



## **FFIS Weekly Update – April 6, 2010**

### **Weekly News:**

#### **Legislative Update**

##### **1) March 25, 2010: UI and COBRA Extensions Stalled in Senate**

Unemployment Insurance (UI) emergency unemployment compensation (EUC) and fully federally funded Extended Benefits are scheduled to expire on April 5, 2010. COBRA premium reduction subsidies authorized under ARRA are scheduled to expire on March 31, 2010. Temporary extensions of these measures were included in H.R. 4851, the Continuing Extension Act of 2010, which passed the House but did not come up for a full vote in the Senate prior to the Easter recess. The House and Senate will likely consider a retroactive extension of these measures when they return from recess on April 12, 2010.

##### **2) March 24, 2010: House Extends TANF Emergency Funds and Small Business Provisions**

The House passed the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act (H.R. 4849). The \$16.8 billion package would extend the Build America Bonds program for three years until June 2013 to fund state and local infrastructure projects and provide tax credits to small businesses. Included in the measure was a one-year extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF ECF), currently set to expire on September 30, 2010. The TANF ECF was developed in ARRA and reimburses states 80% of their increased expenditures related to basic cash assistance, short term non-recurring benefits and subsidized employment. The extension would continue the fund for four more fiscal quarters at \$2.5 billion for FY 2011, and cap each state's funding at 30% of their TANF block grant allotment. The bill will now go to the Senate for consideration.

##### **3) March 24, 2010: House Passes Emergency Supplemental, Provides Summer Jobs and SBA Funds**

The House passed an emergency supplemental spending package, the Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act (H.R. 4899). The bulk of the bill provides \$5.1 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has approximately \$2 billion in projects on hold due to lack of funds. The funds will also go toward fixing infrastructure damaged by winter storms and devotes funds for storm preparation. The package includes \$600 million for the Department of Labor (DOL) to fund youth summer employment initiatives through FY 2010. The bill now moves to the Senate.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

##### **March 22, 2010: EPA Announces New Strategy on Drinking Water**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new strategy for clean, safe drinking water. The strategy includes four principals: address contaminants as a group rather than one at a time to promote cost-effective compliance; foster development of new drinking water treatment technologies; use the authority of multiple statutes to help protect drinking water; and partner with states to share more complete data from monitoring at public water systems. For greater detail on the new drinking water strategy, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/dwstrategy.html>

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### 1) March 24, 2010: ACF Revises Child Welfare Policy Manual

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) deleted a question from its Child Welfare Policy Manual related to eligibility for the Guardianship Assistance Program. To view the deletion, see: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/i2ee/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/updates\\_delete.jsp](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/i2ee/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/updates_delete.jsp)

### 2) ACF Releases a Report to Assist Nonprofit Organizations

ACF recently released a report to help non-profit organizations stay afloat during difficult times. To view the report, see: [http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/pdf/sustainability\\_toolkit.pdf](http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/pdf/sustainability_toolkit.pdf)

### 3) March 17, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on LIHEAP Performance Measures

ACF released an action transmittal for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) state grantees on implementing outcome performance measures. The guidance provides a draft proposal on performance measures and seeks participation from states on the implementation process. To view the action transmittal, see: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action\\_transmittals/at10-04.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action_transmittals/at10-04.html)

### 4) March 25, 2010: ACF Provides Information on LIHEAP Application for FY 2011

ACF published a memorandum that includes information on the application for LIHEAP funding for FY 2011. For more information, see: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information\\_memoranda/im10-05.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information_memoranda/im10-05.html)

## HOUSING

### March 25, 2010: HUD Releases Three Studies on Costs of Homelessness

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today released three studies on the cost of first-time homelessness; life after transitional housing for homeless families; and strategies for improving access to mainstream benefits programs. The studies looked at the costs of the services in different states and communities across the country. To access the studies, go to: [http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-055](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-055)

## LABOR

### 1) March 29, 2010: Report on Limited English Proficiency Project Grants Released

The Department of Labor (DOL) announced the release of a report evaluating the outcomes of the Limited English Proficiency and Hispanic Worker Initiative project grants launched four years ago. To view the report, go to: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm?fuseaction=dsp\\_resultDetails&pub\\_id=2438&mp=y](http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm?fuseaction=dsp_resultDetails&pub_id=2438&mp=y)

### 2) March 24, 2010: Funds Announced for Reintegration of Ex-Offenders

DOL announced the award of \$12 million in additional funding to 24 programs that are currently operating prisoner re-entry programs through the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders initiative. To view the awards, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100377.htm>

## NUTRITION

### 1) March 25, 2010: USDA Announces Efforts to Increase SNAP Participation

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will award grants of up to \$5 million to improve access to and increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). USDA is interested in funding projects that apply a process improvement process (PIP) to the state agency's application, certification, and recertification procedures to make them more efficient and effective. The deadline to submit grant proposal applications is June 23, 2010. Grant applications can be obtained at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), on the Food and Nutrition Service website at [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap), or by calling the grant officer, Lisa Johnson, 703-305-2848.

### **2) March 25, 2010: FNS Releases Memo on SNAP Simplified Reporting Provisions**

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released a memorandum describing the new SNAP simplified reporting provisions in accordance with the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) final rule, which was published in the *Federal Register* on January 29, 2010. To view the memo, go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/2010/032510.pdf>

### **3) March 24, 2010: Senate Agriculture Committee Approves Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry unanimously approved the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act and invest \$4.5 billion in new funding over the next 10 years. The committee approved a number of amendments during the mark-up including a manager's amendment that would require USDA to conduct a comprehensive study on the effectiveness of local school wellness policies and report its findings to Congress; require Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to report new information about the school nutrition environment to the secretary and states; modify the farm-to-school program and provide a funding increase; and improve the process USDA and states use to recall commodity foods and other foods served as part of the school meal program. Additionally, the committee adopted an amendment that would authorize such sums for new State Childhood Hunger Challenge Grants to be competitively awarded to governors to carry out comprehensive and innovative strategies to end childhood hunger.

### **4) March 19, 2010: CACFP Invites States to Apply for Child Care Health and Wellness Grants**

FNS has announced that state agencies that administer the child care component of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are eligible to apply for Child Care Health and Wellness Grants. The purpose of the grants is to support projects that increase the health and nutrition of children in child care settings. State agencies are required to use at least 50% of grant funds to award sub-grants to local institutions. The deadline for state agencies to submit applications is June 18, 2010. Letters of intent to submit applications are due by April 19, 2010. For more information, see:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/Grants.htm>

## **ARRA:**

### **AGRICULTURE**

#### **March 23, 2010: USDA Announces Rural Broadband Projects**

USDA announced the selection of broadband infrastructure projects in eight states. Funding for the projects is being provided through ARRA. For a list of the award recipients, click here:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0143.xml>

### **COMMERCE**

#### **March 25, 2010: More BTOP Grants Announced**

The Department of Commerce announced more than \$63 million in grants under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The grants will go to more than 12 states for the deployment of broadband infrastructure, public computer centers, and the adoption of broadband service. For a list of awards, see:

[http://www.commerce.gov/NewsRoom/PressReleases\\_FactSheets/PROD01\\_009047](http://www.commerce.gov/NewsRoom/PressReleases_FactSheets/PROD01_009047)

### **EDUCATION**

#### **March 29, 2010: Race to the Top Winners Announced**

The Department of Education (ED) announced the winners of phase 1 of Race to the Top, authorized under ARRA. Tennessee and Delaware were named the winners, set to receive \$500 million and \$100 million respectively in order to implement their comprehensive school reform plans. ED still has \$3.4 billion to award in phase 2. For additional details, click here:

<http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2010/03/03292010.html>

### **ENVIRONMENT**

## **March 2010: EPA Updated their FAQs on ARRA Reporting**

EPA recently updated their frequently asked questions document on ARRA recipient reporting. To view the new FAQs document, click here: [http://www.epa.gov/recovery/pdfs/ recip\\_faq.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/recovery/pdfs/ recip_faq.pdf)

## **NUTRITION**

### **1) March 26, 2010: FNS Releases Updated Guidance on ARRA Reporting Requirements for TEFAP**

FNS released an update and summary of reporting guidance for ARRA recipients of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), in light of the most recent Office of Budget and Management (OMB) guidance on ARRA reporting requirements released on March 22, 2010. For the TEFAP guidance, go to:

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/tefap/TEFAP-ARRA\\_RevGuidance1512Sub0310.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/tefap/TEFAP-ARRA_RevGuidance1512Sub0310.pdf)

### **2) March 24, 2010: Agencies Send Notice to States on Use of TANF Emergency Funds for Summer Food Programs**

HHS and USDA notified states that ARRA Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Funds can be used to assist families through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

For more information and guidance on the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund, visit:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/>

For more information about the SFSP, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **March 26, 2010: FHWA Releases Quick Reference Card for ARRA Reporting**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a quick reference card that provides ARRA recipients with a clear definition of how to report the OMB defined "Key 1512 Award Information."

To view this information, see: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/1512card.htm>

### **Weekly News:**

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **April 2, 2010: USDA Announces Disaster Assistance for 14 States**

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced \$31.6 million in funding to help small towns and communities in 14 states that have been affected by natural disasters. For a list of recipients, click here:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/04/0162.xml>

## **EDUCATION**

### **1) April 1, 2010: ED Releases Notice of Final Priorities and Requirements for EMHE**

The Department of Education's (ED) Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools announced priorities and requirements for the Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) grant program. To view this notice, go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-7421.pdf>

### **2) March 31, 2010: ED Releases Notice of Proposed Priorities and Requirements for SLC**

ED's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education announced proposed priorities, requirements, a definition, and selection criteria under the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) program. To view this notice, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-7255.pdf>

## **ELECTION REFORM**

### **March 31, 2010: EAC Requests Comments on Proposed Requirements for the Testing of Pilot Voting Systems**

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) published for public comment a set of proposed requirements for the testing of pilot voting systems to be used by jurisdictions to serve uniformed and overseas voters. Click here for more information:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-7199.pdf>

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **1) April 5, 2010: CMS Announces State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) Grants**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that nearly \$41.6 million for grant funding will be distributed to SHIPs on April 1, 2010, to help people with Medicare get more information about their health choices. These grants are the first of two rounds of funding to be distributed to SHIPs in FY 2010. Approximately \$1.5 million in performance grants will be distributed in September 2010. For a list of awards by state, see:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press\\_releases.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp)

### **2) April 5, 2010: HHS Announces \$1.8 Billion in Ryan White Grants**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the release of \$1.1 billion to states and territories under Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, \$652 million for primary care and support services under Part A, and \$48.1 million for early intervention services under Part C. To view a list of the awards, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/04/20100405a.html>

### **3) April 2, 2010: HHS Issues Letter on Temporary High-Risk Pool Program**

HHS issued a letter to governors and independent insurance commissioners asking each state to express their interest in participating in the temporary high-risk pool program, established by the new health insurance reform law, by April 30, 2010. The letter also provides details on the implementation options, time line, and funding available for this program. For more information, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/04/20100402b.html>

### **4) April 5, 2010: HHS Announces Funds for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)**

HHS announced \$1.8 million in funds to community-based organizations and government agencies for IDA projects. To view the awards, see:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/idap\\_afi\\_2010.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/idap_afi_2010.html)

### **5) April 1, 2010: HHS Provides Additional Information on CSBG Regulations**

HHS provided states with additional information on corrective action, termination, or reduction of funding for entities eligible for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds. For a slide presentation and information on an upcoming conference call, see:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/index.html>

## **HOUSING**

### **1) April 2, 2010: HUD Announces Changes to NSP**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced changes to its Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), including an expanded definition of foreclosed and abandoned properties. For more information, go to:

[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-066](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-066)

### **2) March 31, 2010: HUD Announces Funding Awards for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)**

HUD published a list in the *Federal Register* of the names, addresses, number of vouchers, and amounts of the 238 Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to which awards were made under the FYs 2008 and 2009 HUD-VASH initiative. To view this information, go to:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-7219.pdf>

### **3) March 30, 2010: HUD Releases FY 2010 Allocations for Community Planning and Development Formula Programs**

FY 2010 allocations have been posted for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). Allocations can be found at:  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/budget/budget10/>

## **LABOR**

### **1) April 2, 2010: DOL Issues Trade Act Rule on Merit Staffing and State Formula Allocations**

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration released a final rule to implement two changes to the regulations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers (TAA) program. The rule requires that personnel engaged in TAA-funded functions must be state employees covered by a merit system of personnel administration. The rule also prescribes the system for allocating training funds to states. To view the final regulations, fact sheet, and questions and answers, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/regulations>

### **2) March 30, 2010: DOL Announces Nearly \$4 Billion in 2010 WIA and Employment Service Allotments for States**

DOL has released program year (PY) 2010 funding allotments for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Activities programs; the Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service program; and Workforce Information Grants. To view the allotments, go to: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?DOCN=2879](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2879)

### **3) March 29, 2010: DOL Announces Funding Opportunities to Improve UI Information Technology (IT) Contingency Plans and Security**

DOL released an Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL 19-10) to notify state workforce agencies of the availability of FY 2010 UI supplemental funds to 1) develop or update UI IT contingency plans, including obtaining an Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V), and 2) improve UI IT security. For more information, go to: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2878](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2878)

## **NUTRITION**

### **1) April 1, 2010: USDA Announces Resources to Improve Emergency Food Assistance Programs and Infrastructure**

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) plans to award up to \$6 million to emergency feeding organizations, such as food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens, participating in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). At least \$3 million is expected to be awarded for projects that improve the emergency feeding infrastructure in rural communities. For more information, see: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/PressReleases/2010/0161.htm>

### **2) April 1, 2010: FNS Releases Final Rule on Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

FNS released a final rule in the *Federal Register* that addresses reimbursement issues to eligible states for meals served by at-risk after-school care programs. To view the final rule, go to: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/Federal-Register/2010/04-01-10\\_CACFP.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/Federal-Register/2010/04-01-10_CACFP.pdf)

### **3) March 31, 2010: WIC Performance Awards Announced**

USDA announced performance awards to states that have done an exceptional job promoting and supporting breast-feeding efforts among mothers participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). For more information, go to: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0158.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0158.xml)

### **4) March 26, 2010: FNS Releases Clarifying Memo on Treatment of TANF-Funded Subsidized Employment Income in SNAP**

FNS has released information for state agencies on how to treat TANF-funded subsidized employment income for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP). To view the memo, go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/2010/032610.pdf>

## TRANSPORTATION

### 1) March 31, 2010: FTA Releases Rule on Urbanized Area Formula Program

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a Notice of Final Circular to assist grantees with implementing the Urbanized Area Formula Program. To view this notice, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-7083.pdf>

### 2) March 31, 2010: FRA Announces Funding for High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced a notice of funding availability for \$115 million in planning and construction project funds for high-speed intercity passenger rail. Additional information is available at: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/Pages/press-releases/200.shtml>

## ARRA News:

## AGRICULTURE

### March 30, 2010: USDA Announces Loan Assistance to Rural Businesses

USDA announced that loan guarantees are being provided to businesses in 24 states through ARRA funding. For more details, click: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0157.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0157.xml)

## EDUCATION

### 1) April 2, 2010: ED Releases Interim Final Requirements and Request for Comments for Race to the Top

ED issued interim final requirements amending the Race to the Top fund to incorporate and make state budget guidance binding for Phase 2 of the competition. Follow this link for greater detail: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-7409.pdf>

### 2) April 2, 2010: ED Issues Clarifying Guidance on ARRA Reporting

ED released updated ARRA reporting guidance clarifying the definition of infrastructure for purposes of Section 1512 reporting. The new guidance specifies that an infrastructure investment does not include "minor remodeling" as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 77.1(c). Click here to access the revised guidance: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance-1512-quarterly-reporting.doc>

### 3) April 1, 2010: ED Releases New ARRA Spending Report

ED released a new report detailing state-by-state ARRA spending. Click here to view the updated document: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/spending/state.xls>

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### 1) March 30, 2010: HHS Awards \$27 Million for Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs for Older Americans

HHS announced the award of ARRA funds for the Communities Putting Prevention to Work Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, which will allow 45 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to provide self-management programs to older adults with chronic diseases, build statewide delivery systems, and develop the workforce that delivers these programs. For more information and awards by state, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/03/20100330a.html>

### 2) April 2, 2010: HHS Awards \$144 Million in ARRA Health Information Technology (HIT) Funds to IHEs

HHS awarded funds to Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) and major research centers to assist with the widespread adoption and meaningful use of HIT. To view the awards, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/04/20100402a.html>

