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EXECUTIVE ORDER DIRECTING EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PURSUANT TO THE JOBS AND GROWTH TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order concerning the expenditure of federal funds provided to the State pursuant to the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, Public Law 108-27.

I. Background and Need

The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, Public Law 108-27, section 601, (the "Act") provides temporary fiscal relief to states in fiscal years 2003 and 2004. Colorado received approximately \$146.3 million in temporary fiscal relief funds. Under the Act, a state must use the funds to provide essential government services or to cover the costs of certain federal unfunded mandates. In addition, the funds must be used for types of expenditures permitted under the most recently approved budget for the State. As Governor, I have the authority to direct the expenditure of these federal funds.

Pursuant to the Act, on June 12, 2003, I certified to the United States Department of the Treasury that the State's proposed use of the funds would comply with the specified purposes. To date, I have allocated nearly \$31 million of these funds for children's health, education, and important safety projects around the state.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the national and Colorado economies are improving and that the State's revenue outlook is stabilizing. Indeed, the national economy grew at an annual rate of 8.2 percent in the third quarter of 2003, the strongest growth in 20 years and State General Fund revenues came in \$78 million ahead of the forecast in FY 2002-03.

Given this improvement and stabilization in the State's revenue stream, it is appropriate to disburse the majority of the remaining funds for essential government services in areas of the budget that address immediate concerns and position the State for improved operations.

II. Directive

- A. I hereby direct the following expenditures of federal funds received by the State pursuant to the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003:

1. \$60 million to the Colorado Department of Transportation;
2. \$12.5 million to the Jobs for Colorado program;
3. \$2.5 million for job training programs;
4. \$10 million to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program;
5. \$7.5 million for the development of a State Internet Portal;
6. \$2 million for dental care for children in the Medicaid and CHP+ program;
7. \$1 million to enhance and expand the necessary infrastructure for consumer directed support programs;
8. \$2,170,140 for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to improve the State's DNA testing program;
9. \$704,000 for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for an immunization program and for the Ryan White Program;
10. \$250,000 for the tuition assistance program at the Colorado National Guard;
11. \$1,764,267 to the Department of Corrections to facilitate the expansion of prison beds for female inmates;
12. \$50,000 for the Talking Library for the blind and disabled;
13. \$1,000,000 to the Department of Human Services for the State Veterans' Nursing Home;
14. \$785,000 to the Department of Agriculture for the State Fair;
15. \$5 million for the CoverColorado program;
16. \$3.2 million for charter school capital construction; and
17. \$879,500 for phase 3 of 4 of the capital construction request at the Forensics unit at the Colorado Mental Health Institute.

- B. I hereby direct the Office of State Planning and Budgeting to issue instructions regarding the distribution of these funds and to monitor their expenditure. I also designate the Office of State Planning and Budgeting as the final authority for resolution of any issues that may arise during the expenditure or allocation of these funds.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until further modification or rescission by the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this 22nd
day of December, 2003.

Bill Owens
Governor