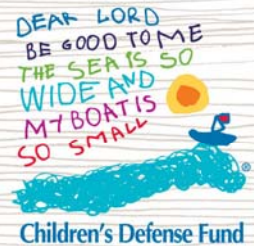


Children's Defense Fund

The New Economic Recovery Law: Resources to Help Children and the Economy

Resources for Advocates and Providers to Learn How to Obtain New Federal Funds



Below are useful materials from federal agencies, congressional sources, and advocacy and other organizations so you can begin familiarizing yourself with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funding and program activities available in your state and community. To ensure that children and families truly benefit from these increased funds, it is important to identify funding coming into your state that can be used to invest in children, families, and communities. These links will be updated on a regular basis, so check back frequently.

General Summaries and Updates: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act)

- **Recovery.gov:** This is the official government web site where you can view the Act, see how it's monitored, how your state will benefit, and if your state has signed up yet for the funds. <http://www.recovery.gov/> It also includes:
 - Information on what individual agencies (e.g. Department of Education) have done to implement the new law. <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/agencies>
 - Information on the impact of the new law in your state and a link to your own state's Recovery Act web site. <http://www.recovery.gov/>

This site will continue to be updated, so check frequently for new information.

- **Grants.gov:** This is the official grant applications website for the Act's new federal funding. It includes program and grant descriptions, relevant federal agencies, and application deadlines. <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=?mode=CATSEARCH&fundActivity=RA>
- **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL):** NCSL is tracking individual state activities and web sites related to Recovery Act funding. <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/fiscal/stimulusoversight.htm>
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities,** "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: State-by-State Estimates of Key Provisions Affecting Low- and Moderate-Income Individuals": The Center provides useful descriptions and state-by-state estimates for a number of the new major spending and tax provisions that will affect low- and moderate- income Americans. <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.pdf>
- **Center for the Study of Social Policy, PolicyforResults.org.** This new website gives state and local policymakers valuable information about proven strategies to overcome a range of problems affecting American children, families and communities. The site includes Strategies for Tough Fiscal Times and Stimulus Package Guidance at <http://www.policyforresults.org/en/Topics/2008/Strategies-for-Tough--Fiscal-Times/Strategies-for-Tough-Fiscal-Times/Stimulus-Package-Guidance/Guidelines.aspx> To view the full site, go to www.policyforresults.org
- **Every Child Matters Education Fund.** Every Child Matters provides state by state data on stimulus investments from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and includes links to the state elected officials and some of the state departments that will be administering and overseeing these funds. See, <http://www.everychildmatters.org/National/Campaigns/Go-Local.html>

- **New York Times, “The Stimulus Plan: How to Spend \$787 Billion”:** The New York Times has prepared a very accessible summary with brief, easy-to-understand descriptions of each of the provisions, with links for more detail. http://projects.nytimes.com/44th_president/stimulus?scp=1&sq=The%20Stimulus%20Plan:%20How%20to%20Spend&st=cse
- **PolicyLink.** “Demand Equity Now: A Recovery Briefing Series” is a bi-weekly call-in series, held every other Friday at 1 pm Eastern (10 am Pacific), that will focus on ways to infuse equity into the nation’s economic recovery. Check the schedule below to view the topics to be discussed in upcoming weeks:
 - Friday, April 10: "Ending Poverty and Building Equity in the Federal Budget"
 - Friday, April 24: "Achieving a Fair, Transparent, and Accountable Recovery"
 - Friday, May 8: "Talking with the Media About Equity and Recovery"
 - Friday, May 22: "The Outlook for Health and Wellness in the Recovery"
 - Friday, June 5: "What's the Rural Agenda in the Economic Recovery Agenda?"
 - Friday, June 19: "The Green Recovery: How Communities Are Faring So Far?"

To RSVP to any of these visit PolicyLink’s website.

<https://www.kintera.org/AutoGen/Register/Register.asp?ievent=310622&en=7fJMKTmEdlKLKNnG7JHKNMnG8JL00BK9JEKSMwE9LPIZPuHcJPK2NyHgLUJWPAItG&msource=EquityNow&tr=y&enString=eeQARuTnKjLGKRPvHaJELPMqHglAKyMeNPREN3NtGaKLJTOvFpE&aid=4699921>

- **Center for Law and Social Policy and the 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys.** “Identifying Opportunities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Improve Outcomes for Black Men and Boys.” Black men and boys face disproportionately negative life outcomes in many domains, particularly education, employment, and justice. This audio conference will identify opportunities in the Recovery Act to provide education, training, and supportive services in a targeted manner to black men and boys. It will be Tuesday, April 14, from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. ET. To register, go to: http://www.clasp.org/audio_registration.php?id=680

Guidance on Specific Programs Benefiting from the Recovery Act

Health

Departmental or Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** has posted a number of useful resources at <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>. Several helpful items include:
 - **Medicaid.** The Recovery Act provides \$87 billion over two years for an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for states. As of March 6, 2009, HHS made the first \$15 billion of this funding available to states. The state by state breakdown of these first grants is at: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/statefunds.html>
 - **Community Health Center Grants.** The Recovery Act provides \$155 million for Community Health Center Grants. To see how these funds will be distributed to states, along with estimated numbers of patients served and projected jobs created, see: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/napawards.html>

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**
 - “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: State-by-State Estimates of Key Provisions Affecting Low- and Moderate-Income Individuals.” Provides a brief description of the temporary increase in the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage and state-by-state estimates of the amount states will receive over a two year period. <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.pdf> (See pp.2-3).

- “Recovery Act Provides Much-Needed Targeted Medicaid Assistance to States” is a longer piece that describes the Medicaid FMAP increases in more detail. <http://www.cbpp.org/2-13-09sfp.pdf>
- **Families USA**
 - “Frequently Asked Questions about the Temporary Extra Medicaid Funding in the Economic Recovery Package.” An easy-to-read explanation of how states can access the new Medicaid funds and how certain specific provisions work. <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/faq-temporary-fmap-increase-2-16-09-iv-4.pdf>
 - “Understanding COBRA and Mini-COBRA Premium Assistance.” An extensive overview of Recovery Act funds for health care premium assistance to workers recently laid-off and a discussion of actions that states can take. The Recovery Act provides a 65 percent subsidy to help unemployed workers purchase their employer's COBRA coverage and will be available for up to nine months. <http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/private-insurance/understanding-cobra-premium.html>
- **State Coverage Initiatives** (A program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation administered by AcademyHealth), “How States Can Build on New Federal Legislation that Subsidizes COBRA Coverage for Laid-off Workers.” This summary describes the new COBRA subsidies and includes a list of state actions to supplement the new funds for COBRA subsidies moving forward. <http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/ahstsd/issues/2009-02-27/2.html>

Nutrition

Departmental or Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Agriculture** posted a number of useful resources generally describing the Recovery Act funding for nutrition and other programs http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA_ARRA
- **Congressional Research Service.** “Agriculture, Nutrition and Rural Provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009,” February 23, 2009. The Recovery Act provides more than \$20 billion in increases for nutrition assistance programs. This brief describes the increases for each affected nutrition program. <http://opencrs.com/document/R40160/>

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **National Conference of State Legislatures.** “Human Services Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.” This summary provides extensive information on new nutrition funding available for states as well as funding for other human services programs serving children and families. <http://www.ncsl.org/print/statefed/HumanServicesSummary.pdf>

Child Care, Head Start and Early Head Start

Departmental or Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Health and Human Services’** recovery website will include more details over time on funding for these programs. <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>
- **Congressional Research Service (CRS).** For a description and state allocation estimates for the \$2 billion added to the Child Care and Development Block Grant prepared for the House Education and Labor Committee, see <http://edlabor.house.gov/blog/2009/01/school-districts-will-benefit.shtml>

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP):** CLASP has several helpful resources on their Reinvesting in Child Care web site. <http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/reinvestinginchildcare.html>

- State-by-state estimates of dollars available to states for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG): http://clasp.org/publications/aara_childcarestatealloc.pdf
 - An overview of what the Recovery Act does for the Child Care and Development Block Grant <http://www.clasp.org/publications/ccdbginbrief.pdf>
 - “Making Use of Economic Recovery Funds: Child Care Policy Options for States.” This brief offers state policymakers and advocates a set of stimulative policy options for spending CCDBG Recovery Act funds that create new jobs, put additional resources into state economies, and/or help low-income families stay in the paid work force. These policy options will expand access to child care for low-income families and will improve the quality of available child care. http://www.clasp.org/publications/ccdbg_Recovery_Act_policies.pdf
 - “Ten Policies States Can Implement Now to Improve Infant/Toddler Child Care with Economic Recovery Funds.” This brief presents ten policy ideas for state policymakers to implement now to support quality programs and enhancement strategies that will improve early care and learning for infants and toddlers. <http://www.clasp.org/publications/benefittingbabiesfinal.pdf>
 - “Child Care and Early Education: Opportunities to Serve More Low-Income, Working Families.” This audio conference discusses the opportunity for states and local communities to serve more low-income working families and to make long-term investments in quality programs through new investments in child care and early education in the Recovery Act. <http://www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#71>
- **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).** It has a website devoted to Recovery Act resources that will help improve access to and the quality of early childhood education, including resources and state allocations for specific programs. www.naeyc.org/policy/arra/
 - **Build Initiative.** “Maximizing Resources from the Stimulus Package: Possible Strategies for Funding Quality Rating and Improvement Systems.” This brief describes potential sources for early childhood funding under the Recovery Act and how they can help assure quality early childhood programs. These suggestions, which include efforts to increase teacher quality, also are helpful in exploring how the Recovery Act funds can be used to support other state early childhood initiatives. <http://www.buildinitiative.org/files/QRIS-Stimulus%20Final.pdf>
 - **Birth to Five Policy Alliance.** The Alliance and its 16 grantees promote state policies to ensure positive early childhood development and supportive parenting. It has developed an Economic Recovery Help Center at http://birthtofivepolicy.org/index.php/recovery_help#603, which includes an Economic Recovery News Center that provides state data, guidance, upcoming calls and events related to early childhood, and links to other relevant state and federal websites. People can also find answers to their specific Recovery Act questions by posting questions on the Alliance Recovery Blog. This website also offers customized assistance from the Alliance Recovery Response Team.
 - **Zero to Three.** This interactive tool is designed to help decision makers and advocates navigate the ways in which Recovery Act funds may be used to positively impact the healthy development of infants and toddlers. The tool is organized around the needs of the whole child – Good Health, Strong Families, and Positive Early Learning Experiences. For each featured program, you can click on the links within the tool for an overview of the program, the population served or eligible, the Recovery Act provisions, and ways the new funds may be used. http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Interactive_Stimulus_Tool_v3vs.pdf?docID=8121

Education

Departmental or Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Education.** This April 3, 2009 PowerPoint presentation, with accompanying notes, features the guiding principles and funding availability for the education provisions of the Recovery Act). <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/presentation/>

- **Department of Education** released on April 1, 2009 a number of documents with helpful information for implementing the following programs and initiatives affected by the Recovery Act :
 - State Fiscal Stabilization Fund at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.html>
 - Title I, Part A Guidance at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/title-i.pdf> ; Fact sheet at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>
 - IDEA, Part B Guidance at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/idea-b.pdf> ; Fact sheet at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/idea.html>
 - IDEA, Part C Guidance at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/idea-c.pdf> ; Fact sheet at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/idea-c.html>
 - Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants Guidance at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/vr.pdf> ; Fact sheet at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/vr.html> ;
 - Independent Living Programs Guidance at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/ils.pdf> ; Fact sheet at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/ils.html>
- **Congressional Research Service** has prepared for the House Education and Labor Committee a spreadsheet showing the preliminary state allocations for a number of education programs including the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance (ESEA), Titles IA and ID; McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants; IDEA, Parts B and C; and the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds. The Department of Education will announce final allocations, but this helps compare various program funds coming into states for FY 2009. <http://edlabor.house.gov/documents/111/pdf/publications/ARRA-estimatedstateeducationfunding-20090213.pdf>

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **National Education Association (NEA):**
 - NEA has compiled several charts to show how much money is provided for federal education-related programs under the Recovery and Act. Charts include:
 - National program data: http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/ARRA_National_Table.pdf
 - State-by-state program data: <http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/ARRAStateTable.pdf>
 - Congressional District program data: <http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/ARRACDTable.pdf>
 - State Fiscal Stabilization Fund: <http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/StateFiscalStabilizationTable.pdf>
 - NEA has held a series of webcasts to present the latest developments on the distribution of the Economic Recovery Act education dollars. This April 1, 2009 webcast covered major new materials just released by the Department of Education. For a copy of the PowerPoint, see http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/ARRAwebcast_401_external.ppt
- **Education Week.** This weekly publication has a special section called “Schools and the Stimulus” that offers news updates and latest developments on how the economic-stimulus package is affecting schools and education funding. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/collections/schools-stimulus/index.html>

Child Support Enforcement

Departmental and Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).** The Recovery Act provided \$1 billion in new resources for state programs that establish, enforce, collect and distribute child support. Currently, the federal government provides incentive payments to states based on the strength of their child support enforcement programs, which they must use to continue to improve their programs. The Recovery Act restored federal matching funds for these incentive payments. See : <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cse/incentivesimpact.html>

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **Center for Law and Social Policy.** “How Much Restored Child Support Funding Will Each State Receive Under the Recovery Act?” This brief provides state by state estimates of the approximate amount of the \$1 billion federal funds that states can access during the next two years under the Recovery Act for restored performance incentive matching funds. These will help enable states to increase their child support enforcement collections. <http://www.clasp.org/publications/statebystatemark021309.pdf>

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Departmental and Congressional Organizations

- **Congressional Research Service.** “The Potential Role of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant in the Recession,” February 24, 2009. This brief highlights the risks and opportunities posed by TANF for states to help disadvantaged families during an economic downturn and mentions briefly some of the Recovery Act changes intended to relieve pressure temporarily on the program. http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40157_20090224.pdf

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **National Conference of State Legislatures.** “Human Services Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.” This brief summarizes the human needs investments and provides information on TANF funding available for states (pp. 3-4), as well as funding for other programs affecting children and families: <http://www.ncsl.org/print/statefed/HumanServicesStimulus.pdf>
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities,** “Overview of the TANF Provisions in the Economic Recovery Act.” This brief identifies the maximum amount of new funds that a state can draw down in TANF and how the funds can be spent. <http://www.cbpp.org/2-26-09tanf.htm>

Unemployment Assistance and Workforce Development

Departmental and Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Labor (DOL).** This website includes detailed information about DOL program funded by the Recovery Act. It includes Recovery Act funding by state and by program and updated communications with the states about specific program and the use of funds. <http://www.dol.gov/recovery/>
- **Congressional Research Service,** “Funding for Workforce Development in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,” February 19, 2009. This brief provides an overview of the Act’s key provisions for workforce development and state-by-state estimates of anticipated increases in several of the Workforce Investment Act Programs, including state grants for youth activities under Title I-B of the Workforce Investment Act. <http://openers.com/document/R40182/>

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **Green for All and Policy Link.** “Bringing Home the Green Recovery: A User’s Guide.” A guide to using Recovery Act dollars to build an inclusive green economy focused on disadvantaged communities. It focuses on funding for job training and education, transportation and infrastructure, incentives for renewable energy, and other energy related programs. It describes how the new dollars can be used to build a greener economy and create employment opportunities to help lift families, youth and other individuals out of poverty. <http://www.greenforall.org/resources/recoveryusersguide>

- **National Employment Law Project (NELP).** “Concise Guide to Assistance for Jobless Workers in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act”, March 2009. This guide details the specific provisions relating to the expansion and modernization of unemployment insurance benefits at http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/ARRAConcise.pdf?nocdn_1. The NELP web site also includes a state-by-state chart of reform options to receive the full incentive funding, a series of questions and answers about the unemployment modernization reforms, and their anticipated state by state allocations. http://www.nelp.org/index.php/site/issues/category/modernizing_unemployment_insurance
- **The Workforce Alliance.** This web site includes information on the range of workforce development programs, including youth development. It includes a side by side chart that describes how the new provisions apply to existing workforce programs and the funding allotted for each. http://www.workforcealliance.org/atf/cf/%7B93353952-1DF1-473A-B105-7713F4529EBB%7D/ECONOMIC_RECOVERY_PACKET_UPDATED03.05.09
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.** “Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility is Protected for Jobless Families that Receive Boost in Unemployment Benefits.” This report shows that the \$25 increase in weekly unemployment benefits will not jeopardize families’ eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP. It discusses the changes states will need to make to adjust their eligibility determination procedures in Medicaid and CHIP — and in any other program in which they choose to disregard the additional unemployment benefits — to ensure that these additional benefits are excluded properly. <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2723>
- **Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP):**
 - CLASP has been holding an audio conference series on Recovery Act opportunities:
 - “Making the Connection: New Opportunities to Serve Older Youth” identifies opportunities to serve older youth and outlines approaches states and local communities should consider to improve youth outcomes. <http://www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#71>
 - “Making the Employment Connection: New Opportunities to Develop Transitional Jobs Programs” highlights Transitional Jobs programs to help individuals with barriers to employment enter and succeed in the labor market, and features new opportunities under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to develop and expand such programs. <http://www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#71>
 - “Rebuilding the Safety Net: State and Local Opportunities in Income Support” features opportunities for improvements in income support programs created by the Recovery Act. The Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund both provide additional funds for states – but only if they take action to expand program access. <http://www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#71>
 - “Workforce Development: New Opportunities for Creating Pathways Good Jobs and Sustainable Employment” highlights opportunities for addressing the needs of low-skill workers under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and linking training to job creation and retention efforts. <http://www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#71>
 - “Making the Employment Connection: New Opportunities to Support Transitional Jobs Programs Using the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund.” This paper highlights new opportunities to develop or expand Transitional Jobs programs using funding from the new TANF Emergency Contingency Fund in the Recovery Act. <http://www.clasp.org/publications/newoppcontfund.pdf>

Child Tax Credit and Other Tax Credits for Working Families

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **National Women's Law Center.** "Family Tax Credits in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." This brief outlines several new and expanded tax credits that families can use for the 2009 and 2010 tax years, including the Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Making Work Pay tax credit, first time home buyer credit and the American Opportunity Tax credit (for higher education). It also links to state-by-state information for several credits from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/Family_Tax_Credits_in_ARRA.pdf

Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Kinship Guardianship Assistance

Departmental and Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Health and Human Services'** recovery website will include more details over time on funding for these programs. <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>
 - **Program Instruction/ACYF-CB-PI-09-03**, March 16, 2009. "Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) Rates affecting programs under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act." (<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/acf/adoption-foster.html>) This Program Instruction describes the temporary 6.2 percent increase in the FMAP for the Foster Care, Adoption Assistance and Guardianship Assistance programs under Title IV-E that will affect rates from October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010. Rates for related administration costs are not increased. It includes a state-by-state chart that describes the impact of the first and second quarter adjustments of the increased FMAP (<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/acf/titleive.html>). It also details the financial reporting requirements.

Advocacy and Other Organizations

- **National Conference of State Legislatures.** "Human Services Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." This summary provides information on additional funding for foster care, adoption assistance and kinship guardianship assistance under Title IV-E (p. 5), as well as funding for other human services programs. <http://www.ncsl.org/print/statefed/HumanServicesSummary.pdf>

Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice

Departmental and Congressional Organizations

- **Department of Justice (DOJ)** established a website where it announces funding opportunities, state-by-state allocations and procedures to apply for grants. \$2.7 billion was provided for the Office of Justice Programs, \$1 billion for the Community Oriented Policing Programs, \$225 million for the Office of Violence Against Women, and \$10 million to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tax, Firearms and Explosives under the Recovery Act.
<http://www.usdoj.gov/recovery>
 - The Office of Justice Programs has its own website to highlight the Recovery Act assistance it will administer: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html>
 - The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will administer \$50 million for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program and \$97.5 million for local and national mentoring initiatives. For a list of Recovery Act funding opportunities available from OJJDP, see <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/recoveryact.html>