



## **Serving Idaho's Children, Youth and Young Adults: Tracking ARRA Spending in Idaho**

**January 2010**

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This is the first in what will be a series of monthly updates tracking Idaho's use of stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), enacted in February 2009. These updates are an outgrowth of two previous Idaho Kids Count policy briefs<sup>2</sup> that identified opportunities for using ARRA funds to better serve Idaho's families; these policy briefs should be referred to for greater detail about the ARRA funding streams referred to here. These monthly updates are intended to help advocates and professionals working with children, youth and young adults both monitor and impact Idaho's uses of ARRA funds.

ARRA included unusual requirements for transparency and accountability, including regular reporting on the uses of these public funds. The table on the last page gives the most recent figures available on the main funding streams of potential benefit to children, youth and young adults. Figures in the "Allocated" column indicate funds to date that Idaho could potentially be eligible to use. Figures in the "Awarded" column indicate funds Idaho has applied for and actually received. Figures in the "Spent" column have been committed to and used for specific projects and efforts, and figures in the "Available" column have yet to be spent.

It should be noted that ARRA funding was spread over three fiscal years (FY09, FY10 and FY11) and so in some instances the gaps between allocated and awarded funds and between awarded and spent funds are due to this fact. (See Table 2 in Idaho KIDS COUNT (September 2009) for greater detail about the distribution of ARRA funding streams by fiscal year.) Beyond this, several noteworthy items stand out in the January tracking data:

- Despite experiencing dramatic increases in unemployment, Idaho has yet to be awarded any funds through either the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund or the TANF Supplemental Grant Extension. These funds are intended to provide states with additional resources for maintaining a safety net during this deep recession. Idaho is one of just 13 states that have failed to access these resources.<sup>3</sup>

- \$9.4 million in the Governor’s Discretionary portion of ARRA funds for state fiscal relief remain unspent and potentially unobligated. This money is likely to be obligated soon, during the 2010 Legislative Session currently underway.
- Idaho appears to be slow in spending (or in reporting on its spending of) ARRA funds awarded for LEA and School Improvement grants, for all three categories of IDEA programs (preschool, school age, and infants and toddlers), for Education Technology grants, for School Lunch Equipment Assistance grants, and for McKinney-Vento funds.
- Reporting and therefore tracking appears to be particularly problematic for those funding streams that are primarily federal rather than federal-state partnerships. This includes SNAP (Food Stamps) and Head Start and Early Head Start. Idaho is reporting only on its expenditures for food stamp administration, not on food stamp allocations to families.<sup>4</sup> Difficulties with reporting guidelines for Head Start and Early Head Start are being corrected and hopefully will result in better reporting soon.<sup>5</sup>
- Idaho has been awarded more ARRA funding than originally anticipated for Unemployment Insurance, School Lunch Equipment Assistance grants, and McKinney-Vento funds for the education of children experiencing homelessness. Higher than expected Unemployment Insurance claims are an indication of the record numbers of jobless workers in Idaho. The Idaho Department of Labor reports that unemployment benefit payments have been responsible for modest total personal income growth in Idaho over the past two quarters.<sup>6</sup>

The national nonpartisan nonprofit Good Jobs First has taken the leadership in making ARRA’s transparency and accountability requirements work effectively for citizens and advocates. In a recent study rating the states’ recovery websites, Idaho received a score of 18 out of 100 and a ranking of 42 (where a rank of 1—Maryland—was best).<sup>7</sup> Idaho’s recovery website provides very basic information about relatively broad spending categories but no breakdown by program areas and is not searchable.

## Endnotes

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<sup>2</sup> Idaho KIDS COUNT (May 2009), “Making Use of Economic Recovery Funds: Child Care and Early Education Options for Idaho,” by Judith L. Brown at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf) and Idaho KIDS COUNT (September 2009), “Making Use of Economic Recovery Funds: Opportunities for Idaho to Better Serve Youth and Young Adults,” by Judith L. Brown at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>CLASP, “TANF Emergency Fund State Applications Approved as of Jan. 27, 2010,” available at [www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/TANF-ECF-Use-Jan-27.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/TANF-ECF-Use-Jan-27.pdf).

<sup>4</sup>See [http://www.accountability.idaho.gov/TrackingReports/StimulusTracking\\_Q2.pdf](http://www.accountability.idaho.gov/TrackingReports/StimulusTracking_Q2.pdf).

<sup>5</sup>See Head Start Legal Advisory Service Webinar: Recovery Act Redux at [http://www.nhsa.org/news\\_and\\_advocacy/advocacy/legislative\\_eupdate/nhsa\\_update\\_week\\_of\\_february\\_5\\_2010](http://www.nhsa.org/news_and_advocacy/advocacy/legislative_eupdate/nhsa_update_week_of_february_5_2010).

<sup>6</sup>Idaho Department of Labor, “Unemployment Benefits Keep Idaho Personal Income Growing,” press release, December 17, 2009 at <http://labor.idaho.gov/NEWS/Default.aspx?TabId=1953&ctl=PressRelease&mid=2527&itemid=2182&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>.

<sup>7</sup>Good Jobs First, Show Us the Stimulus (Again) at <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/news/article.cfm?id=396>.

## Notes to Table

- <sup>1</sup>Except where otherwise noted, this is preliminary January 2010 data from Idaho's recovery website, [http://www.accountability.idaho.gov/TrackingReports/StimulusTracking\\_Q2.pdf](http://www.accountability.idaho.gov/TrackingReports/StimulusTracking_Q2.pdf), downloaded February 8, 2010.
- <sup>2</sup>Except where otherwise noted, these figures are from Table 2 in Idaho KIDS COUNT (September 2009), at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf).
- <sup>3</sup>Idaho KIDS COUNT (May 2009), p. 3, at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf).
- <sup>4</sup>This includes WIA funding streams for adults, youth and dislocated workers. See Council of State Governments, "Funds Allocated to Idaho under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" at [http://www.csgwest.org/PDF/West\\_State/Summaries\\_ARRA\\_funding\\_update\\_01-19-10.pdf](http://www.csgwest.org/PDF/West_State/Summaries_ARRA_funding_update_01-19-10.pdf).
- <sup>5</sup>"State and Territories Medicaid Program Funding" at <http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=Reinvestment>, downloaded February 9, 2010. Note that since Medicaid funds are drawn down as they are spent, the "Available" column has no relevance for this funding stream.
- <sup>6</sup>Idaho Department of Labor, *Idaho Employment* newsletter, January 2010, p. 2, available online at <http://labor.idaho.gov>. Note that since Unemployment Insurance funds are drawn down as they are spent, the "Available" column has no relevance for this funding stream.
- <sup>7</sup>Idaho's recovery website, [www.accountability.idaho.gov](http://www.accountability.idaho.gov), reports only the amounts spent on "Food Stamp Administration," not the amount actually disbursed in food stamps.
- <sup>8</sup>CLASP, "TANF Emergency Fund State Applications Approved as of Jan. 27, 2010," available at [www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/TANF-ECF-Use-Jan-27.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/TANF-ECF-Use-Jan-27.pdf).
- <sup>9</sup>"Awards in Idaho," [www.stimuluswatch.org](http://www.stimuluswatch.org), downloaded February 10, 2010. This highly regarded website is operated by volunteers at George Mason University, and it reports on some funding streams not readily available elsewhere, including for Head Start and Early Head Start, and for College Work-Study. However, the reporting schedule is not identified, so it is not clear if these figures are as up-to-date as possible.

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	<u>Allocated<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Awarded<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Spent<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Available<sup>2</sup></u>
<b>State Fiscal Relief</b>				
<b>Education - Public Schools Stabilization Fund</b>				
<b>K-12</b>	\$166,175,780	\$120,190,000	\$120,082,871	\$107,129
<b>Higher Ed</b>	\$35,535,300	\$14,948,787	\$4,609,392	\$10,339,395
<b>Medicaid</b>	\$255,661,900	\$181,419,212 <sup>5</sup>	\$181,419,212 <sup>5</sup>	-
<b>Governor's Discretionary</b>	\$44,877,000	\$44,877,000	\$35,470,600	\$9,406,400
<b>Unemployment Insurance</b>	\$150,236,000	\$240,000,000 <sup>6</sup>	\$240,000,000 <sup>6</sup>	-
<b>SNAP (Food Stamps)</b>	\$65,100,000	not available <sup>7</sup>	not available <sup>7</sup>	not available <sup>7</sup>
<b>TANF - Emergency Contingency Fund</b>	\$336,000	\$0 <sup>8</sup>	\$0	\$0
<b>- Supplemental Grant Extension</b>	\$3,498,000	\$0 <sup>8</sup>	\$0	\$0
<b>Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)</b>	\$4,946,000	\$4,945,865	\$1,321,125	\$3,624,740
<b>Child Care &amp; Development Fund (formerly CCDBG)</b>	\$11,946,000	\$11,946,497	\$5,574,608	\$6,371,889
<b>Head Start &amp; Early Head Start</b>	\$2,628,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$731,120 <sup>9</sup>	not available	not available
<b>Title I - LEA and School Improvement grants</b>	\$34,907,300	\$34,955,709	\$116,495	\$34,839,214
<b>IDEA - Part B - Preschool</b>	\$2,268,800 <sup>3</sup>	\$2,268,765	\$7,274	\$2,261,491
<b>- Part B - School Age</b>	\$53,247,400	\$53,247,375	\$580,391	\$52,666,984
<b>- Part C (Infants and Toddlers)</b>	\$2,358,600 <sup>3</sup>	\$2,689,423	\$218,135	\$2,471,288
<b>Title II-D - Education Technology grants</b>	\$3,209,400	\$3,209,375	\$0	\$3,209,275
<b>School Lunch Equipment Assistance grants</b>	\$469,300	\$481,315	\$8,300	\$473,015
<b>McKinney-Vento funds - education for homeless</b>	\$191,000	\$212,196	\$0	\$212,196
<b>College Work-Study</b>	\$543,000	\$395,766 <sup>9</sup>	not available	not available
<b>Job Training - WIA</b>	\$6,985,000 <sup>4</sup>	\$6,985,249	\$5,051,926	\$1,933,323

Notes to this table are on the preceding page.