

FFIS WEEKLY UPDATE – January 12, 2010

Weekly News:

ENVIRONMENT

EPA Invites Applications for BEACH Act Grants

On January 11, 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability for Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act grants. EPA encourages coastal and Great Lakes states and tribes to apply for 2010 BEACH Act grants to help implement effective coastal water monitoring and public notification programs. Click here to view the notice:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-260.pdf>

View the EPA announcement of funding here:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/87573d4377021f3f852576a5005479fc!OpenDocument>

View state distribution of funds here:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/grants/2010fs.htm#funding>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) ACF Issues Request for FY 2010 Applications for REACH

On January 7, 2010, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released a action transmittal (LIHEAP-AT-2010-3) requesting FY 2010 applications for the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program (REACH), Round 2. The applications are due March 30, 2010. To view the transmittal, go to:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action_transmittals/at10-03.html

2) SSA Revises Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Regulations

On January 11, 2010, the Social Security Administration (SSA) published a final rule in the *Federal Register* that makes technical changes to rules on income and resources. To view the notice, see:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-241.pdf>

3) HHS Releases First Health Security Strategy

On January 7, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released "The National Health Security Strategy." The document focuses on protecting people's health during a large-scale emergency and sets priorities for government and non-government activities over the next four years. The strategy and implementation guide are available at www.hhs.gov/disasters.

4) HHS Releases Details on National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) Meeting

On January 20, 2010, from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm EST, NVAC will conduct a meeting to discuss a variety of items, including state and local response roles. To view the meeting agenda and logistics, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/meetings/pastmeetings/agenda20100120.html>

NUTRITION

1) New Updates for CSFP

On January 7, 2010, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) canceled several existing policy memoranda for the Commodity Supplemental Foods Program (CSFP) and replaced them with a question and answer document posted to the CSFP website on January 6, 2010. The cancellation memo and the new question and answer document can be found at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/Policy/csfp_policies.htm

On January 4, 2010, FNS posted a new state welcome packet for CSFP. To view the packet, go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/csfp/default.htm>

2) Updated WIC Regulations Listed

As of January 1, 2010, FNS has posted its annual update to regulations for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. These updates

do not include changes which have been subsequently published. To view the information, go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/lawsandregulations/default.htm>

3) Handling Multiple Applications from Same Household for SNAP

On December 30, 2009, FNS posted a memo for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on handling multiple applications submitted by the same household. Specifically, the memo provides clarifying information to state agencies on multiple applications filed in any form during the initial month of application, whether paper or electronic. To view the memo, go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/2010/123009.pdf>

ARRA:

AGRICULTURE

January 12, 2010: USDA Announces \$11.8 Million for 19 Community Facilities Projects in Rural Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the selection of \$11.8 million in community facilities projects that are being funded through ARRA. USDA has announced \$337 million in ARRA funding for community facility projects to date. For more details, see:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0010.xml>

COMMERCE

New Online Tool Available to Help Grant Seekers Find Partners

On January 7, 2010, the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announced the launch of BroadbandMatch, a new online tool to facilitate partnerships among prospective applicants to the agencies broadband grant and loan programs. BroadbandMatch — <http://match.broadbandusa.gov> — allows potential applicants to find partners for broadband projects. For more information, see:

http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2010/BBMatch_20100107.html

EDUCATION

January 5, 2010: ED Publishes Addendums to Race to the Top FAQs

The Department of Education (ED) published three addenda to its Race to the Top Frequently Asked Questions document. The addenda provide answers to a number of new questions as well as modify or extend responses to previous answers. Click here to access the Race to the Top FAQ site:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetotheTOP/faq.html>

ENERGY

1) January 6, 2010: DOE Announces \$47 Million to Improve Information Technology and Communications Sectors

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced today that it is awarding \$47 million for 14 projects across the country to support the development of new technologies that can improve energy efficiency in the information technology and communication technology sectors. For more details, click here:

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8491.htm>

2) January 8, 2010: DOE and Treasury Award \$2.3 Billion for New Clean-Tech Manufacturing Jobs

DOE and the Department of Treasury announced the award of \$2.3 billion for the new Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit. One hundred eighty-three clean energy manufacturing projects in 43 states will be funded through this new program. Follow this link for more information:

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8501.htm>

3) January 11, 2010: DOE Announces \$187 Million to Improve Vehicle Efficiency for Heavy-Duty Trucks and Passenger Vehicles

DOE announced the selection of nine projects totaling more than \$187 million to improve fuel efficiency for heavy-duty trucks and passenger vehicles. The funding includes more than \$100 million from ARRA, and with a private cost share of 50%, will support nearly \$375 million in total research, development, and demonstration projects across the country. Click the following link for additional details:

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8506.htm>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) January 6, 2010: Updated ARRA Medicaid Funding Table

The Department of Health and Human Services posted updated state-by-state Medicaid grant funding information, as approved in Section 5001 of ARRA, through December 24, 2009:

<http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=Reinvestment>

2) January 6, 2010: New Information on the Use of TANF Emergency Funds for Older Youths

The Administration for Children and Families has recently updated its questions and answers on ARRA Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) emergency funds. The new update relates to using TANF emergency funds for older youths. For more information, see:

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

JUSTICE

ARRA Guidance Webinar Update

On December 30, 2009, the Office of Justice Programs, in cooperation with the Office on Violence against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), hosted a webinar on OMB Memorandum M-10-08, Updated Guidance on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—Data Quality, Non-Reporting Recipients, and Reporting Job Estimates. To view the presentation slides and webinar recording, go to: <http://www.ojp.gov/recovery/rawebinar.htm>

LABOR

January 6, 2010: \$100 Million in Green Jobs Grants Announced

The Department of Labor (DOL) announced nearly \$100 million in green jobs training grants, as authorized by ARRA. The grants support job training programs in expanding green industries and related occupations. For a list of awardees, go to:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20091526.htm>

TRANSPORTATION

January 8, 2010: Federal Transit Administration Announces Extension of ARRA Reports

Effective for the quarter ending December 31, 2009, ARRA grant Milestone Progress Reports (MPRs) and the Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) quarterly reports are due 30 days after the end of the quarter.

Reports for the quarter ending December 31, 2009, are now due on January 30, 2010. Recipients who have already submitted their reports do not need to resubmit their information.