

## FFIS WEEKLY UPDATE – DECEMBER 1, 2009

### Weekly News:

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

##### **EPA Awards \$800,000 for Environmental Justice Projects**

On November 24, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded a total of \$800,000 to five states to support their efforts working with communities to address environmental and public health issues, such as childhood lead poisoning and exposure to air pollution. Additional details are available here:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/99664b8f37c621b185257678006e958e!OpenDocument>

#### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

##### **1) CBO Releases New Analysis on Health Care Reform and Premiums**

On November 30, 2009, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released an analysis of how the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Senate's version of health care reform, would affect premiums in 2016, the point at which the provisions would be fully implemented. According to CBO, some premiums in the individual market would be about 10% to 13% higher compared to the average premium in the same year under current law. However, about half of those enrollees purchasing coverage in the individual market would receive subsidies and have their premiums reduced almost 60% compared to current law. CBO also stated that there would be a relatively smaller effect on the average premium for employment-based coverage. The CBO analysis is available at:

[www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/107xx/doc10781/11-30-Premiums.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/107xx/doc10781/11-30-Premiums.pdf)

##### **2) ACF Awards \$41 Million to Native American Communities and Organizations**

On November 30, 2009, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced \$41 million in grants to Native American communities and organizations located in 28 states and territories for short-term community-based projects that result in social and economic benefits. To view the awards by state, go to:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2009/2009\\_ana\\_grant\\_awards.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2009/2009_ana_grant_awards.html)

##### **3) CMS Delays Effective Date of Medicaid Final Rules**

On November 30, 2009, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) published in the *Federal Register* a final rule that delays the effective date of the November 25, 2008, final rule, "Medicaid Program; Premiums and Cost Sharing" and the December 3, 2008, final rule, "Medicaid Program; State Flexibility for Medicaid Benefit Packages." Both are delayed from December 31, 2009 to July 1, 2010. CMS plans to publish revisions to both final rules to take into account public comments and recent legislation (ARRA and the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization). The *Federal Register* notice is available at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-28569.pdf>

#### **LABOR**

##### **DOL Releases Question and Answer Document on EUC**

On November 23, 2009, the Department of Labor (DOL) released Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 23-08, Change 6 to respond to states' questions about the further expansion of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) 2008 program, enacted as part of the Workers Assistance Act. To view the document, see:

[http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2824](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2824)

#### **NUTRITION**

##### **1) FNS Publishes TEFAP Final Rule**

On November 30, 2009, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published in the *Federal Register* a final rule that amends regulations for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) by making state plans permanent and addressing the allowability of certain administrative costs. The final rule is available at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-28611.pdf>



### **3) ACF Updates Information on TANF Emergency Funds**

On December 1, 2009, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) updated its question and answers document on ARRA TANF Emergency Funds. In addition, it released information on approved TANF Emergency Fund applications by category. To view the information, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/>

## **LABOR**

### **DOL Releases Additional Guidance on TAA**

On November 20, 2009, the Department of Labor (DOL) released Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 22-08, Change 1 to provide a correction to the formula for calculating the Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) payments and to respond to questions from states about the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA) under ARRA. The letter is available at: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2823](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2823)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **1) FHWA Releases Economically Distressed Area (EDA) Questions and Answers**

On November 23, 2009 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) posted the questions and answers from the November 12, 2009, EDA question and answer session. While most questions pertained to ARRA reporting, there were also questions on non-ARRA EDA reporting and the spending of program funds. The information is available at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/edaqanda.htm>

### **2) FTA Releases Section 1201(c) and 1512 ARRA Reporting Tables**

On December 1, 2009, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) posted tables of the information submitted by ARRA grantees in the most recent Section 1201(c) and Section 1512 reporting cycles. To view these tables see: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/index\\_9440\\_10542.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9440_10542.html)