

## Nonprofit “Shovel-Ready” Projects:

### New Jersey Data from the Johns Hopkins University Listening Post Project

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies’ “Listening Post Project” conducted a national survey in February 2009 to determine the extent of “shovel ready”<sup>1</sup> projects by nonprofit organizations. These projects would provide immediate jobs and infusion of dollars into the economy as well as enduring economic and societal benefits from the programs that these projects would support.

Following are highlights of the New Jersey-specific data from the national survey:

- **74 specific, shovel-ready projects** in New Jersey were identified by nonprofit survey respondents.
- Types of projects include **museum/theatre** renovations, **neighborhood community centers**, low-income, senior and supportive **housing**, charter schools, employment training centers, **day care centers** and others.
- 27 of these projects are in urban areas of New Jersey, 34 are in suburban areas, 10 in rural areas.
- **Total cost** of these projects: **\$189 million**
- Estimated number of **people served** through these projects: **107,000**
- Based on the survey results, the researchers estimate **the total scale** of New Jersey nonprofit “Shovel-Ready” projects to be **\$3.244 billion**<sup>2</sup>

Source: Lester M. Salamon, “‘Shovel-Ready’ but Stalled: Nonprofit Infrastructure Projects Ready for Economic Recovery Support,” *Communiqué #12*, Center for Civil Society Studies, Johns Hopkins University, February 17, 2009. [www.jhu.edu/listeningpost/news/pdf/shovel-ready%20communiqué\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.jhu.edu/listeningpost/news/pdf/shovel-ready%20communiqué_FINAL.pdf) and [www.jhu.edu/listeningpost/news/pdf/Shovel-Ready%20project\\_list.pdf](http://www.jhu.edu/listeningpost/news/pdf/Shovel-Ready%20project_list.pdf).

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<sup>1</sup> As in the federal Economic Recovery Program legislation, in the survey “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects were defined as “projects that are through the design phase and ready to be put out to bid, and on which construction could begin within 90 days of awarding the contract(s).”

<sup>2</sup> Estimate excludes hospitals and universities. For a description of the methodology used to determine the extrapolated estimate, see [www.jhu.edu/listeningpost/news/pdf/shovel-ready%20communiqué\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.jhu.edu/listeningpost/news/pdf/shovel-ready%20communiqué_FINAL.pdf), page 2.