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***Encouraging Workforce Development
& Entrepreneurial Opportunities in CRAs
February 3, 2010***

Stimulus Update – Tampa Bay Region

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars are flowing through the federal and state governments to programs and projects in the Tampa Bay Region. Some of these funds are directly impacting CRAs in the Tampa Bay Region. Others offer opportunities for CRAs to seek to benefit from the funds. Here is a sampling of funds that have reached Tampa Bay:

NSP II Funds

The Tampa Housing Authority, City of Tampa, and Banc of America Community Development Corporation were awarded \$38 million in neighborhood stabilization program funds. \$28 million dollars of the funds will be used to construct infrastructure in the Central Park Village CRA to support redevelopment of 12 city blocks between downtown Tampa and Ybor City. The redevelopment project is called the Encore Development. The other \$10 million in funds will be used to acquire and stabilize at risk housing in the Central Park, East Tampa, and

Ybor City CRAs. The infrastructure project is expected to generate thousands of construction jobs and 900 permanent jobs when the area is completely redeveloped.

Brownfield Grants

The City of Tampa and the City of Clearwater have each been awarded \$400,000 in brownfield assessment grants. These funds can be used to pay for assessment costs for brownfield sites within those jurisdictions. Each city has a program manager and application process for the funds.

Path Out of Poverty Grants

In Pinellas County, the Boley Centers, Inc. has been awarded \$2.3 million dollars to train 150 disadvantaged and unemployed youth in green occupations. Participants will receive GED training, entrepreneurship training, and electrical and plumbing certifications.

Florida Weatherization Assistance Program

This program provides funds for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements for households that have a total income no greater than 100% of the national poverty level. Preference is given to households with elderly or disabled residents, households with young children, and households with repeated high energy bills. In the Tampa Bay Region, the sub-recipients of these funds are: Pinellas County Urban League, Manatee Community Action Agency, Mid-Florida Community Services, Inc. (serving Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Sumter and Volusia Counties), and Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan, Inc.

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Remediation

Funds are available to clean up sites under consent order with FDEP where the responsible party for the clean-up is indigent. FDEP has created a list of candidate sites, some of which are in this region, and FDEP is currently confirming eligibility under federal requirements for those sites.

TIGER Funds

\$1.5 billion dollars in federal transportation money has been allocated for surface transportation projects with a focus on transit improvements. Another opportunity for local governments to seek funding under this program is expected in June. A local example of funding is the City of Tampa streetcar extension.

Wellness and Prevention Grants

These grants are anticipated to go to community health providers to provide health care to the economically disadvantaged. Applications were due in late November. Awards are expected in the first quarter of 2010. Several local agencies and nonprofits are competing for these funds.

HUD Programs

In addition to NSP II funds, HUD has awarded a variety of grants to housing authorities within the region for rehabilitation of public housing.

High Speed Rail

Florida was awarded funding to construct high speed rail between Orlando and Tampa. The Tampa side will terminate near downtown, adjacent to the Encore Development.

Enhanced Funding for Drinking Water and Clean Water Revolving Funds

Local governments in the Tampa Bay region have seen opportunities for increased funding for stormwater and drinking water improvements. Each city has submitted a list of eligible projects for funding.