



## **FFIS Weekly Update – May 4, 2010**

### **Weekly Update:**

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

##### **April 29, 2010: EPA Awards More than \$16 Million in Brownfields Grants**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced approximately \$16.1 million in Brownfields grants that are intended to assist New England communities in assessing, cleaning up, and redeveloping abandoned or contaminated waste sites. For more information, click here: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/48f4709ba7985e7585257714006e7e54!OpenDocument>

#### **COMMERCE**

##### **April 29, 2010: Commerce Announces Legislation to Reauthorize EDA**

The Department of Commerce released the administration's legislation to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Click here for greater detail: <http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/PressReleases/2010Reauthorization>

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

##### **1) April 27, 2010: ACF Revises Child Welfare Policy Manual**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) deleted questions from the Child Welfare Policy Manual related to Title IV-E eligibility and requirements. To view the deletions, see: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/i2ee/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/updates\\_delete.jsp](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/i2ee/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/updates_delete.jsp)

##### **2) April 2010: ACF Releases Updated Allocation Information for CCDF**

ACF released tables showing FY 2011 estimated tribal allocations for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and FY 2009 final allocations that include reallocated funds. For more information, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/new/index.htm>

##### **3) April 29, 2010: ACF Releases Information for CSBG and SSBG Networks**

ACF released a Dear Colleague Letter that provides information on two Internal Revenue Service (IRS) programs in which Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) and Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) networks are encourage to apply. The letter is available at: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/int\\_rev\\_ser.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/int_rev_ser.html)

#### **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

##### **1) April 30, 2010: HHS Issues Update on High-Risk Pool Programs**

The health care reform law created a high-risk pool program to help adults who are uninsured and have a pre-existing condition access insurance. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released a list of states that would like to run a high-risk pool program and those that would prefer that HHS administer the program. To view the information, see: [http://www.healthreform.gov/forums/blog/blog\\_20100430\\_1.html](http://www.healthreform.gov/forums/blog/blog_20100430_1.html)

##### **2) April 30, 2010: CMS Issues Rule on Medicaid Benefit Packages**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published in the *Federal Register* a final rule regarding state flexibility for Medicaid benefit packages that was approved as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 (P.L. 109-171). The final rule defines "benchmark" and "benchmark-equivalent" benefit packages. Additionally, the rule includes modifications required by the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 (P.L. 111-3). CMS indicated there is a forthcoming regulation that will codify the benefits changes approved as part of the health care reform law. To view the rule, go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-9734.pdf>

### **3) May 2010: Integrated Health Care Act Available**

The House Legislative Counsel has published an integrated version of the Patient Protection and Affordability Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152). To view the act, go to: [http://www.ffis.org/health\\_care\\_reform](http://www.ffis.org/health_care_reform)

### **4) April 2010: Moody's Releases Report on Health Care Reform**

Moody's Investor Services released a report titled, "Healthcare Reform Expected to Create Longer Term Financial Pressure for States." The report is here:

[http://inside.ffis.org//ff/Healthcare Reform Expected to Create LongerTerm Finan Pressure for States.pdf](http://inside.ffis.org//ff/Healthcare_Reform_Expected_to_Create_LongerTerm_Finan_Pressure_for_States.pdf)

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **April 26, 2010: DHS Releases Application for FY 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the opening of the application period for the FY 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. To view the guidance and application, go to:

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/content/html/afg/default.aspx>

## **LABOR**

### **1) April 30, 2010: ETA Releases Guidance on Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)**

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) at the Department of Labor (DOL) issued guidance on HCTC resources for health insurance coverage assistance and support services for eligible Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) recipients. For more information, see:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL25-09.pdf>

### **2) April 28, 2010: ETA Releases Information for Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Grantees**

ETA released funding information and guidance for grantees that were awarded additional FY 2010 funds under SCSEP. To view the guidance, go to:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL24-09.pdf>

### **3) April 28, 2010: ETA Releases Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws**

ETA announced the release of its annual comparison of state unemployment insurance laws. To view the information for 2010, click here: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/ten2009/ten41-09.pdf>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **May 4, 2010: FTA Announces the Availability of \$775 Million for the "State of Good Repair" Initiative**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of discretionary Section 5309 Bus and Bus Related Facilities grant funds in support its "State of Good Repair" initiative. To view the funding opportunity, see: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-05-04/pdf/2010-10430.pdf>

## **ARRA:**

## **ENERGY**

### **April 29, 2010: DOE Announces ARRA Funding for 37 Transformational Energy Research Projects**

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced \$106 million in funding for 37 research projects related to the way the country uses and produces energy. For additional details and to view the project selections, click here: <http://www.energy.gov/news/8911.htm>

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **1) April 30, 2010: HHS Publishes ARRA FMAPs for Second Quarter of FY 2010**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a notice in the *Federal Register* that provides the ARRA Federal Medical Assistance Rates (FMAP) for the second quarter of FY 2010. To view the notice, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-10055.pdf>

### **2) April 29, 2010: NCSL Releases Report on ARRA FMAP Extension and State Budget Impact**

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) released a report on the proposed six-month extension of the ARRA FMAPs. It includes information on whether states have budgeted on the assumption that Congress will approve the extension, how much states have budgeted for an extension, and whether states have developed any budget contingencies in the event that the FMAP is not extended. The full report is here:

[http://inside.ffis.org//ff/NALFO\\_Enhanced\\_FMAP\\_Extension.pdf](http://inside.ffis.org//ff/NALFO_Enhanced_FMAP_Extension.pdf)

### **3) April 29, 2010: ACF Updates Information on TANF Emergency Funds**

ACF updated a chart showing approved TANF Emergency Fund applications by category. To view the information, see:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/apprTANFemerfund.html>