



FFIS Weekly Update – August 11, 2010

Weekly News:

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

August 10, 2010: House Passes, President Signs FMAP Extension and Education Jobs Bill

The House approved the Senate-passed FMAP and Education Jobs bill (H.R. 1586). The president immediately signed the measure. The law, which is fully offset, extends the ARRA FMAPs for two quarters and provides state and local governments with \$10 billion to fund the hiring or retention of teachers. To receive the additional FMAP funds, governors must certify within 45 days that the state will request and use the funds. In addition, states must apply for the education funds within 30 days; the Department of Education (ED) will announce application guidelines shortly. For additional details, see the following information.

FFIS's Issue Brief: <http://ffis.org/node/2138>

Legislative language: <http://inside.ffis.org/ff/FMAPeducationfund.pdf>

ED's estimates of state allocations and the number of jobs funded by the measure:

<http://inside.ffis.org/ff/EducationJobsFundAllocations.pdf>

A summary of the \$2.2 billion reduction in highway contract authority used to offset a portion of the bill's cost, including a link to state estimates:

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/080610rescissions.aspx>

EDUCATION

1) August 6, 2010: ED Announces \$115.3 Million to Improve Teaching of American History

ED announced the award of \$115.3 million to 124 school districts to improve the quality of American history education. Click here for more details:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-secretary-duncan-announces-1153-million-124-grants-improve-teaching-am>

2) August 5, 2010: ED Proposes Priorities for Discretionary Grant Programs

ED released a notice in the *Federal Register* of proposed priorities for any appropriate discretionary grant program in FY 2011. To view the notice, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-19296.pdf>

3) August 3, 2010: ED Announces \$9.2 Million for 14 School Leadership Grants

ED announced the award of \$9.2 million to improve the leadership and effectiveness of current and aspiring principals and assistant principals in high-need school districts. The five-year grants were awarded to six school districts, three non-profit organizations, and five universities in 12 states. For additional details, click here: <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-secretary-duncan-announces-92-million-14-school-leadership-grants>

ENVIRONMENT

July 30, 2010: House Passes Oil Spill Legislation

The House passed H.R. 3534, legislation to reorganize the Minerals Management Service and

eliminate the liability limits for companies involved in an offshore oil spill. The legislation would also provide mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. The text of the legislation and a summary are available at:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:H.R.3534>:

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) August 10, 2010: CMS Issues Final Rule for Payment Error Rate for Medicaid and CHIP

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the final regulations that will fully implement changes to the Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). For additional details, go to:

http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp

2) August 6, 2010: ACF Releases State-Level Reciprocity Targeting Indexes for LIHEAP

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released state-level data on reciprocity targeting indexes and rankings for elderly and young child households that received Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) heating assistance. The information is available at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information_memoranda/im10-14.html

3) August 5, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on LIHEAP Leveraging Funds

ACF released guidance to LIHEAP grantees regarding the submission of leveraging reports on FY 2010 activities in order to qualify for FY 2011 leveraging incentive fund awards. To view the guidance, see:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action_transmittals/at10-12.html

4) August 4, 2010: GAO Releases Report on Medicaid Managed Care

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on Medicaid managed care rates, which examines the extent to which states' rates are actuarially sound and CMS oversight of state compliance. The report is available at: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-810>

5) August 3, 2010: CDC Awards \$42 Million to Support HIV Prevention Efforts

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded \$42 million to 133 community-based organizations to help implement HIV prevention efforts among populations at greatest risk. For more information and to view the awards by state, see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/cboaward.html>

6) August 3, 2010: HHS Releases 2010 Poverty Guidelines

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the poverty guidelines for the remainder of 2010, which are available at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-19129.pdf>

7) July 30, 2010: HHS Requests Comments on Quality of Care Recommendations

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) required HHS to provide Congress with recommendations for legislative changes to improve the quality of care provided to children under Medicaid and CHIP. CMS is requesting comments on potential changes by August 30, 2010. Additional information can be found at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-18140.pdf>

8) July 29, 2010: ACF Releases Notices on LIHEAP Quarterly Obligations, Application

ACF released a notice to states on estimates of quarterly obligations for the FY 2011 LIHEAP program. To view the notice, click here:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action_transmittals/at10-11.html

ACF also issued a reminder of FY 2011 application requirements, which is available at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action_transmittals/at10-10.html

9) July 28, 2010: ACF Releases Letter on Head Start and Child Welfare Partnerships

ACF released a letter to Head Start and Early Head Start grantees on partnering with families involved in the child welfare system. To view the letter, see:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/policy/im2010/acfimhs_10_04.html

HEALTH CARE REFORM

1) August 9, 2010: HHS Announces Availability of Health Center New Access Point Grants

HHS announced the availability of up to \$250 million in New Access Point grants for the delivery of primary health care services for underserved and vulnerable populations under the Health Center Program. For more information, including a link to the funding announcement, see:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/08/20100809a.html>

2) August 6, 2010: CMS Releases Guidance on Home- and Community-Based Services

CMS released a State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) to provide information on the changes included in the health care reform law, effective October 1, 2010, to improve access to home- and community-based services. Click here to see the letter:

http://inside.ffis.org/ff/ImprovedAccessToHCBS_SMD_LetterFinal_8-6-10_1.pdf

3) August 5, 2010: HHS Awards \$159 Million to Support Health Care Workforce Training

HHS announced \$159.1 million in grants to support three types of health care workforce training programs: Nursing Workforce Development programs; interdisciplinary geriatric education and training programs; and Centers of Excellence programs for under represented minority students. For more information and to view the awards by state, click here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/08/20100805a.html>

4) August 3, 2010: HHS Requests Comments on State-Level Exchanges

The HHS Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight released a notice in the *Federal Register* requesting comments on a series of questions related to planning and establishment of state-level exchanges. To view the notice, click here:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-18924.pdf>

5) July 30, 2010: ACF Announces Funds for Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Evidence-Based Education and Abstinence Programs

ACF announced the availability of \$55 million to states and territories through the Personal Responsibility Education Program and \$50 million for state grants to support abstinence programs.

To view the funding opportunities, see:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2010-ACF-ACYF-PREP-0125>

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2010-ACF-ACYF-AEGP-0123>

6) July 29, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on Head Start and Home Visiting Program

ACF released a memorandum on the role of the Head Start program in the new Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. To view the information, see:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/policy/im2010/acfimhs_10_05.html

HOUSING

1) August 5, 2010: HUD Releases Funding for Family Unification Program

HUD announced \$20 million in funding to local housing authorities to help keep children out of foster care and young adults from homelessness. For more information, including funding by state, see:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-171

2) July 27, 2010: HUD Releases Funding Opportunity for Housing Counseling

HUD announced the funding opportunity for \$79 million in grants that will be awarded competitively to HUD-approved counseling agencies and state housing finance agencies for a broad range of housing counseling programs. For more information and a link to the application, go to:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-161

3) July 27, 2010: HUD Awards \$19.5 Million to Produce More Assisted Living Senior Housing in Four States

HUD announced the grants will go to Arizona, Maryland, New York, and Ohio to help convert existing multifamily projects into assisted living facility for the elderly. For more details, click here:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-165

JUSTICE

August 5, 2010: DOJ Announces \$1.2 Million in Grants to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation

The Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the award of four grants totaling \$1.2 million to support the development of strategies that protect children from commercial and sexual exploitation. For more information and to view the awards, see:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2010/OJJDP10110.htm>

LABOR

August 5, 2010: DOL Awards \$9.6 Million to Improve Unemployment Insurance (UI) Information Technology Contingency Plans and IT Security

The Department of Labor (DOL) announced awards to 29 states and the Virgin Islands to encourage states to use the National Institute of Standards and Technology's guidelines to enhance and secure the UI systems. For more details: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20101099.htm>

NUTRITION

1) August 5, 2010: Senate Passes Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization

The Senate passed the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act (S. 3307), a bill to reauthorize child nutrition programs. The Senate bill, which is fully offset, would provide an additional \$4.5 billion over the next 10 years for a variety of new and expanded programs. The House version has passed committee but awaits floor action. Child nutrition programs are set to expire on September 30, 2010. The legislation and summary is available at: <http://ag.senate.gov/site/legislation.html>

2) August 3, 2010: USDA Releases Guidance on Publication of Poverty Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) released guidance on the publication of poverty guidelines issued by HHS, as it relates to various child nutrition programs. To view the information for specific programs, see the following:

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/policyandguidance/wicpolicymemos/2010-9-UpdateonPublicationofPovertyGuidelinesandIncomeEligGuidelines.pdf>

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP):

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/policyandguidance/sfmnpmemos/SFMNP-2010-5-UpdateonPublicationofPovertyGuidelinesandIncomeEligGuidelines.pdf>

School Meals: http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Policy-Memos/2010/SP_30_CACFP_16_SFSP_14-2010os.pdf

3) August 2, 2010: USDA Releases Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAS) for SNAP

USDA released the FY 2011 COLAS to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) income eligibility standards and deductions. To view the information, see:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/2010/080210.pdf>

4) August 2, 2010: USDA Releases Guidance Multi-Program Periodic Report Forms

USDA released the following guidance on use of multi-program report forms in the SNAP program:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/2010/080310.pdf>

5) July 2010: FNS Releases SNAP Workload Management Matrix

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released the following workload management matrix to help states identify strategies to improve the administration of SNAP during times of increasing participation and reduced resources:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/government/pdf/matrix.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

1) August 3, 2010: Senate Committee Approves Bill to Promote Sustainable Communities

The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee approved a bill that would create a new Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities in the Department of Housing and Urban Development and would provide \$475 million over four years for grants to eligible partnerships to develop comprehensive plans to integrate land use, housing, and transportation. The Livable Communities Act (S. 1619) would also authorize \$2.2 billion over three years for sustainability challenge grants to eligible partnerships to build and preserve affordable housing and support transit-oriented developments. To view the bill, see: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:S01619>:

2) August 2, 2010: FHWA Announces \$9.7 Million in Grants to Fund Innovative Approaches to Congestion

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently announced \$9.7 Million in grants to seven states to fund innovative approaches to congestion. For more information, see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pressroom/fhwa1029.htm>

3) July 2010: GAO Releases Report on Highway Trust Fund

GAO recently issued a study showing that nearly all states received more funding than they contributed in highway taxes since 2005. To view the study, see:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10780.pdf>

ARRA:

AGRICULTURE

1) August 6, 2010: USDA Announces ARRA Efforts Aimed at Creating Jobs and Supporting Local Economies

USDA announced it is providing \$413 million in loan guarantees to 128 businesses in 35 states and Puerto Rico. For more information, follow this link: <http://tinyurl.com/2brcgj3>

2) August 5, 2010: USDA Announces \$157.3 Million of ARRA Funding for Water System Infrastructure

USDA announced \$157.3 million for 34 projects to improve water quality and public sanitation services in 24 states. Click here for more details: <http://tinyurl.com/23k9hu9>

3) August 4, 2010: USDA Announces \$1.2 Billion of ARRA Broadband Funding

USDA announced \$1.2 billion in funding for 126 new broadband infrastructure projects to provide improved service to rural residents in 38 states and Native American tribal areas. Click here for additional details: <http://tinyurl.com/2uwvsdz>

EDUCATION

August 5, 2010: ED Notifies Highest Ranking Applicants under i3 Program

ED released the names of 49 school districts, non-profit education organizations, and institutions of higher education that have been selected for potential funding under the Investing in Innovation (i3) program. To receive a share of the \$650 million in i3 grants, the winning applicants must secure a commitment for a 20% private sector match by September 8. Click here for additional details:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/nations-boldest-education-reform-plans-receive-federal-innovation-grants-once-pr>

ENVIRONMENT

August 4, 2010: EPA Releases ARRA Quarterly Performance Report

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its agency-wide third-quarter ARRA performance report. Click here to access the document:

http://www.epa.gov/recovery/pdfs/2010_Q3_Perf_Rpt.pdf

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

August 3, 2010: ACF Revises TANF Emergency Fund Question and Answer Document

ACF added a new question and answer to its TANF Emergency Fund document regarding procedures for allocating funds once claims exceed \$5 billion. To view the information, see:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/recovery/tanf-faq.htm#_procedures

LABOR

August 6, 2010: DOL Releases Guidance Letter for On-the-Job Training National Emergency Grants

DOL released a guidance letter to provide additional details on the one-time availability of On-the-Job Training National Emergency Grants (OJT NEGs) funded with ARRA resources. The letter can be viewed here: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL04-10acc.pdf>