



## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

*The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)  
Summary Prepared for the Colorado Nonprofit Association - April 3, 2009*

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The **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund** was established to provide relief to states experiencing increased expenditures in any of three categories: basic assistance, non-recurrent short-term payments, and subsidized employment. The funds must be used only for the purposes of the TANF program on TANF-eligible populations. In order to access the TANF Emergency Fund, the state must: 1) qualify based on the three categories listed above; and, 2) request funding. The funding is not automatic, and the federal government will determine the amount that a state may qualify for. Colorado may receive up to \$10 million for the period from April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

**Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)** is expected to receive stimulus funding in three areas: (1) an estimated \$7,307,044 from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the U.S. Department of Education is specifically designated for the VR State Grants Program. VR plans to spend approximately \$400,000 per month over an 18-month period to provide services to individuals currently on a current wait list. Funds will be used to purchase services as identified in Individualized Plans for Employment.

(2) An estimated \$242,913 in federal stimulus funding is designated for the Independent Living Program, and will be used to purchase services from the ten Centers for Independent Living (CILs) for people with significant disabilities, in collaboration with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC).

(3) An estimated \$497,578 is designated for the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program. The OIB program serves people who are over 55, blind or visually impaired. Most often, people served in this program are losing their eyesight as a result of aging, and are at-risk of losing their independence. The OIB program provides services and supports to keep this population independent and in their own homes.

**Part C - Children with Disabilities:** Colorado is expected to receive a total of \$6,950,136 over the next two fiscal years for "Part C" under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). As with most other stimulus dollars, States must use stimulus dollars in this area to increase rather than supplant resources for these programs. Part C Stimulus Funds are restricted for use by the Colorado statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

**Programs for Older Persons:** Colorado expects to receive increased funding in two areas serving older persons: (1) \$240,104 is for the Senior Community Service Program that provides training and subsidized employment for low-income adults over the age of 55. The goal of the program is to transition participants into non-subsidized employment. The funds will result in approximately 23 additional participant slots to be awarded through existing contracts with the Seniors Resource Center (Metro Denver) and Seniors Inc. (Southern Colorado).

(2) Senior Nutrition Programs: Colorado expects to receive a total of \$1,265,254 to support home delivered and congregate meals for older adults, to be awarded through the Area Agencies on Aging.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** provides states with one-time 100% federal funds to cover administrative costs during a period when caseloads are rising rapidly. Colorado has

experienced a 25% increase in Food Assistance cases compared with October 2007. Colorado has received \$1.2 million for October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009, and is expected to receive a second \$1.2 million for October 1, 2009-September 30, 2010

**Food Assistance (“Food Stamps”):** Effective April 1, 2009, there is a 13.6 percent increase in the maximum monthly food benefits under the USDA, Food and Nutrition Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Recipients will receive the increased benefits automatically. A total of \$181 Million in increased benefits is estimated from 2009-2013.

**Child Care:** \$24,445,467 additional funding is expected for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Funding Allocation for the following two purposes: (1) an estimated \$3,119,070 will be available for child care quality improvement activities. The Child Care Quality funds are intended to increase the capacity of local communities and/or childcare providers to make long-term increases in their ability to provide quality early childhood services.

(2) The remaining \$21,326,397 is for direct childcare assistance for low-income families who are engaged in employment, training, or job search activities. The Department plans to allocate 50% in FY 2008-09 and the other 50% in FY 2009-10 to counties based on increased demand for services.

**Child Support Enforcement:** The ARRA restored the match on federal child support incentives for two years, October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010. The restored federal incentives will bring in an additional \$6,336,000 in revenues to the counties over the next two federal fiscal years to enhance their child support enforcement activities.

**Title IV-E Child Welfare:** When the federal matching rate for Medicaid was increased by approximately 6.2%, that same match rate applies to the Title IV-E in child welfare, which provides funds to low income eligible children and families in the areas of foster care, adoption, and guardianship assistance. The match rate increase is effective October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010.

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The above summarizes “automatic funding” increases for programs operated by or through the DHS. In addition, the ARRA makes some grant funds available for human services programs. Two examples are:

**Youth Corrections** will seek a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to impact youth and families prior to entering the commitment system. The JAG funding is to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system. Partnerships between units of government and/or the private sector are encouraged. DYC proposes to request up to \$2 million JAG funds to support local programs and services established via the “HB 1451” collaborative. This investment is designed to impact youth in the child welfare, probation, and youth detention systems.

The **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** in the Department of Justice will provide grants for victims of domestic violence focused on a holistic approach for transitional housing services that move individuals into permanent housing. Grant funds would be used to employ persons to renovate and provide additional housing units, and increase job opportunities for victims through training, education, and other support services. If Colorado is selected as one of the grant recipients, the state could receive \$500,000 a year for two years.