



## **FFIS Weekly Update – April 20, 2010**

### **EDUCATION**

#### **April 14, 2010: \$23 Billion Education Jobs Bill Introduced in Senate**

Senator Tom Harkin introduced legislation to spend \$23 billion on the nation's school districts and public colleges. The proposal is modeled after the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) included in ARRA and similar to the education provisions in the Jobs for Main Street Act, H.R. 4812, which the House passed in December 2009. However, the Senate bill makes some changes to the SFSF maintenance of effort (MOE) rules, incorporating the state waiver process into all state's standard requirements and allowing states to include ARRA funding in state education spending. Click here for more details:

<http://help.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=f5ed0e1b-698d-44a6-a762-f1374a133c7c&groups=Chair>

In addition, Secretary Duncan recently voiced support for another round of emergency funding for education in testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. Click here to view the remarks:

<http://www2.ed.gov/news/speeches/2010/04/04142010.html>

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **1) April 13, 2010: CRS Releases Report on Health Care Reform Law**

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) released a report that identifies regulatory provisions and deadlines in the new health care reform law. The report is can be viewed here:

[http://inside.ffis.org/ff/CRS\\_Report\\_Regulations\\_Patient-Protection.pdf](http://inside.ffis.org/ff/CRS_Report_Regulations_Patient-Protection.pdf)

#### **2) April 16, 2010: HHS Announces Funds for Medicaid and CHIP Outreach and Enrollment**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced grants to 41 programs to help improve outreach and enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Native uninsured children. To view the grants by state, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/04/20100416a.html>

#### **3) April 13, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Grants**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released guidance on FY 2010 funding for CBCAP. The guidance provides information on the grant requirements as well as instruction for the application process. To view the information, click here:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1006.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1006.htm)

#### **4) April 14, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on Title IV-E Financial Report**

ACF released interim guidance on the financial reporting associated with the Guardianship Assistance Program. To view the information, go to:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1007.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1007.htm)

## LABOR

### 1) April 15, 2010: Short-Term UI and COBRA Extensions Signed into Law

With enactment of the Continuing Extension Act of 2010, previously expired emergency unemployment insurance (UI) programs are extended through June 2, 2010, and the 65% subsidy for COBRA insurance premiums authorized under ARRA is extended through May 31, 2010. The extensions are retroactive, with the UI extension retroactive for both administrative and benefit costs.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has released guidance related to the UI extensions, which can be found at:

[http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2886](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2886)

DOL has also updated the COBRA web page to reflect the Continuing Extension Act of 2010. The website can be found at: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/newsroom/fsCOBRApremiumreduction.html>

### 2) April 15, 2010: UI Re-employment and Eligibility Assessment Grants Awarded

DOL announced \$50 million in funding for 33 states and the District of Columbia to implement re-employment and eligibility assessments for beneficiaries of UI. To view the awards, go to:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100488.htm>

### 3) April 15, 2010: WIA and Wagner-Peyser State Plan Guidance Released

DOL released Training and Employment Guidance Letter, No. 21-09, with instructions for states on submitting Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser Act (Employment Services) state plans and waiver requests for program year (PY) 2010. The guidance can be found at:

[http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2885](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2885)

## NUTRITION

### 1) April 14, 2010: USDA Announces Grants to Expand SNAP Access and Participation for Seniors

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide approximately \$8 million in funding to state agencies for pilot projects to increase access and participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) among low-income seniors. For more information on the grant application, see: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/PressReleases/2010/0184.htm>

### 2) April 14, 2010: FNS Provides Additional Clarifying Information on SNAP Administrative Funding

FNS released a second set of question and answers in response to concerns raised by states about SNAP funding through the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-118). The questions and answers are available at:

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/whats\\_new.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/whats_new.htm)

### 3) April 9, 2010: WIC Consolidated Regulations Made Available

WIC Regulations are published by the *Federal Register* in the Code of Federal Regulations, 7 CFR Part 246. The most recent updates, effective January 1, 2010, have been made available and can be found at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/lawsandregulations/default.htm>

## TRANSPORTATION

### April 14, 2010: FTA Announces Availability of Environmental Sustainability Program Funds

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of discretionary funds in FY 2010 for Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) program funds and FY 2009 and FY 2010 Clean Fuels Grant program funds augmented with FY 2010 Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities program funds. For more information, see:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-8398.pdf>

## **UNFUNDED MANDATES**

### **March 2010: CBO Releases Review of Unfunded Mandates**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a review of its activities in 2009 under the Unfunded Mandates Act. The full report, which identifies legislation that would impose mandates on state and local governments, is available at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10485/03-31-UMRA.pdf>

## **ARRA:**

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **1) April 15, 2010: USDA Announces ARRA Support for Rural Infrastructure**

USDA announced that rural communities in 32 states will benefit from loans and grants provided through ARRA. These loans and grants will be used to repair infrastructure and finance community centers, public safety buildings, and health care facilities. For greater detail, click here:

<http://tinyurl.com/yyqtzos>

### **2) April 14, 2010: USDA Announces ARRA Water System Improvement Projects**

USDA announced the funding of 18 projects designed to improve water quality and public sanitation services in 12 states. Click here for more information: <http://tinyurl.com/y2sjaq9>

## **COMMERCE**

### **April 16, 2010: NTIA Awards Nearly \$30 Million in BTOP Grants**

The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced awards of \$28.6 million in Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program grants for Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. For more information, go to:

[http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2010/BTOP\\_ARKSOKTX\\_04162010.html](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2010/BTOP_ARKSOKTX_04162010.html)

## **EDUCATION**

### **April 14, 2010: ED Invites Applications for Phase II Race to the Top Awards**

The Department of Education (ED) published a notice inviting applications for new Race to the Top Fund awards for FY 2010. Applications became available April 14, 2010, and the deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply for Phase 2 is May 4, 2010. For additional details, click here:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-8376.pdf>

Click here to access ED's Race to the Top page:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>