



FFIS Weekly Update – May 18, 2010

Weekly News:

EDUCATION

1) May 10, 2010: ED Announces 2010 Incentive Grant Awards to 10 States

The Department of Education's (ED) Office of Vocational and Adult Education announced that 10 states have qualified to receive Workforce Investment Act (WIA) title V incentive grants based on their FY 2008 performance. Follow this link for more information and a list of state recipients:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/incentive-grant-awards-fy-2010.pdf>

2) May 6, 2010: ED Updates its Grantmaking Guide

ED recently updated its "Grantmaking at ED" publication. This non-technical resource is intended for individuals and organizations interested in applying for ED discretionary grants and cooperative agreements, have received an award, or are interested in knowing more about the agency's discretionary grant process. For more details, click

here: <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/about/grantmaking/index.html>

3) May 13, 2010: ED Publishes Deadline Dates for Several State Grants Programs

ED announced the deadline dates for receipt of state applications for award year 2010-2011 funds under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP), Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (SLEAP), and Grants for Access and Persistence (GAP) programs. Click here to access this new information: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-11354.pdf>

ENERGY

May 12, 2010: Senators Kerry and Lieberman Unveil Climate Bill

Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman unveiled their bill to create a national program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The bill would create a cap and trade program to limit greenhouse gas emissions from electric utilities and industrial facilities. Industrial facilities would not be covered by the cap until 2016. The bill would pre-empt regional cap and trade programs. Among many other provisions, the bill would allow drilling for oil and natural gas off the coasts of the United States, provide 37.5% of any revenues to the state off whose coast the drilling was conducted but gives states the authority to prohibit drilling within 75 miles of their coasts (125 miles for Florida). For a summary of the bill, go to: <http://kerry.senate.gov/americanpoweract/pdf/APASectionbySection.pdf>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) May 12, 2010: ACF Releases State Median Income Estimates

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published state median income estimates for FY 2011 for use in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). To view the notice, click here: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-11287.pdf>

2) May 12, 2010: HRSA Announces Intent to Publish List of Agencies Failing to Fulfill Reporting Requirements

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced that governmental agencies

not in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Health Care Integrity and Protection Data Bank and the National Practitioner Data Bank will have their names published in a report. To view the notice, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-11368.pdf>

HEALTH CARE REFORM

1) May 13, 2010: HHS and DOJ Highlight Health Care Fraud and Abuse Efforts

The departments of Health and Human Service (HHS) and Justice (DOJ) announced new efforts to prevent fraud using tools provided by health care reform law. HHS also announced the creation of the Center for Program Integrity (CPI) at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). More information is available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/05/20100513a.html>

2) May 11, 2010: CBO Releases Analysis of Potential Discretionary Costs of Health Care Reform

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released an analysis on the potential effect of health care reform on discretionary spending. The full report is available at: <http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=11490>

3) May 17, 2010: IRS Issues Guidance on Small Business Health Credit

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released guidance about the small-employer tax credit included in the health care reform law. The guidance clarifies that the federal credit will not be reduced because an employer is receiving a state health care subsidy. Additional information is available at: <http://treasury.gov/press/releases/tg698.htm>

HOMELAND SECURITY

May 13, 2010: DHS Announces FY 2010 Critical Infrastructure and Preparedness Grants

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced FY 2010 preparedness grants for nine federal programs including critical infrastructure-related grants. For more information, allocations, see http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/2010/fy_10_grants_overview.pdf

HOUSING

May 17, 2010: HUD Publishes Final Notice on Ending Hold-Harmless Policy in Calculating Section 8 Income Limits

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published a final notice announcing that it will allow Section 8 income limits to decrease beginning with FY 2010, but will impose limitations on annual changes. To view the notice, click here: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-11638.pdf>

May 12, 2010: HUD Awards Nearly \$28 Million to Public Housing Agencies

HUD awarded \$27.9 million in grants to public housing and non-profit agencies through the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinators program. For more information, click here:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNO.10-097

JUSTICE

May 14, 2010: DOJ Issues Proposed Revisions to Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) Guidelines

The Department of Justice (DOJ) released proposed guidelines for SORNA, which modify several requirements for compliance and address concerns that have been raised by states as they attempt to implement the law. Comments on the proposal must be submitted by July 13, 2010. For additional information, go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-11665.pdf>

LABOR

1) May 17, 2010: DOL Announces Funding Opportunity for State Workforce Databases

The Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$12 million in competitive grants to

states through the Workforce Data Quality Initiative. More information, including the grant announcement, is available at: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100532.htm>

2) May 17, 2010: DOL Releases Unemployment Compensation Integrity Act Draft Legislation

DOL released draft legislation to Congress to help states fight employer fraud and reduce improper benefit payments. For more information, see:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100681.htm>

3) May 12, 2010: DOL Releases Guidance on WIA Waivers

DOL released guidance to explain current Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waiver policy and clarify waiver decisions for program year (PY) 2009 and 2010. To view the guidance, click here:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL26-09.pdf>

4) May 13, 2010: DOL Releases Guidance on WIA Youth Program

DOL released guidance on WIA Youth Program activities in PY 2010 and encourages states to incorporate lessons learned from ARRA and the expansion of summer employment opportunities. For more information, see:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL27-09.pdf>

5) May 11, 2010: DOL Issues Clarification on Use of Unemployment Fund Monies

DOL issued guidance to clarify its position about the use of unemployment fund monies to pay interest and other administrative costs on non-federal loans for unemployment compensation (UC) under state law. To view the guidance, go to: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL07-04c1.pdf>

NATURAL RESOURCES

1) May 14, 2010: USDA Announces Funding for Wetlands Conservation Assistance

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). The funding will go to wetland conservation projects in 22 states and Puerto Rico. For additional details, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/2dsxlau>

2) May 11, 2010: USDA Announces Additional Funding for Three Conservation Programs

USDA announced additional conservation assistance for working lands through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP). To view funding by state, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/326jzyn>

NUTRITION

May 13, 2010: FNS Releases State Eligibility Policies for SNAP

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released a description of broad-based categorical eligibility policies by state for the Supplemental Food and Nutrition Program (SNAP). To view the information, see: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/2010/051310.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

1) May 13, 2010: FTA Announces Supplemental FY 2010 Apportionments, Allocations, Corrections

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently announced supplemental FY 2010 apportionments, allocations, and corrections. To view this information, go to:

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/2010-11479.pdf>

2) May 13, 2010: FTA Announces FY 2010 Funding Opportunity for Transit in Parks Program

FTA announced the availability of \$24.5 million in discretionary FY 2010 Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program funding. State and local governments acting with the consent of a federal land management agency are eligible to apply. To view this notice, go to:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-11474.pdf>

ARRA:

COMMERCE

May 13, 2010: BTOP Applications Re-opened for States Granted Waivers to Develop Interoperable Broadband Networks

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced the re-opening of the second round Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) infrastructure application window for the 21 state and local governments granted waivers by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to develop a nationwide interoperable broadband network.

View the announcement here:

http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2010/FR_BTOPApplicationReopening_05132010.pdf

For more information about the FCC grant waivers, please go to:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-298124A1.pdf

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) May 14, 2010: HHS Awards \$1 Billion in National Institutes of Health ARRA Awards

HHS announced \$1 billion in awards to construct or improve biomedical research facilities. To view the awards by state, go to:

http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/the_american_recovery_and_reinvestment_act/construction_programs/

2) May 7, 2010: Updated ARRA Medicaid Funding Table

HHS posted updated state-by-state Medicaid grant funding information, as approved in Section 5001 of ARRA, through May 7, 2010:

<http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=Reinvestment>

HOMELAND SECURITY

May 14, 2010: DHS Announces Additional Deployments of ARRA-Funded Advanced Imaging Technology

DHS has announced the deployments of Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) at 28 additional airports. The first 11 airports to receive these ARRA-funded technologies was announced by DHS this past March. For more information, go to:

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1273850925050.shtm