



FFIS Weekly Update – July 6, 2010

Weekly News:

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1) July 1, 2010: Vote on Education Jobs Bill Delayed; FFIS State Estimates Available

The House of Representatives adopted an amendment to the Senate-passed 2010 war supplemental bill (H.R. 4899), which adds \$10 billion in education funding to avoid school layoffs. The bill pays for a portion of this spending through \$800 million in rescissions to education reform funding, including Race to the Top. Though the White House has voiced support for the spending component, it has threatened to veto the bill if it retains the cuts to education reform spending. FFIS's state-by-state allocation estimates are here: http://inside.ffis.org/ff/Education_Jobs_Fund_SFIS.xls

2) July 1, 2010: House Passes Extension to Unemployment Compensation

The House passed the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act (H.R. 5618) before adjourning for the July 4th recess. The bill would extend several provisions contained in ARRA including retroactively restoring benefits in the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program and providing full federal funding for the permanent-law Extended Benefits program, both through November 2010. The bill also contains a provision that would allow states to choose one of four options to prevent EUC claimants from having their benefits cut if intermittent earnings requalify them for regular, state unemployment benefits. Unlike past extensions of ARRA provisions, this legislation does not include an extension of the Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) program, which increases unemployment insurance benefits by \$25/week. A similar bill failed to pass in the Senate on June 30, 2010.

3) July 1, 2010: House Adopts One-Year Budget Resolution

The House voted to adopt a one-year spending plan (H.R. 1493), instead of the traditional five-year budget resolution. The plan would limit discretionary spending to \$1.121 trillion for FY 2011. The budget resolution was considered adopted when the war supplemental bill's (H.R. 4899) rule for floor debate was adopted.

COMMERCE

July 1, 2010: EDA Announces Newest Federal Funding Opportunity

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced FY 2010 funding information for the Research and Evaluation program. Details are available here: [http://www.eda.gov/PDF/Triple Bottom Line FFO.pdf](http://www.eda.gov/PDF/Triple_Bottom_Line_FFO.pdf)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) July 2, 2010: OCSE Issues Final Rule on Intergovernmental Child Support

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) issued a final rule revising federal requirements for establishing and enforcing intergovernmental child support obligations. To view the rule, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-15215.pdf>

2) July 1, 2010: CMS Releases Guidance on Increased Funding for Translation and Interpretation Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance on the increased administrative funding for translation and interpretation services under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) included in the CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA, P.L. 111-3). For more information, go to: <http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SHO10007.pdf>

3) July 1, 2010: CMS Issues Guidance on Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Provision

CMS released guidance on a provision included in CHIPRA that allows states to cover certain children and pregnant women in Medicaid and CHIP who are "lawfully residing" in the United States. For more details, go to: <http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SHO10006.pdf>

4) June 2010: GAO Releases Report on LIHEAP; Task Force Created to Address Fraud Prevention

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and recommends that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issue guidance to states to better prevent fraud in the program. The report is available at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10621.pdf>

In response, state energy officials announced on July 2, 2010, the formation of a joint task force established by the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association in conjunction with HHS, to address issues concerning waste, fraud, and abuse in LIHEAP.

5) June 25, 2010: ACF Announces FY 2010 REACH Grants

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced \$1.4 million was awarded to three states (New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island) and five tribes under the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program (REACH). For more information, see: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information_memoranda/im10-12.html

HEALTH CARE REFORM

1) July 1, 2010: HHS Announces New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan

HHS announced the establishment of a new Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) that will offer coverage to uninsured individuals unable to obtain health coverage because of a pre-existing health condition. The national PCIP is now open to applicants in the 21 states where HHS is operating the program. States that are operating their own programs will begin enrollment by the end of the summer, or sooner. More details can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/07/20100701a.html>

2) July 1, 2010: HHS Launches Health Care Website

As required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), HHS released a new website, www.HealthCare.gov to provide consumers with public and private health care options.

3) June 30, 2010: HHS Releases FAQ Document on Home Visiting Grants

HHS released the frequently asked question (FAQ) document on the first Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The FAQ can be found here: http://inside.ffis.org/ff/Home_Visiting_FAQ_1.pdf

4) July 2, 2010: HHS Announces Funding for Support of Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women

HHS's Office of Public Health and Science announced that it will begin accepting applications for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund, which was created by ACA. This \$25 million competitive grant program will provide pregnant and parenting teens and women services to help them complete high school or post-secondary degrees and gain access to health care, child care, family housing, and other support. For more information, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/grants/announcements/index.html>

5) July 6, 2010: CMS Releases Guidance Letter Implementing Provisions of ACA

The letter provides guidance on two Medicaid benefits related to provisions in ACA. Both provisions were effective as of March 23, 2010: 1) Section 2303 of ACA: State Eligibility Option for Family Planning Services establishes a new Medicaid eligibility group and the option for states to begin providing medical assistance for family planning services and supplies to individuals eligible under this new group. 2) Section 2001(c) of ACA: Medicaid Coverage for the Lowest Income Populations makes certain benefit changes that were enacted as part of ACA to benchmark plans. To letter can be seen here: http://inside.ffis.org/ff/FamilyPlanningandBenchmarkSHO_Final_7-2-10.pdf

LABOR

1) July 2, 2010: ETA Releases Training and Employment Guidance Letter

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released a guidance letter to assist state workforce agencies designated by the governor in implementing recent guidance for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. To view the letter, click here: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL01-10.pdf>

2) June 30, 2010: Letter Outlining Computation of DUA Amounts Issued by ETA

ETA released a program letter to assist in computing minimum Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) weekly benefit amounts for the fourth quarter of FY 2010. The letter can be viewed here: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL28-10.pdf>

3) July 6, 2010: DOL Releases Fact Sheet on Expiration of Unemployment Insurance Programs

DOL released a fact sheet concerning the current status of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. The fact sheet can be found here:

http://www.unemploymentinsurance.doleta.gov/unemploy/supp_act.asp

TRANSPORTATION

1) July 2, 2010: Revisions in STEP Strategy Announced

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently issued a notice announcing revisions to the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP) implementation strategy and to request research suggestions for FY 2011. Suggestions must be submitted to STEP by September 30, 2010. For more information see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/fhwahep09039.htm>

To view the *Federal Register* notice see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-15949.pdf>

2) July 2, 2010: FHWA Releases Supplementary Tables for Surface Transportation Extension Act

FHWA recently issued a notice providing supplementary tables related to the FY 2010 apportionments for the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2010. For more information see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/notices/n4510727.htm>

ARRA:

ENERGY

July 1, 2010: DOE Releases Updated Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF ARRA Reporting Summaries

The Department of Energy (DOE) released updated ARRA Reporting Summary Project Lists for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the Drinking Water SRF. Click the following links to access the respective programs' ARRA Reporting Summaries:

Clean Water SRF: http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/cwsrf/cwsrf_arra.pdf

Drinking Water SRF: http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/cwsrf/dwsrf_arra.pdf

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) July 1, 2010: HHS Awards \$96 Million to Train Health Care Professionals

HHS announced \$96 million in awards, funded by ARRA and FY 2010 appropriations, to support the training of nursing students. For more information and to view the awards by state, see:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/07/20100701d.html>

2) June 25, 2010: Updated ARRA Medicaid Funding Table

HHS posted updated state-by-state Medicaid grant funding information, as approved in Section 5001 of ARRA: <http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=Reinvestment>