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## COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

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# Put stimulus cash toward tech innovation

Business First of Columbus

Ohio's share of stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act comes to at least \$8.2 billion. According to the White House, that money will help save or create more than 130,000 jobs here.

Businesses and nonprofit organizations have the ability to compete for even more federal dollars. With the state in March showing an unemployment rate of 9.4 percent – a 25-year high – we would be wise to focus as much of that money as we can on projects that will not only repair the problems of our past but help prepare us for the future while driving growth and creating jobs.

One of the best ways to do that is by investing in innovative technologies that add intelligence to our physical infrastructures.

Renewable energy projects are a good example. In January, the **Ohio Energy Office** said it will offer \$3.5 million in grants for solar hot-water systems and wind turbines to entice developers to include those energy-efficient generation methods in homes.

*Stan Ahalt is the executive director of the Ohio Supercomputer Center, and Jane Schneider is IBM's senior executive in Ohio.*

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