



FFIS WEEKLY UPDATE – March 2, 2010

GENERAL

Senate Looks to Tax Extender Bill to Move Program Extensions

On March 1, 2010, a substitute amendment to H.R. 4213, a bill to extend several expiring tax provisions, was introduced in the Senate. The underlying bill would extend through 2010 more than \$30 billion in tax provisions that expired December 31, 2009, including the research and development credit, a deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses, incentives for renewable fuels, and an extension of the deductibility of state sales taxes. The \$10 billion substitute amendment would extend through December 31, 2010, several programs that expired over the weekend, including unemployment benefits, health insurance subsidies for the unemployed, and highway programs. In addition, the new language would provide for a six-month extension of the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) provisions included in ARRA.

EDUCATION

ED Publishes Proposal for Teacher Incentives

On February 26, 2010, the Department of Education (ED) published proposed priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria under the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) program. Comments must be received by March 29, 2010. Click here to read the *Federal Register* notice: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-3963.pdf>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) HHS Issues Letter to Governors Regarding Data Banks

On February 12, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a letter to governors outlining changes to two data banks — the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank. Here is the [letter](#), which includes necessary state actions.

2) OMB Creates Interagency HIT Task Force

On February 19, 2010, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memorandum on the creation of an interagency Health Information Technology (HIT) Task Force to facilitate implementation of the president's agenda through better coordination among federal agencies. To view the notice, go to: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-10.pdf

3) HRSA Updates Guidance on Medicare Part D and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

As of February 2010, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) posted guidance to help administrators of Ryan White programs understand the implications of the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. To view the information, see: <http://hab.hrsa.gov/programs/RyanWhitePartDFAQs2010.pdf>

4) HHS Publishes Final Rule on Computerized Tribal Child Support Systems

On February 25, 2010, HHS published a final rule in the *Federal Register* that enables tribes and tribal organizations that operate comprehensive child support enforcement programs to receive direct federal funding for the costs of automated data processing. For more information, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/AT/2010/at-10-01.htm>

HOMELAND SECURITY

DHS Announces New Border Interoperability Demonstration Grants

On February 25, 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a new \$25.5 million Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP) grant program. States sharing a border with Canada or Mexico are eligible to apply for the grant. Applications must be submitted by April 26, 2010. More information, including the grant announcement and information bulletin, is available at: http://www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/grants/gc_1261517564250.shtm

HOUSING

HUD Announces \$13 Million in Grants for Healthy Homes

On March 1, 2010, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$13 million in funding to cities, counties, tribes, universities, and non-profit agencies to eliminate dangerous lead and other hazards in privately owned, low-income housing units. For a state-by-state breakdown, go to:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/documents/state-by-state_grant_awards_and_project_descriptions.pdf

HUD Announces \$26.5 Million in SHOP Grants

On February 24, 2010, HUD awarded funds to non-profit organizations under its Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP). For a list of awardees, see:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-037

JUSTICE

BJA Announces Funding Opportunity for NMVTIS Participation

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has released the FY 2010 National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) participation program solicitation. Applications are due April 15, 2010. More information on this grant opportunity is available at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/10NMVTISsol.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

1) Extension of Surface Transportation Programs Expires

With the expiration of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) on March 1, 2010, federal reimbursements to the states for costs incurred on projects obligated with Highway Trust Fund (HTF) contract authority have stopped. In addition, the Department of Transportation announced that it has furloughed almost 2,000 employees whose salaries are paid from the fund. An extension of the program is included in H.R. 4213 described in the first item in this e-mail.

2) FHWA Issues Notice on Previous Extension of Transportation Programs

On February 26, 2010, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) posted a notice (N 4510.718) to its website that includes the total amount for each state made available under the 151-day extension of surface transportation programs (through February 28, 2010). To view this notice, see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/notices/n4510718.htm>

3) FTA Announces Launch of Livable and Sustainable Communities Website

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently launched its new Livable and Sustainable Communities website. This website can be viewed at: www.fta.dot.gov/livability

ARRA:

EDUCATION

March 1, 2010: ED Provides Timeline for Race to the Top Awards

ED announced the timeline it will follow to notify states of Phase I Race to the Top (RTT) awards. On March 4, 2010, the department will notify, via e-mail, states that applied for Phase I as to whether they are a finalist to receive a grant. The department will then announce the winners. On March 5,

2010, the department will hold a conference call with the finalist states to provide them with additional details. ED will invite each state to send a team of five representatives to interview with the RTT peer review panel on their application the week of March 15, 2010.