



FFIS Weekly Update – May 11, 2010

Weekly News:

AGRICULTURE

May 10, 2010: USDA Commits Funding to Help Clean-up the Great Lakes

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced financial and technical resources to eight states to help clean up the Great Lakes as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. For more details, including state allocations, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/263gate>

EDUCATION

May 4, 2010: ED Releases Research Documents on ESEA Blueprint Proposals

The Department of Education (ED) released a series of documents outlining the research associated with proposals included in the administration's blueprint for reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Click here to access the research:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html>

ENERGY

May 6, 2010: House Passes Home Star Legislation

The House passed legislation to authorize the "Home Star" program. The bill (H.R. 5019) would create new ways for homeowners to achieve energy efficiency through a new retrofitting rebate system. There are several sections of the bill that would affect states. Title I would authorize \$6 billion in FYs 2010-2011, about \$1 billion of which would go to state and local governments to support the proposed rebate program. Title II would authorize \$200 million in FY 2010 and \$400 million in FY 2011 to help states develop and implement plans to replace certain types of housing with newer, more energy-efficient models.

Click here to access the legislation:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:h.r.05019>:

The Congressional Budget Office's cost estimate can be found here:

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/114xx/doc11469/hr5019.pdf>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) May 5, 2010: ACF Releases Guidance on LIHEAP and Improper Payments

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released guidance that strongly encourages states to require that applicants for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provide Social Security numbers in an effort to enhance program integrity. To view the guidance, go to:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information_memoranda/im10-06.html

2) May 10, 2010: ACF Releases Instruction on Income Eligibility for Head Start

ACF released a program instruction on income eligibility for enrollment in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. To view the guidance, see: [http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program Design and Management/Head Start Requirements/Pls/2010/resour_pri_002_051010.html](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Head%20Start%20Requirements/Pls/2010/resour_pri_002_051010.html)

3) May 6, 2010: HHS Announces Extension of Hospital Preparedness Program

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a waiver extension for the Hospital Preparedness Program. The extension will make \$14 million in unobligated grant funds available to states to assist public health departments and hospitals with this year's H1N1 response. Questions should be directed to HHSIGA@hhs.gov.

4) May 10, 2010: GAO Releases Report on Runaway and Homeless Youth Grants

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a review of the Runaway and Homeless Youth programs and found that HHS should take steps to ensure a fair and transparent grant award process. To view the report, see: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10335.pdf>

5) May 5, 2010: GAO Releases Report on Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

GAO released a report on the various factors that may have contributed to the decline in the number of children whose families receive subsidies under CCDF. To view the report, go to: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-344>

HEALTH CARE REFORM

1) April 28, 2010: CRS Releases Report on Health Care Reform

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) released a report on the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provisions in health care reform. The report is here: http://inside.ffis.org/ff/CRSReport4_28_1.pdf

2) May 10, 2010: Federal Departments Issue Rule on Dependent Health Coverage

The departments of HHS, Treasury, and Labor released an interim final rule that addresses provisions of health care reform that require plans and issuers that offer dependent coverage to make the coverage available until a child reaches the age of 26. To view the regulation and fact sheet, see: http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/index.html#dependent_coverage

3) May 5, 2010: HHS Releases Interim Final Regulations on Early Retirees Reinsurance Program

The health care reform law appropriated \$5 billion for the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program and required that HHS establish it within 90 days after enactment. Both self-funded and insured plans can apply, including plans sponsored by state and local governments. To view the interim final rule and fact sheet, go to: http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/index.html#early_retiree

4) May 5, 2010: HHS Publishes Health Care Reform Web Portal Requirements

HHS published an interim final rule regarding the health insurance web portal required by the health care reform law. The web portal is intended to assist individuals and small businesses in identifying health insurance coverage options in each state, effective July 1, 2010. The interim final rule adopts the categories of information that will be collected and displayed via the website, and the data required from issuers and requested from states, associations, and high-risk pools in order to create this content. For more information, including the interim final rule, go to: http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/index.html#health_care_reform

5) May 5, 2010: HHS Issues Letter to Governors on Health Insurance Rate Reviews

The secretary of HHS sent a letter to governors asking them to review their rate authority under state law to determine if governors have the regulatory tools needed to approve health insurance rates before they take effect. In addition, the letter indicates that HHS intends to issue guidance on the \$250 million included in the health care reform law to assist states in health insurance rate reviews. For more information, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/05/20100505a.html>

LABOR

1) May 7, 2010: ETA Publishes Lower Living Standard Income Levels

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released the lower

living standard income levels, which are used to determine eligibility for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs. To view the information, click here:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-10794.pdf>

2) May 7, 2010: ETA Announces WIA Incentive Funding

Ten states qualified to receive a total of \$9.7 million for incentive grant awards under WIA based on program year 2008 performance: Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, and Tennessee. These states must submit their applications to DOL by June 21, 2010. For more information, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-10930.pdf>

3) April 14, 2010: GAO Releases Report on Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Funds

GAO releases a report that describes the current condition of state UI trust funds, highlights policies or practices that contribute to their conditions, and identifies options for improvement. To view the full report, see: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-440>

NUTRITION

May 10, 2010: FNS Releases Updated State Guide on SNAP

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released an updated guide for state agencies on improving access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. To view the report, go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/government/pdf/2010-toolkit.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

May 5, 2010: FHWA Releases Notices on FY 2010 Federal-Aid Highway Programs

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released three notices on federal-aid highway programs for FY 2010, including the revised obligation authority, the revised extension and flexibility of certain allocated programs, and the redistribution of certain authorized funds. To view these notices, go to:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/new.html>

May 7, 2010: FRA Holds Workshops to Solicit Input for National Rail Plan

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced five workshops across the country to solicit input for the development of a National Rail Plan (NRP). For more information on the workshops, including the preliminary national rail plan, go to: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/pages/481.shtml>

May 10, 2010: FTA Announces Project Selections for Transit in Parks Program

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the selection of projects funded with FY 2009 appropriations for the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program. This program provides funds to federal land management agencies and state/local governments for capital and planning expenses for alternative transportation in parks and public lands. To view the awards, go to:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-10924.pdf>

ARRA:

GENERAL

May 4, 2010: OMB Releases Additional Information on ARRA Reporting Compliance

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memorandum for federal agencies that outlines additional steps necessary to address recipient reporting non-compliance. To view the memorandum, go to: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m-10-17.pdf

AGRICULTURE

May 7, 2010: USDA Announces ARRA Support for Rural Businesses

USDA announced \$299 million in loan guarantees to 90 businesses in 32 states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico as part of Rural Development's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program. Click here for additional details: <http://tinyurl.com/2auax3p>

COMMERCE

May 6, 2010: NTIA Posts State Comments on ARRA BTOP Grant Awards

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has posted state comments on geographic areas and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) applications that should receive priority when NTIA makes BTOP Round Two grant awards. To view the state recommendations, please go to: <http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/comments>

EDUCATION

May 10, 2010: ED Publishes Notice on Centers for Independent Living Program

ED announced that it is accepting applications for FY 2010 awards under the Centers for Independent Living program. These awards are funded by ARRA and the regular appropriation process. Applications are due June 9, 2010. For additional details, including funding by state, click here: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-11007.pdf>

ENERGY

May 7, 2010: DOE Announces \$60 Million for Small Business Clean Energy Innovation Projects

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that \$60 million in funding from ARRA is available to support innovative small business research and development leading to deployment of clean energy technologies. This is a Phase II funding opportunity under DOE's Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program. Click here for greater detail: <http://www.energy.gov/news/8953.htm>

ENVIRONMENT

May 3, 2010: EPA Releases ARRA Quarterly Performance Report

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its ARRA Quarterly Performance Report for the second quarter of FY 2010, which includes information on the six environmental programs funded by ARRA: clean water, drinking water, diesel emissions, brownfields, leaking underground storage tanks, and superfund projects. Click here to view the performance report: http://www.epa.gov/recovery/pdfs/2010_Q2_Perf_Rpt.pdf

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) May 10, 2010: CMS Releases Letter on Clawback Calculation

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified states of the clawback multipliers for the third quarter of FY 2010, based on the increased Medicaid matching rates under ARRA. The letter is available at: <http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SMD10007.pdf>

2) May 4, 2010: HHS Announces ARRA Health IT Awards

HHS announced awards for the Beacon Community Program, which provides funding to communities to build and strengthen their health information technology (health IT) infrastructure, and exchange capabilities. To view the awards, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/05/20100504a.html>

3) May 6, 2010: HHS Office of Disability Awards ARRA Funds for Data Collection Efforts

The HHS Office on Disability awarded \$6 million under ARRA to establish a Center of Excellence in Research on Disability Services, Care Coordination and Integration. For more information, click here: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/05/20100506a.html>

TRANSPORTATION

May 5, 2010: House Committee Releases ARRA Transportation Report

The majority staff of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure prepared a report that outlines the implementation status of ARRA transportation and infrastructure provisions as of April 16, 2010. To view the report, go to: http://transportation.house.gov/Media/file/ARRA/20100505/Recovery_Act_5-5-10_Report_.pdf