



FFIS Weekly Update – April 27, 2010

EDUCATION

April 21, 2010: House Passes Bill on Physical Fitness in Schools

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1585, the Fitness Integrated with Teaching Kids Act or the FIT Kids Act. The bill would require local and state education agencies to prepare annual reports for families on school health and physical education programs. A companion bill, S. 634, has been introduced in the Senate and currently awaits committee action.

ENERGY

1) April 21, 2010: DOE Announces \$28 Million to Increase Building Retrofits and Develop State Energy Goals

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that up to \$28 million in competitive funding is available to help states lower the cost and increase the availability of energy efficiency retrofits. The program is also intended to assist states in stimulating investment in long-term energy efficiency deployments. For additional details, click here:

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=319

2) April 20, 2010: DOE Revises Guidance to SEP Grantees

DOE released revised guidance for State Energy Program (SEP) recipients. This guidance applies to recipients of SEP funds through the programs normally appropriated formula grants or ARRA. Click here to access the revised guidance:

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/sep_financing_program_guidance_10-08_revised_04202010.pdf

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) April 23, 2010: CMS Releases DSH Allotments

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced final FY 2008, revised preliminary FY 2009, and preliminary FY 2010 disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments. To view the *Federal Register* notice, see:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-8502.pdf>

2) April 23, 2010: CMS Releases QI Allotments

CMS issued state allotments for payment of Medicare Part B Premiums for Qualifying Individuals (QI) for FY 2009 and FY 2010. To view the notice, go to:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-8498.pdf>

3) April 27, 2010: ACF Updates Child Welfare Policy Manual

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) updated its child welfare policy manual to address a questions regarding Title IV-E eligibility redeterminations. To view the new question and answer, see:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/i2ee/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=8#2241

4) April 2010: HRSA Releases Guidance on Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs

The Health Resources and Services Administration released two letters on the Ryan White program. The first addresses allowable uses of funds. The second clarifies the policy on unobligated balances. To view the letters, click here: <http://hab.hrsa.gov/law.htm>

HEALTH CARE REFORM

1) April 22, 2010: CMS Actuary Releases Analysis of Health Care Reform Law

The Office of the Actuary for CMS released a new analysis of the health care reform law. The report is available at: http://www.cms.gov/ActuarialStudies/Downloads/S_PPACA_2010-01-08.pdf

2) April 22, 2010: CMS Release Guidance on Medicaid Prescription Drug Rebates

CMS released the second in a series of letters that provide guidance on the health care reform legislation. This letter contains information on the increase in prescription drug rebate percentages and the extension of rebates for drugs dispensed to individuals enrolled in Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). It also outlines the savings that will be remitted to the federal government. To view the guidance, see: <http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SMD10006.pdf>

3) April 22, 2010: HHS Releases Fact Sheet on Temporary High-Risk Pool Program

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a fact sheet about the temporary high-risk pool program included in health care reform and a chart outlining potential allocations of high-risk pool funds to states. For more information, go to: http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/initiative/hi_risk_pool_facts.html

4) April 2010: UnitedHealth Releases Report on Health Care Reform and Modernization

UnitedHealth released a report that provides state-specific estimates of the Medicaid expansion included in health care reform. It also includes potential state savings from Medicaid modernization. To view the report, see: http://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/hrm/UNH_WorkingPaper3.pdf

5) April 27, 2010: IRS Issues Guidance on New Dependent Health Coverage Policy

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released guidance for provisions in the health care reform law that make health coverage provided for an employee's children under 27 years of age generally tax-free to the employee. The policy is effective retroactive to March 30, 2010. The IRS Notice 2010-38 is available at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-10-38.pdf>

LABOR

1) April 23, 2010: DOL Releases NFJP Job Training Grants

The Department of Labor (DOL) released program year 2010 National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) job training planning guidance and allotments. To view the notice, see: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL22-09.pdf>

2) April 23, 2010: DOL Releases Guidance on UC Payment Promptness

DOL released guidance on selecting and monitoring states for compliance with benefit payment promptness under the federal Unemployment Compensation (UC) law. To view the guidance, see: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL22-10acc.pdf>

NUTRITION

1) April 22, 2010: FNS Releases Guidance on School Breakfast Program Oversight

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued a memorandum to remind state agencies of their obligation to oversee the School Breakfast program to assure that federal funds are properly allocated and spent. To view the letter, click here: http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Policy-Memos/2010/SP_23%20-2010_os.pdf

2) April 25, 2010: FNS Updates Question-and-Answer Document for TEFAP

FNS updated the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) infrastructure grant frequently-asked-

question document. To view the update, see:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/tefap/tefap_grant_faqs.htm

TRANSPORTATION

1) April 26, 2010: DOT Announces TIGER II Grant Availability

The Department of Transportation announced the availability of \$600 million in National Infrastructure Investment (TIGER II) competitive grants for capital assistance to states, local governments, and transit agencies. The notice also seeks comments on a proposal to solicit jointly TIGER II grant applications along with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's \$40 million Community Challenge Grant program, which provides grants for related transportation planning purposes. For additional information, go to:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-9591.pdf>

2) April 21, 2010: FHWA Releases Apportionment of FY 2010 Highway Funds

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released Notice 4510.723 that provides FY 2010 apportionments based on the recent extension of federal highway programs through December 31, 2010. For more information, including state-by-state amounts, see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/notices/n4510723.htm>

3) April 21, 2010: FHWA Announces Restoration of Rescinded Contract Authority

FHWA released Notice 4510.724 that informs states of the restoration of \$8.7 billion in contract authority rescinded on September 30, 2009, under SAFETEA-LU. These funds are being restored according to the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-147) and are available for obligation immediately. To view the notice and state tables, see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/notices/n4510724.htm>

4) April 26, 2010: FTA Releases a Reference Guide to DOT programs

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the release of its reference guide to DOT programs in relation to the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. This reference guide was developed to help communities identify potential funding options to promote livable and sustainable communities. To view the document, see:

http://fta.dot.gov/documents/Sustainable_Communities_Programs_4-26-10.pdf

ARRA:

COMMERCE

April 26, 2010: Commerce Announces ARRA Investments to Expand Broadband Internet Access

The Department of Commerce announced nine ARRA investments, totaling more than \$114 million in grants, which will increase broadband access and adoption in more than a dozen states. This announcement completes round one of Commerce's ARRA broadband funding. Click here for more details: http://www.commerce.gov/NewsRoom/PressReleases_FactSheets/PROD01_009172