



## **FFIS Weekly Update – June 23, 2010**

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

#### **June 23, 2010: Senate May Be Considering Scaled-Back Version of ARRA FMAP Extension**

Yesterday, Senate Democrats circulated a new version of tax "extenders" legislation that would modify the six-month extension of the ARRA Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAPs). The proposal would extend the hold-harmless provision and the unemployment bonuses for two quarters. However, the across-the-board increase would be reduced from 6.2 percentage points to 5.3 percentage points in the first quarter of the extension (January - March 2011) and 3.2 percentage points in the second quarter (April - June 2011). Later in the day, it was rumored that the proposal would be scaled-back even further but no details were provided. Today, it appears that the proposal would reduce the across-the-board increase to 3.2 percentage points in the first quarter and 1.2 percentage points in the second quarter. While no formal document has been released and the provisions may change yet again, FFIS has prepared state-by-state estimates of the latest proposal that are available to subscribers at [www.ffis.org](http://www.ffis.org).

### **COMMERCE**

#### **June 18, 2010: Commerce Announces \$10 Million in Grants for Gulf Region**

The Department of Commerce awarded eight grants, totaling \$10 million, for economic development planning and coastal management in the Gulf Region. Click here for more details:  
<http://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2010/06/18/commerce-secretary-gary-locke-announces-1027-million-grants-gulf-regi>

### **EDUCATION**

#### **June 18, 2010: ED Releases Proposed Rule on Higher Education Program Integrity**

The Department of Education (ED) proposed to improve integrity in the programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) by amending various department and program-specific regulations. Click here to access the notice:  
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-14107.pdf>

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **June 18, 2010: EPA Makes Five-Year Strategic Agency Plan Available, Requests Comments**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of the draft FYs 2011-2015 EPA Strategic Plan for review and comment by state and local governments and others. Click here for more information:  
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-14649.pdf>

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **1) June 21, 2010: CMS Issues Guidance on PARIS Data Matching Requirements**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance on the provisions in the Qualifying Individual Program Supplemental Funding Act of 2008 that require states to participate in the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) as a condition of receiving Medicaid funding for automated data systems. To view the guidance, go to:  
<http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SMD10009.pdf>

**2) June 21, 2010: CMS Releases Additional Information on Third Party Liability**

CMS released additional guidance to address the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requirement that the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) specify a manner in which state Medicaid agencies and health plans exchange eligibility and coverage information. More information is available at: <http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SMD10011.pdf>

**3) June 18, 2010: ONC Issues Final Rule on EHR Technology**

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) issued the final rule to establish a temporary certification program for electronic health record technology. The final rule can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100618d.html>

**4) June 11, 2010: OCSE Releases Updated Guidance on Collection of Child Support Obligations**

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) released updated guidance on the collection and enforcement of past-due child support obligations through the federal income tax refund offset, administrative offset, passport denial, and data match programs. To view the guidance, see: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/AT/2010/at-10-04.htm>

**5) June 18, 2010: ACF Issues Letter on LIHEAP Data Matching**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published an information memorandum that requests states to maintain FY 2010 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) recipient household data for data matching purposes. To view the request, see: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action\\_transmittals/at10-07.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/action_transmittals/at10-07.html)

**6) June 11, 2010: ACF Releases LIHEAP Technical Assistance Publication**

ACF announced the release of its LIHEAP Home Energy Notebook for FY 2008, which includes eligibility, performance, and expenditure data. For access to the full publication, click here: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information\\_memoranda/im10-11.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information_memoranda/im10-11.html)

**7) June 7, 2010: ACF Releases SSBG Expenditure Guidance; Annual Report**

ACF released information on the requirements of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) expenditure reports. To view this information, see: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/im10-01.html>

ACF also published its annual report that analyzes state expenditure data for 2008. This report can be found at:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/reports/2008/index.html>

**8) June 2010: ACF Releases Information on Proposed Fatherhood, Marriage, and Families Innovation Fund**

ACF published a fact sheet and question and answer document on the administration's proposed FY 2011 Fatherhood, Marriage, and Families Innovation Fund, which requires congressional approval. The following links contain additional information:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2010/Fatherhood\\_Marriage\\_and\\_Families\\_Innovation\\_Fund\\_QA.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2010/Fatherhood_Marriage_and_Families_Innovation_Fund_QA.html)

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2010/Innovation\\_Fund\\_One\\_Pager.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2010/Innovation_Fund_One_Pager.html)

**HEALTH CARE REFORM**

**1) June 23, 2010: HHS Announces New Health Care Education and Training Grants for TANF**

HHS announced a new \$51 million competitive grant program to provide training, education, and career advancement programs in health care professions for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals. To view the funding application, see: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2010-ACF-OFA-FX-0126>

## **2) June 22, 2010: CMS Provides Information on Changes to MFP Demonstration**

CMS issued guidance on the five-year extension and modification to the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing (MFP) Demonstration Program included in the health care reform law, which is available at: <http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SMD10012.pdf>

## **3) June 18, 2010: HHS Announces Release of \$500 from Prevention and Public Health Fund**

HHS announced the release of \$500 million in FY 2010 funds from the Prevention and Public Health Fund included in the health care reform law. The funds will support the primary health care workforce as well as health and wellness initiatives. Additional details are included in the following two press releases and grant applications will be available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov):  
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100616a.html>  
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100618g.html>

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **1) June 15, 2010: FEMA Releases Fact Sheet on Public Assistance Program**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a fact sheet that describes funding available to public housing authorities (PHAs) under the Public Assistance Program. For more information, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-14290.pdf>

### **2) June 17, 2010: DHS Announces Proposed Guidance to Grantees on Discrimination Policy**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is seeking comments on a proposal that outlines the steps grant recipients, including state and local governments, should take to ensure access to programs by persons with limited English proficiency. To view the notice, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-14630.pdf>

## **HOUSING**

### **June 17, 2010: HUD Awards \$2.3 Billion to PHAs to Improve Public Housing**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded more than \$2.3 billion to PHAs for major capital improvements to their public housing units. Click here for additional details and to view the awards:

[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-126](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-126)

## **LABOR**

### **June 17, 2010: ETA Releases Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program Guidelines**

The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released FY 2011 base resource planning targets and general guidelines for the UI program. The program letter is available at: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?docn=2916](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2916)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **June 18, 2010: DOT and HUD Jointly Announce \$75 Million in Planning Grants**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) and HUD jointly announced the availability of TIGER II transportation planning grants and HUD Community Challenge Planning Grants to better align transportation, housing, economic development and land use planning. State and local governments and transit agencies are eligible to apply for the funds. To view the announcement, see:

[http://www.dot.gov/livability/source/FINAL\\_Joint\\_Planning\\_NOFA\\_061810.pdf](http://www.dot.gov/livability/source/FINAL_Joint_Planning_NOFA_061810.pdf)

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **June 16, 2010: VA Issues Final Rule on Grants to States for Veterans Cemeteries**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued a final rule to amend regulations governing grants to states for the establishment, expansion, and improvement of state veterans cemeteries. Click here to view the final rule: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-14058.pdf>

## **ARRA:**

### **EDUCATION**

#### **1) June 16, 2010: ED Publishes Notice of Final Priority Under Centers for Independent Living**

ED's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announced a criteria under the Centers for Independent Living Program - Training and Technical Assistance, which may be used for awarding FY 2010 ARRA funds. Click here to access details:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-14404.pdf>

#### **2) June 18, 2010: ED Updates SFSF Monitoring Documents**

ED recently updated several monitoring plan documents for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). Visit the following site to access all the documents:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.html>

### **ENERGY**

#### **1) June 16, 2010: DOE Publishes Desk Guide to Davis-Bacon Act**

The Department of Energy (DOE) released a "desk guide" for contractors and subcontractors working on construction projects under a federal contract requiring the application of Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Click here to access the new desk guide:

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/doe\\_dba\\_desk\\_guide\\_061610.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/doe_dba_desk_guide_061610.pdf)

#### **2) June 17, 2010: DOE Announces \$76 Million for Advanced Energy-Efficient Building Technologies and Training**

DOE announced awards totaling more than \$76 million to support advanced energy-efficient building technology projects and the development of training programs for commercial building equipment technicians, building operators, and energy auditors. Click here for additional details:

<http://www.energy.gov/news/9152.htm>

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **June 21, 2010: CMS Issues Guidance on ARRA FMAPs Related to Political Subdivisions**

CMS provided clarification on the interpretation and application of the political subdivision requirement included in ARRA. To view the guidance, see:

<http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SMD10010.pdf>

### **JUSTICE**

#### **June 18, 2010: Justice Announces ARRA Awards for Local Communities**

The Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs announced more than \$300 million in ARRA funding to 16 local governments under the Justice Assistance Grant Program. To view the awards, go to: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2010/BJA10089.htm>