

## **FFIS WEEKLY UPDATE – January 19, 2010**

### **Weekly News:**

#### **EDUCATION**

##### **President Announces Proposal to Extend Race to the Top**

On January 19, 2010, the president announced he will include \$1.35 billion to extend Race to the Top (RTT) in his FY 2011 budget, scheduled to be released on February 1, 2010. ARRA included \$4.35 billion for RTT competitive grants to states that demonstrate a commitment to four education reform assurances on teachers, standards, data, and school turnarounds. The structure of the proposed RTT extension remains unclear; however, the president did indicate that in addition to competitive grants at the state level, his proposal would establish a separate competition for school districts prepared to implement system-wide education reforms. For more information, see:

[www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/RTT\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/RTT_factsheet.pdf)

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

##### **1) HHS Intends to Withdraw Kinship Care Regulations**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) intends to withdraw a program instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-08-07) that limits the ability of states to get reimbursement for kinship care placements under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351). Specifically, the guidance only allows states to get federal reimbursement for children who come into the new Guardianship Assistance Program after the law was passed. HHS will issue a new program instruction shortly that will allow states to move existing state guardianship cases into the new program and claim federal reimbursement.

##### **2) HHS Announces Head Start Quality Improvements**

On January 13, 2010, HHS announced plans to strengthen the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which will incorporate Congressional mandates from the 2007 reauthorization. Additional information is available at:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/head\\_start\\_roadmap.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/head_start_roadmap.html)

As part of this process, HHS is redesigning the training and technical assistance system. To view the information memorandum, released on January 11, 2010, see:

[http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Head%20Start%20Requirements/IMs\\_and\\_PIs\\_in\\_PDF/PDF\\_IMs/IM2010/ACF-IM-HS-10-01.pdf](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Head%20Start%20Requirements/IMs_and_PIs_in_PDF/PDF_IMs/IM2010/ACF-IM-HS-10-01.pdf)

##### **3) Joint Guidance Issues on Subsidized Employment**

HHS and the Department of Labor (DOL) have released joint guidance urging workforce and human services agencies to work together to explore all funds available for the creation and expansion of subsidized summer employment programs for low-income youth, including using ARRA Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) emergency funds to provide subsidized employment opportunities. The guidance is attached.

## **HOUSING**

### **HUD Awards Nearly \$12 Million for Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program**

On January 12, 2010, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded nearly \$12 million in grants to more than 200 public housing authorities (PHAs) under the Public and Indian Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program. For a list of awards by state, go to:

[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-004](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-004)

## **LABOR**

### **1) DOL Releases New UI Data Validation Software**

On January 19, 2010, DOL posted guidance to state agencies announcing the release of new Unemployment Insurance (UI) Data Validation (DV) Module 3 web-based software. To view the guidance, go to: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2846](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2846)

### **2) DOL Posts Guidance on Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members**

As of January 15, 2010, DOL has posted two recent Unemployment Insurance Program Letters (UIPLs) on the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service Members (UCX) program. UIPL 08-10 covers a revised federal schedule of remuneration for use in determining benefit eligibility for UCX. UIPL 09-10 outlines acceptable narrative reasons for separation for the UCX program. The UIPLs are available at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/lastSixMonths.cfm>

### **3) DOL Posts Guidance on Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

As of January 15, 2010, DOL has posted Unemployment Insurance Program Letters (UIPLs) 07-10 and 07-10, Change 1, on revised minimum disaster unemployment assistance (DUA) weekly benefit amounts for January 1 through March 31, 2010. To view the UIPLs, go to: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/lastSixMonths.cfm>

## **NUTRITION**

### **1) USDA Announces \$25 Million for New School Food Service Equipment**

On January 14, 2010, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced \$25 million in grants to help schools operating a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) replace outdated equipment with new, energy efficient appliances. The new funding is a one-time FY 2010 appropriation to state educational agencies. Click here for more details, including grants by state:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0015.xml>

### **2) SNAP Sample Letter to Governors Posted**

On January 15, 2010, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) posted a sample letter to governors on balancing program access and integrity for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). To view the letter, go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/2010/011510.pdf>

### **3) Report on WIC Participant and Program Characteristics for 2008 Released**

FNS has released a report describing program and participant characteristics for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). To view the report, go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/published/wic/wic.htm>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **FHWA Releases Revised Apportionment of FY 2010 Funds**

The FY 2010 defense appropriations bill extended surface transportation programs through February 28, 2010. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a notice (N 4510.717) that provides state-by-state apportionment amounts under the extension. To view the notice and state tables see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/notices/n4510717.htm>

## **ARRA:**

### **GENERAL**

#### **January 13, 2010: Council of Economic Advisers Releases Report on ARRA**

The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) released its quarterly report on the impact of ARRA. CEA reports that as of the end of December 2009, \$263 billion has gone to households and businesses in the form of tax reductions and another \$149.7 billion has been obligated for projects and activities. To view the entire report, go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/100113-economic-impact-arra-second-quarterly-report.pdf>

### **AGRICULTURE**

#### **January 13, 2010: USDA Announces \$449 Million in Loan Assistance to Rural Businesses**

USDA announced \$449 million in loan guarantees to assist 128 rural businesses through funding made available by ARRA under the USDA Rural Development's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program. To view the loan awards by state, click here:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0013.xml>

### **COMMERCE**

#### **1) January 15, 2010: Commerce's NTIA and USDA's RUS Announce \$4.8 Billion for Broadband Infrastructure**

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announced a second round of funding for ARRA grants and loans to expand broadband access and adoption. The agencies also announced a series of public workshops nationwide to review and answer questions regarding the revised application process. To view the joint press release and workshop locations, go to: [www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2010/BTOP\\_BIP\\_NOFAII\\_100115.html](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2010/BTOP_BIP_NOFAII_100115.html)

The BTOP NOFA can be viewed at: [www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2010/FR\\_BTOPNOFA\\_100115.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2010/FR_BTOPNOFA_100115.pdf)

#### **2) EDA Announced Nearly \$37 Million Available in Community Trade Adjustment Assistance**

On January 11, 2010, the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced in the *Federal Register* that nearly \$37 million in grants is available to help communities suffering from the adverse effects of import competition develop ways to more effectively compete in the global economy. The funding is available under EDA's Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (Community TAA) Program, which was created in ARRA. The deadline for the submission of full applications for grant assistance is April 20, 2010.

The notice published in the *Federal Register* may be viewed at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-273.pdf>

The Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement detailing eligibility and application requirements may be viewed on EDA's website at: <http://www.eda.gov/PDF/CommunityTAAFFOFINAL2.pdf>

In addition, applicants can visit: <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/CommunityTAA.xml> for complete and updated information on the program.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **January 13, 2010: ED Publishes new Race to the Top FAQs**

The Race to the Top Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, originally published on November 24, 2009, was updated to include the new FAQs. Click here for the FAQs page:

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

## **ENERGY**

### **1) January 15, 2010: DOE Announces More than \$37 Million for Solid-State Lighting**

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced more than \$37 million in funding from ARRA to support high-efficiency solid-state lighting projects. For additional details, click here:

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8527.htm>

### **2) January 13, 2010: DOE Announces Nearly \$80 Million Investment for Advanced Biofuels Research and Fueling Infrastructure**

DOE announced the investment of nearly \$80 million under ARRA for advanced biofuels research and fueling infrastructure. More details, including a complete list of awards, are available here:

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8519.htm>

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **1) January 2010: CCDF Specific Guidance for ARRA Section 1512 Reporting**

The Child Care Bureau released ARRA guidance for the Child Care Development Fund to provide lead agencies with information to assist them in meeting the reporting guidance. To view the information, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/initiatives/arra/1512/index.htm>

### **2) January 8, 2010: Updated ARRA Medicaid Funding Table**

HHS posted updated state-by-state Medicaid grant funding information, as approved in Section 5001 of ARRA, through January 8, 2010:

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

## **HOUSING**

### **January 14, 2010: HUD Awards \$2 Billion In Neighborhood Stabilization Grants Funded by ARRA**

HUD awarded nearly \$2 billion in competitive grants under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP II) funded by ARRA. This is the second round of NSP funding, with the first round of \$3.92 billion awarded to 309 cities and states on a formula basis under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. The list of NSP II grants is available at:

[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-012](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-012)

## **LABOR**

### **1) January 20, 2010: DOL Announces Nearly \$190 Million in State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grants for Green Jobs**

On January 20, 2010, DOL announced nearly \$190 million in green jobs training grants, as authorized by ARRA. To view the awards, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100078.htm>

### **2) January 20, 2010: COBRA Model Notices and Explanatory Webcast Available**

DOL has released three model notice packages that will enable group health plans and employers to provide notice on the availability of the extension of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) continuation coverage premium reductions under ARRA. The notices have been updated for the extension provisions of the FY 2010 defense appropriations bill. A webcast will be held on January 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. (EST) to help employers, plan administrators, and service providers comply with the notice requirements.

To view the notices, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRAModelnotice.html>

To register for the webcast, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/cobra/>

### **3) January 13, 2010: DOL Awards \$150 Million in Pathways Out of Poverty Green Jobs Awards**

DOL announced \$150 million in green jobs training grants, as authorized by ARRA. The "Pathways Out of Poverty" grants - as the group of funding awards is known - are intended to support programs that help disadvantaged populations find ways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency through employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. For a list of awards, see:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100039.htm>