



## **FFIS Weekly Update – June 15, 2010**

### **Weekly News:**

#### **COMMERCE**

##### **June 4, 2010: EDA Releases Information on New Investments**

The Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently updated the new investments portion of its website to include funds awarded from May 31, 2010-June 4, 2010.

Click here to see the latest information: <http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/NewInvestments.xml>

#### **EDUCATION**

##### **1) June 11, 2010: ED Releases Letter Regarding QSCBs and QZABs**

In a letter to chief state school officers, the Department of Education (ED) issued the 2010 allocations and guidance for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs) and Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs). To access the letter and more information, click here:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/secletter/100611.html>

##### **2) June 9, 2010: FCC Seeks Comments on E-Rate Reforms**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a proposed rulemaking on a reform package for the E-rate program, which provides discounts for eligible schools and libraries to obtain telecommunications and Internet services. The FCC seeks comments on proposals to streamline the application process, index the current \$2.25 billion cap on E-rate disbursements to inflation, and redefine "rural" according to the Department of Education's definition. To view the proposed rulemaking, please go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-12930.pdf>

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

##### **June 9, 2010: EPA Finds Certain States Failed to Submit Implementation Plans**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that 29 states or territories have failed to submit State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to satisfy the attainment and maintenance interstate transport requirements of the Clean Air Act. Click here for additional details:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-13457.pdf>

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

##### **1) June 11, 2010: AHRQ Awards \$25 Million in Patient Safety and Medical Liability Demonstration Projects**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announced grants to support efforts by states and health systems to implement and evaluate patient safety approaches and medical liability reforms. For more information and to view the awards, click here:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2010/hhsliabawpr.htm>

##### **2) June 10, 2010: ACF Awards \$1.8 Million for Individual Development Account Projects**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) awarded 11 Assets for Independence grants totaling more than \$1.8 million to community-based organizations and government agencies. To view the awards, see: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/idap\\_award\\_afi.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/idap_award_afi.html)

### **3) June 8, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on LIHEAP Program Integrity Plan**

ACF issued guidance to Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grantees on the submission of additional information and strategies for ensuring program integrity. This information is required as a supplement to the FY 2011 state plan, which is due on September 1, 2010. The guidance can be found at:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action\\_transmittals/at10-06\\_1.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action_transmittals/at10-06_1.html)

### **4) June 7, 2010: ACF Issues Guidance on Medical Support**

ACF issued an action transmittal notifying states that they will be held harmless from penalties for failure to comply with medical support final rule state plan requirements. To view the guidance, click here: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/AT/2010/at-10-02.htm>

### **5) June 4, 2010: ACF Announces LIHEAP Leveraging Funds**

ACF awarded \$24.5 million in FY 2010 LIHEAP Leveraging Funds. For more information, click here: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information\\_memoranda/im10-10.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information_memoranda/im10-10.html)

## **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

### **1) June 14, 2010: Federal Agencies Release Regulation on Health Plans**

The departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor (DOL), and Treasury issued regulation on "grandfathered" health plans under the health care reform law. To view the regulations, press release, and question and answer document, see:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100614c.html>

### **2) June 10, 2010: CMS Releases Informational Bulletin on National Criminal Background Check Program**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a bulletin on the new national background check program. The bulletin, which includes information about an upcoming conference call for states considering participating in the program, can be found at:

[http://inside.ffis.org/ff/CMS\\_Information\\_Bulletin\\_6-10.pdf](http://inside.ffis.org/ff/CMS_Information_Bulletin_6-10.pdf)

### **3) June 10, 2010: NASADAD Releases Report on the Effects of Health Care Reform on Substance Abuse**

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) released a report that examines the impact of state-level health reform on substance abuse systems in Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont and provides considerations for implementation of the health care reform law. To view the report, see: [http://www.nasadad.org/resource.php?base\\_id=2104](http://www.nasadad.org/resource.php?base_id=2104)

### **4) June 10, 2010: HRSA Announces \$90 Million in New Maternal, Infant, and Childhood Home Visiting Program Grants**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced availability of funding under the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, a new program created under the health care reform law. For more information and to access the grant application, go to:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/pressreleases/100610.html>

### **5) June 7, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on Child Welfare Requirements in Health Care Reform**

ACF released guidance on a provision of the health care reform law designed to ensure that children receiving independent living services and/or education and training vouchers, and those who are aging out of foster care have information and education about having a health care power of attorney. For more information, go to:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1010.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1010.htm)

## **HOUSING**

### **June 11, 2010: HUD Publishes Policy Requirements for Discretionary Programs**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the policies and requirements applicable to all FY 2010 competitive funding opportunities. The document also describes HUD's policy priorities. Click here to access the notice:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-14004.pdf>

## **INTERIOR**

### **June 8, 2010: MMS Proposes Rule Regulating Collection of Debts Associated with Energy Production**

The Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has proposed provisions governing the collection of delinquent royalties, rentals, bonuses, and other amounts due under leases and other agreements for the production of oil, natural gas, coal, geothermal energy, other minerals, and renewable energy from federal lands. Under the proposed rules, any penalty fees collected by MMS will be transferred to directly to the Treasury. The notice states explicitly that states would receive no portion of the penalty payments. For additional details, click here:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-13646.pdf>

## **NUTRITION**

### **1) June 11, 2010: FNS Publishes Final Rule on SNAP Quality Control Provisions**

The Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) published a final rule on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) quality control provisions included in the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002. To view the rule, see:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-13446.pdf>

### **2) June 8, 2010: FNS Announces New Grants to Foster Hunger-Free Communities**

FNS announced the availability of \$5 million in competitive grant funding to public and not-for-profit organizations under the new Hunger-Free Communities grants. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/newsroom.htm>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **June 9, 2010: Senate Panel Approves Bill Providing Grants to States Combating Distracted Driving**

The Senate Commerce Committee approved the Distracted Driver Prevention Act of 2010 (S. 1938), which would authorize \$95 million annually for two years to provide grants to states that enact laws to prohibit distracted driving and establish fines for violations. A companion bill (H.R. 3994) was introduced in the House last November. The text of the bill is available at:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:s1938rcs.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s1938rcs.txt.pdf)

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **1) June 15, 2010: DOL Awards \$9 Million in Grants to Provide Veterans with "Green" Jobs Training**

DOL awarded 22 competitive grants to state and local workforce investment boards and other organizations to provide training to veterans. To view a list of the FY 2010 Veterans' Workforce Investment Program grantees, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20100823.htm>

### **2) June 11, 2010: DOL Seeks Comments on Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program**

DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) is requesting comments, including data and other information, on issues related to the funding formula applicable to the Jobs for Veterans State Grants program. Click here to access the notice: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-13870.pdf>

## **ARRA**

## **COMMERCE**

**June 10, 2010: BTOP Grant Reporting Templates Posted**

Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has posted grant reporting templates for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). These templates have been posted under Grants Management/BTOP Reporting section for easy reference. Click here for more information: <http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/btopreporting>

## **EDUCATION**

### **1) June 8, 2010: ED Updates State-by-State ARRA Fact Sheets**

ED updated its state-by-state ARRA Fact Sheets, which details the amount that each state has been awarded to date for all ARRA programs. To view the information, see: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/state-fact-sheets/index.html>

### **2) June 1, 2010: ED Announces Information on Submitted RTT Applications**

ED announced that 35 states and the District of Columbia submitted applications to be considered for Phase 2 of the Race to the Top (RTT) competition. ED will select the Phase 2 winners over the summer, using the same process as Phase 1. Depending on the size of the winning states, 10 to 15 states could receive grants. For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/35-states-and-dc-see-share-34-billion-race-top-fund>

## **ENERGY**

### **1) June 11, 2010: DOE Announces \$60 Million in ARRA Funding to Expand Local Energy Efficiency Efforts**

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that 20 communities have been selected for more than \$60 million in funding under ARRA to implement local energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Local governments, non-profit organizations, and quasi-governmental organizations are among the recipients for the competitive grants, administered under DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. For more information, click here: <http://www.energy.gov/news/9068.htm>

### **2) June 10, 2010: DOE Announces Nearly \$1 Billion Public-Private Investment in Industrial Carbon Capture and Storage**

DOE announced that three projects have been selected to receive up to \$612 million from ARRA. These funds will be matched by \$368 million in private funding to demonstrate large-scale carbon capture and storage from industrial sources. Click here for additional details: <http://www.energy.gov/news/9065.htm>

### **3) June 10, 2010: DOE Holds Davis-Bacon Training for SEP Grantees**

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) held a Davis-Bacon training webinar for State Energy Program (SEP) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) grantees.

View the presentation here:

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/recipient\\_subrecipient\\_dba\\_training.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/recipient_subrecipient_dba_training.pdf)

Download the audio here: [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/media/davis-bacon\\_webinar\\_20100610.mp3](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/media/davis-bacon_webinar_20100610.mp3)

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **June 1, 2010: EPA Releases 2010 Agency ARRA Plan**

EPA recently posted its agency and program plans for administering ARRA in 2010. To view EPA's plans, which have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, click here: <http://www.epa.gov/recovery/pdfs/2010-EPA-ARRA-Plans.pdf>

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **June 9, 2010: OIG Releases Audit Reports on ARRA Medicaid Eligibility Requirements**

The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) released two reports on compliance with the Medicaid

eligibility requirements in New Hampshire and Minnesota. To view the reports, go to:  
[http://oig.hhs.gov/recovery/recovery\\_reports.asp](http://oig.hhs.gov/recovery/recovery_reports.asp)

#### **HOMELAND SECURITY**

##### **June 11, 2010: DHS Announces Additional Funding for Fire Station Construction Grants**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced approximately \$11.9 million in ARRA funding for Fire Station Construction Grants. These grants are in addition to the \$166 million announced in September 2009 and the \$23 million announced in February 2010. For more information see: [http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1276281771240.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1276281771240.shtm)

#### **TREASURY**

##### **June 10, 2010: Treasury Releases Latest ARRA Data Report**

The Department of the Treasury recently released a report detailing state-by-state spending for all Treasury-administered ARRA programs during the first quarter of 2010. Click here to see the report: [http://www.treas.gov/recovery/docs/Treasury Recovery Act Data as of 3-31-2010.xls](http://www.treas.gov/recovery/docs/Treasury%20Recovery%20Act%20Data%20as%20of%203-31-2010.xls)