toilet replacement program that is being considered for State stimulus funding. While the City is still awaiting a decision from the State regarding stimulus funding of this project, the following program concept has been developed and is provided for your information.

**Objective:** Replace up to 5,000 high volume flush toilets with low flow toilets. Expected water savings are 18 million gallons a year.

**Eligibility:** Owner occupied homes built before 1994, with a special emphasis on targeting older, “Challenged” neighborhoods for earliest availability. In the City of Charlotte, the program will be targeted to “challenged” neighborhoods for the first three months, and then opened up to other areas of the City.

**Process:** Application for up to \$150 credit on water bill, requiring receipt for toilets, bar codes from toilets, and current water bill. Customers meeting these requirements would receive a bill adjustment.

**Partnerships:** The Department of Neighborhood and Economic Development is assisting CMU by identifying the “Challenged” neighborhoods through the most recent Quality of Life Study and will also assist in promoting the program in those neighborhoods.

Vendor participation criteria under development, Associations, organizations, professional trade orgs, etc. being contacted for their level of interest in providing installation assistance (labor)

**Distribution:** Allotment of toilets for all areas and towns in CMU’s Mecklenburg County service area. In the City of Charlotte there will be an initial three month set aside for homes in “Challenged” neighborhoods. 1 toilet per residence, first come, first served.

