

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) sent a letter this week to local and county law enforcement agencies across Upstate New York that are eligible to receive funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill).

“Crime is cyclical, and during tough economic times criminal activity tends to go up,” **said Arcuri, who served as Oneida County District Attorney for 13 years**

. “The Recovery Bill will jump start our economy through tax relief for families and businesses, and infrastructure development, but we can’t neglect the importance of the resources available to help our local law enforcement agencies put more police on the streets to fight crime. This is another example of the Recovery Bill delivering results for Upstate New York.”

The Recovery bill includes \$2 billion for the Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Of that amount, \$764,087 is available for local and county law enforcement agencies in Arcuri’s district to apply. Funds can be used for a variety of efforts such as hiring law enforcement officers, supporting drug and gang task forces, funding crime prevention and domestic violence programs, and supporting courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives.

“Recovery Bill funds will help local and county law enforcement agencies put more police on the streets to tackle gang activity, arson and drug abuse,” **Arcuri continued**. “I’m reaching out to local departments to make sure they have the information to successfully apply for the funds available, and keep our communities safe.”

JAG funding is allocated based on a formula of population and violent crime statistics, in combination with a minimum allocation for each. Sixty percent of the allocation is awarded directly to the state and forty percent is set aside for eligible units of local government. Many of the allocations for local governments in the 24th Congressional District require counties and their municipalities to file joint applications, with a Memorandum of Understanding stating how they will divide the funds.

Local and county law enforcement agencies that are eligible for JAG funds must submit online applications to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs before May 18, 2009. In his letter, Arcuri urged eligible local agencies to begin the application process promptly and to visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html> for more information.

Arcuri also invited eligible localities to contact Peter Scalise, the 24th Congressional District's Economic Recovery Coordinator, with any questions or concerns regarding the funding application process. If a local agency submits a funding request through New York State, they are encouraged to also attain a letter of support from Arcuri.

The Recovery Bill includes more than \$4 billion overall to assist state, local and tribal law enforcement and for other criminal justice activities that help to prevent crime and improve the criminal justice system in the United States while supporting job creation and providing much needed resources for states and local communities.

The Recovery Bill includes funding for infrastructure improvements, aid to states and localities, tax cuts for the middle class and investments in education. To further help counties in the 24th Congressional District faced with severe budget shortfalls, the Recovery Bill includes direct assistance to individual counties through relief from Medicaid costs and to individual school districts to address unfunded mandates and begin stalled construction projects. Medicaid relief and education funding for the counties will alleviate budget pressures, freeing up resources at the county level for critical needs like water and sewer and local transportation projects.

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