

# Economic Strength Project Program Summary

(Established under A.R.S. § 41-1513)



The Arizona Department of Commerce in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Transportation administers the Economic Strength Project (ESP) program. This competitive program provides grants for road projects that result in economic development and meet three primary goals: create and retain a significant number of jobs in Arizona; lead to significant capital investment in Arizona; and, make a significant contribution to the economy of Arizona. Due to recent state budget cuts, the Department of Commerce will be offering only one round for ESP grants in FY09, instead of the usual two rounds.

## Eligible Applicants:

- Cities
- Towns
- Counties
- Tribes
- Other governmental or political jurisdictions
- Non-profits such as ED organizations if they are co-sponsored by a local jurisdiction
- Private for-profits entities are **NOT** eligible

## Eligible Projects include:

- New road construction
- Upgrading of existing roads
  - Turn lanes
  - Acceleration or deceleration lanes
  - Reconstruction and paving
- Routine maintenance, sidewalks and beautification are NOT eligible

## Process, Rounds & Committees:

- In FY09 one competitive application round will open October 1, 2008.
- Application deadline is December 19, 2008.
- FY09 will be awarded in May, 2009
- Reviewed by committees in Commerce and Transportation
- Commerce and Economic Development Commission (CEDC) recommends funding to the State Transportation Board, which has the final award authority

## Guidelines and Criteria:

- The ESP program requires at least a 10% match from the community or business assisted, a larger match translates into a more competitive project
- The applicant must be able to execute an intergovernmental agreement within 90 days of notice of award
- The applicant must submit quarterly progress reports to Commerce
- The project must demonstrate a unified economic development effort by providing local letters of support
- The business being assisted must show a firm commitment, such as a letter or lease agreement and must be willing to provide projected job information

## Website:

<http://www.azcommerce.com/BusAsst/Incentives/Economic+Strength+Program+%28ESP%29.htm>

If you would like to receive an application please fill out a notice of intent that can be accessed at the above website.

**Questions regarding the ESP program can be directed to:**

**Annabelle Molina  
602-771-1235**

**[annabellem@azcommerce.com](mailto:annabellem@azcommerce.com)**