

THE FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE: FUNDS AVAILABLE TO OKLAHOMA STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The \$787 billion economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009 contains substantial funding that will go to state and local governments to help them avert or minimize budget cuts, address increased needs during the economic downturn, and make new investments in infrastructure and technology. According to an analysis conducted by Federal Funds Information for the States, Oklahoma is projected to receive \$2.6 billion in funding to state and local governments from the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This amount includes only funding that will be allocated to the states by formula. It does not include: 1) funding that will be awarded competitively to state and local governments; 2) funds that will be spent directly by the federal government, or 3) payments that will go directly to individuals through increased benefit payments for public programs such as Unemployment Insurance, Supplemental Security Income and Food Stamps, and tax cuts.

Of the estimated \$2.6 billion that will be available to Oklahoma under ARRA, nearly \$2.2 billion, or 83 percent, will come to the state through five major provisions of the Act. These are: an enhanced federal Medicaid matching rate (\$838 million); a State fiscal stabilization fund (\$578 million); highway and bridge construction (\$465 million); IDEA Special education (\$157 million), and Title I K-12 education (\$141 million). In total, there are more than three dozen distinct funding streams that will provide funding for the state.

The availability of federal stimulus dollars arrives at a highly critical time for Oklahoma. Oklahoma is now among the 46 states that are projecting budget shortfalls during the current or upcoming budget year.¹ The revised, final certification approved by the State Board of Equalization in February leaves the Legislature some \$610 million less revenue to appropriate for FY '10 than was appropriated during this current budget year, FY '09. The FY '10 budget shortfall equates to 9.6 percent of current year appropriations. Budget shortfalls of this magnitude will lead to difficult and painful choices between cutting deeply into public services, raising new revenues, and tapping into budget reserves.²

While the stimulus package should greatly mitigate the severity of the state's budget shortfall, the precise extent and nature of its impact is not fully knowable at this time. Some of the federal dollars will be available to plug budget holes or free up state dollars for other purposes, while others will require increased investment in infrastructure or services. Since stimulus funds are generally intended to cover a period of 24-27 months, the Legislature, Governor, and agency directors must decide, in some instances, how much to allocate for next year and how much to leave aside for FY '11 and beyond. The dilemma of committing one-time dollars to ongoing expenditures may also create concerns in some cases.

Ensuring transparency, oversight, and accountability in the allocation and expenditure of funds is a major priority of ARRA.³ In addition to the obligations imposed on the federal government by the Act, Oklahoma should be developing its own structures and mechanisms to ensure that funds are spent efficiently and honestly, and to provide public access to information and data on the Act's implementation.

This first section of this brief explores funding that will be allocated to state and local governments, organized by program area. Based on the best available information, we set out the purpose of each provision, the total amount allocated for the provision, Oklahoma's share, and details and conditions on how the funds may be spent. Where available, we indicate which public agency will administer the funding and how much federal funding was allocated for this purpose under regular federal FY '09 appropriations. The second part of the brief looks at assistance provided directly to individuals through public programs and tax cuts.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Unless otherwise indicated, the information in this brief was gathered from the following Congressional documents:

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—Conference Report: Joint Statement—Division A. Available at: http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Recovery_JS_DivA.pdf
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—Conference Report: Detailed Summary. February 13, 2009 Available at: <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/PressSummary02-13-09.pdf>
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—Bill Summary: Energy & Commerce Provisions on Health Care, Broadband and Energy. Available at: <http://www.slideshare.net/finance3/american-recovery-and-reinvestment-conference-report-division-detailed-summary-from-the-energy-commerce-committee>
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—Full Summary of Provisions from Senate Finance, House Ways and Means Committees, February 12, 2009. Available at: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/media/pdf/111/arra.pdf>
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—Stimulus Conference Agreement Chart. February 12, 2009. Available at: <http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com/docs/stimulus-conference-agreement-chart/>

Estimates of Oklahoma allocations from ARRA were gathered and calculated by FFIS (Federal Funds Information for States), The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Becomes Law, Budget Brief 09-04, February 23, 2009. Made available by subscription.

National and state program funding for FFY '09 is from: FFIS (Federal Funds Information for States). The VIP Series. Volume 8, No. 2, October 2008. Available at: <http://www.ncsl.org/ffis/subs/vip8.2.pdf>

I. Funding through State and Local Governments

A. STATE FISCAL STABILIZATION

FISCAL STABILIZATION FUNDS	\$53.6 BILLION NATIONALLY	\$578.0 MILLION OKLAHOMA
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ARRA creates a state fiscal stabilization fund to help states avert tax increases or cutbacks in critical services. Of the total amount, \$39.5 billion is earmarked exclusively for education (\$472.8 million for Oklahoma) and \$8.8 billion is available as general purpose funds (\$105.2 million for Oklahoma). State allocations are based on a formula blending a state's share of the population aged 5-24 (61 percent) and total population (39 percent). Funds must be spent within two years.

- The Education block grant is intended to support K-12 and higher education during state fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011. A portion would be used to help states maintain K-12 and higher education funding up to the greater of FY '08 or FY '09 funding levels (which in Oklahoma is \$2.532 billion for common education and \$1.040 billion for higher education) and to allow existing formula increases for K-12 education to be implemented in 2010 and 2011. Any remaining funds must be sent to local school districts based on the Title I education funding formula. School districts will be prohibited from spending the funds on certain capital expenditures.
- The general purpose, or flexible, block grant may be used for "other high priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education". These funds may also be used for school modernization, renovation, and repair activities for common and higher education, subject to certain restrictions.

To receive the funds, a Governor must submit an application providing assurances that the state will fund both K-12 and higher education at no less than their FY '06 levels in FY '09, '10 and '11. Oklahoma's baseline funding would be

\$2.164 billion for common education and \$889 million for higher education. States would also have to satisfy requirements for data collection, enhanced educational assessment, and equitable distribution of teachers among schools. Governors receiving state stabilization funds must submit a report describing how the funds were distributed, the success in averting job losses, tax increases, and tuition increases, and progress towards meeting the bill's educational assurances.

The bill also provides \$5 billion for state incentive grants, which would require states to show that they have made progress in improving the distribution of teachers between high-poverty and low-poverty schools, establishing longitudinal data systems, and enhancing assessments for English language learners and students with disabilities. Half of any competitive grant award must be passed through to local governments based on Title I allocations. The bill further authorizes up to \$650 million for an Innovation Fund awarded by the Secretary of Education to recognize school districts and partnerships between state educational agencies and non-profits that have made achievement gains. States are not eligible for Innovation Fund awards.

MEDICAID

\$82.7 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$838.6 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The single largest component of the federal stimulus package involves increasing the federal match rate for the Medicaid program, known as FMAP, in order to allow states to maintain health insurance coverage for low-income residents. There are three components to the increased FMAP:

- A hold harmless provision that ensures that federal FMAP does not decrease for any state in FY '09 or FY '10. Oklahoma, which was anticipating a large drop in FMAP in both FFY '09 and FFY '10, would receive an additional \$139.9 million from the hold harmless provision.⁴
- An across-the-board 6.2 percentage point FMAP increase for FFY '09, FFY '10 and the first quarter of FFY '11; and
- Bonus increases for states experiencing high levels of unemployment. The state share would decrease by an additional 5.5 percent, 8.5 percent or 11.5 percent, depending on the size of the increase in unemployment. The amounts of increased FMAP would be determined each quarter based on the most recent three months of unemployment data. The state share would be reduced after the hold harmless reduction and after an across-the-board increase of 3.1 percentage points.⁵

FFIS has calculated Oklahoma's increased FMAP as \$326.7 million in FY '09 and \$488.8 million in FY '10 and FY '11.⁶ The increased funding would be allocated to state agencies that operate Medicaid-funded services. This includes the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, University Hospitals Authority, Department of Education, Department of Health, and Office of Juvenile Affairs. The Administration announced that the first installment of Medicaid funds, amounting to \$174.8 million for Oklahoma, would be made available immediately.⁷

The increased FMAP would apply to Title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance but not to other Title IV programs, SCHIP, Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments, or Medicaid programs that already receive an enhanced match.⁸

As a condition of receiving the increased FMAP, states will be prohibited from reducing Medicaid eligibility below the level in effect on July 1, 2008. They would also have to be in compliance with Medicaid rules for prompt payment of providers, which are now extended to nursing facilities and hospitals.

ARRA contains several other Medicaid provisions, including:

- Extension of the moratorium on implementing Medicaid regulations for targeted case management, provider taxes, school-based services, and outpatient hospital services through June 30, 2009;
- Temporary increase in Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments of 2.5 percent for FY '09 and an ad-

ditional 2.5 percent for FY '10. This is expected to increase Oklahoma's DSH allocation by 0.8 million; and

- Extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) through December 31, 2010. States are provided the option of extending initial TMA from six months to 12 months waiving certain enrollment requirements.⁶

B. SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SENIORS

CHILD CARE

\$2 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$30.2 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill increases funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) by \$2 billion to provide child care services for children of low-income working parents and low-income families in which parents are engaged in education and training. These are federal funds which do not require a state match. Included in the \$2 billion is \$255 million for quality improvement, of which \$93.6 million is targeted for activities to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.⁶ Of Oklahoma's \$30.2 million allocation, \$2.5 million is targeted to quality improvement and \$1.4 million to improve the quality of infant/toddler care.⁹ In Oklahoma, the Department of Human Services receives CCDBG funds.

The Center on Law and Social Policy estimated that an additional 5,380 Oklahoma families could be served with increased CCDBG funding over two years.¹⁰ Currently, slightly fewer than 40,000 children receive subsidized child care each month. Oklahoma received \$31.7 million in CCDBG funding in FFY'09.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

\$1.1 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$16.3 MILLION OKLAHOMA

ARRA includes \$1.1 billion to suspend through September 30, 2009 a provision in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2006 that reduced federal child support funding by 20 percent. The DRA eliminated the longstanding federal match on incentive payments that states earn and reinvest in the program based on their performance rates. This provision will allow families to receive child support payments and prevent staffing layoffs and service cutbacks in the child support program. The state-level estimate is based on the maximum portion of federal matching funds available to match two years of incentive payments.¹¹

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

\$150 MILLION NATIONALLY

\$1.4 MILLION OKLAHOMA

ARRA provides \$150 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program to purchase commodities for food banks to stock emptying shelves. The total amount allows up to \$50 million to be used for administrative funding. FFIS allocates \$100 million between the states.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

\$1.0 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$11.9 MILLION OKLAHOMA

ARRA provides funding through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to local communities to support employment, food, housing, and healthcare efforts serving those hardest hit by the economic crisis. In Oklahoma, the Department of Commerce is the recipient of CBSG funds. The bill requires states to reserve 1 percent of their allocation for benefit coordination services and to distribute the remaining funds directly to local eligible entities. States are permitted to increase the income eligibility ceiling from 125 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level during FY'09 and FY'10.¹²

Oklahoma received \$7.7 million in CSBG funds in FFY '09.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER

\$100 MILLION NATIONALLY

\$1.0 MILLION OKLAHOMA

This funding through FEMA is to help local community organizations provide food, shelter and support services to the hungry, homeless and people in economic crisis. This includes one-month utility payments to prevent service cut-off and one-month rent or mortgage assistance to prevent eviction or help people leave shelters. Funds are distributed by formula based on unemployment and poverty rates.

FOOD STAMP ADMINISTRATION**\$295 MILLION NATIONALLY****\$3.3 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

In conjunction with the increase in food stamp benefits (see Assistance to Individuals section, below), the Department of Human Services will receive increased administrative funds to implement the benefit change and help manage rising caseloads during the recession. The state allocation is calculated by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.¹³

FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION ASSISTANCE**\$843 MILLION NATIONALLY****\$9.7 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

States will receive increased support for Title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance services as part of the increased federal FMAP (see Health Care, above).¹⁴ These services are operated in Oklahoma by the Department of Human Services.

IMMUNIZATIONS**\$300 MILLION NATIONALLY****\$2.6 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill allocates \$300 million to the Centers for Disease Control for state immunization programs. In Oklahoma, these funds are administered by the State Department of Health.

SENIOR NUTRITION**\$100 MILLION NATIONALLY****\$1.0 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

Funding will be increased for grants to states for senior nutrition services. Roughly two-thirds of the amount (\$65 million) is targeted to congregate meals and one-third (\$32 million) for Meals on Wheels. These programs are funded in Oklahoma by the Department of Human Services. The bill includes a \$3 million allocation for Native American nutrition services.

TANF**\$2.7 BILLION NATIONALLY**

ARRA creates a capped, temporary emergency contingency fund for the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Program to assist states address rising caseloads and expenditures during the recession in 2009 and 2010. States can request quarterly grants to cover 80 percent of increased expenditures relative to a base year for basic assistance, non-recurrent one-time payments, and employment subsidies. The total amount disbursed from the emergency fund for FY '09 and FY '10 cannot exceed 50 percent of a state's basic annual grant, which in Oklahoma is \$144 million. The appropriation is capped at \$5 billion, but the Congressional Budget Office estimates that only \$2.7 billion will be spent. The bill also extends TANF supplemental grants and modifies how states calculate their caseload reduction credit for 2009-2011.¹⁵

Other Support for Children, Families and Seniors. The bill includes:

- \$2 billion in competitive grants for community health centers, of which \$1.5 billion is for construction, modernization and health information technology improvements and \$500 million is for grant funding for services and operations of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs);
- \$650 million to carry out evidence-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness strategies aimed at combating chronic diseases;
- \$100 million for a new initiative to award capacity-building grants directly to non-profit organizations to expand the delivery of social services to individuals and communities affected by the downturn;
- \$100 million in formula grants to states to implement or upgrade management information systems in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) nutrition program; and
- \$50 million to states to develop strategies to reduce healthcare-associated infections.

C. EDUCATION**EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY****\$650 MILLION NATIONALLY****\$7.1 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$650 million for 21st century classrooms, including computer and science labs and teacher technology training.

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START**\$2.1 BILLION NATIONALLY****\$10.1 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$1.1 billion for Early Head Start (ages 0-2) and \$1 billion for Head Start (ages 3-4) to provide comprehensive learning and developmental services to pre-school children. Head Start funding will be allocated by the current statutory formula, while Early Head Start funds will be awarded competitively. Funding for Early Head Start is to expand the program, with 10 percent of funding reserved for training and technical assistance and up to 3 percent for monitoring operations.¹⁶ The full amounts will be made available immediately, but the Department of Health and Human Services is expected to work with grantees of both program to manage resources to sustain FY 2009 awards through FY 2010.

Of the total \$2.1 billion, FFIS provide state-level allocation for only \$663 million.

Head Start was appropriated \$6.9 billion for FFY '09; Oklahoma's allocation was \$81.2 million.¹¹ Funds are allocated directly to local community-based providers.

HOMELESS STUDENTS**\$69 MILLION NATIONALLY****\$0.8 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides funds to serve homeless children and youth affected by the economic crisis. State grants are allocated under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act based on the state share of homeless students identified as such during the 2007-08 school year. States are allowed to award subgrants to local educational agencies either on a competitive basis or using a formula based on the number of homeless students identified in each district in the state.

K-12 EDUCATION**\$13.0 BILLION NATIONAL****\$140.9 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$13.0 billion for Title I, which helps school districts educate low-income children, to mitigate the effect of reductions in local revenues and state support for education. Of the total amount:

- \$10 billion would be allocated as basic grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), \$109.5 million for Oklahoma; and
- \$3 billion would be awarded as school improvement grants, \$31.4 million for Oklahoma. States are encouraged to use 40 percent of this funding for middle and high schools.

States are expected to use some of the funding for early childhood education programs. The bill requires each school district to report a school-by-school listing of per pupil expenditures during the 2008-09 academic year.

Title I funding in FFY '09 was \$13.9 billion, of which Oklahoma's allocation was \$148.4 million

REHABILITATION SERVICES**\$680 MILLION NATIONALLY****\$7.8 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$680 million for rehabilitative services to serve people with disabilities. The states are allocated \$540 million for vocational rehabilitation State Grants (\$7.6 million for Oklahoma) and \$140 million for independent living. Of the funding for individual living, \$18.2 million is for state grants (\$0.2 million for Oklahoma). Additional funds are dedicated to independent living centers (\$87.5 million) and services for older blind individuals (\$34.3 million).¹⁷ In Oklahoma, the Department of Rehabilitative Services receives these funds.

SPECIAL EDUCATION**\$12.2 BILLION NATIONAL****\$157.1 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$12.2 billion to boost funding to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for special education through the Individuals with Disabilities Act. Of the total:

- \$11.3 billion is for Part B Section 611 grants (ages 3-21), \$147.9 million for Oklahoma;
- \$500 million is for Part C grants (infants and toddlers), \$5.2 million for Oklahoma; and
- \$400 million is allocated for Part B Section 619, (ages 3-5), \$3.9 million for Oklahoma.

LEAs must spend 15 percent of Part B funds on early childhood education.

Federal funding for Special Education basic state grants in FFY '09 was \$10.9 billion; Oklahoma received \$140.6 million.

Other Education Funding. The bill also includes:

- \$250 million for competitive grants to states to design and develop data systems that analyze individual student data systems to find ways to improve student achievement;
- \$200 for the Teacher Incentive Fund for states and school districts to develop and implement innovative principal- and teacher-compensation models to support recruitment and retention in high-needs schools and subjects;¹⁸
- \$200 million for Federal work study; \$2.2 million for Oklahoma;
- \$100 million for equipment for the National School Lunch program, \$1.2 million for Oklahoma;
- \$100 million for the Impact Aid account for school districts impacted by children of military personnel and students residing on tribal lands. This funding is to be divided between existing formulas (40 percent) and competitive grants for emergency repairs and modernization (60 percent);¹⁹ and
- \$100 million in competitive grants to improve higher education teacher quality.

D. EMPLOYMENT

COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS \$120 MILLION NATIONALLY \$1.6 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill increases funding for the Community Service Employment for Older Americans program. ARRA funds will be distributed to current grantees to support additional employment opportunities for low-income seniors.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES \$400 MILLION NATIONALLY \$4.1 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill provides \$400 million for reemployment services for unemployed workers and job-matching assistance under the Wagner-Peyser Act. Oklahoma received \$7.2 million in employment service state grants in FFY '09.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT \$2.95 BILLION NATIONALLY \$19.9 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill provides formula funding under the Workforce Investment Act to localities for job training and employment services for dislocated workers, youth and adult. ARRA provides:

- \$1.25 billion for dislocated workers, \$7.7 million for Oklahoma;
- \$1.2 billion for youth, \$8.8 million for Oklahoma. The bill targets summer employment opportunities and year-round youth activities. The age of eligibility for these funds is extended through age 24; and
- \$500 million for adult activities, \$3.7 million for Oklahoma. The bill contains language allowing local workforce investment boards to contract with institutions of higher learning and other training providers to facilitate training of individuals for high-demand occupations.

In FFY '09, Oklahoma received \$7.3 million for dislocated workers, \$7.1 million for adult employment and training, and \$7.5 million for youth activities. These funds are allocated to local Workforce Development Boards.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION \$7.5 BILLION NATIONALLY \$76.7 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill provides one-time grants to states for enacting model reforms aimed at modernizing the Unemployment Insurance program to better serve part-time and low-wage workers.²⁰ States can receive one-third of the total amount for enacting an

“alternative base period” and two-thirds for enacting at least two of five possible reforms. Oklahoma would have to enact slight modifications to its alternative base period and policies on part-time eligibility to qualify for the funds. A bill to implement these changes, HB 1384, is currently being considered by the Legislature. Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act funds would accrue to the state’s UI Trust Fund and can be used to fund either benefits or administrative costs of the UI program, subject to legislative appropriation.

Included in the total amount is \$500 million for state employment commissions to handle increased demand on services during the downturn. Oklahoma would receive \$5.2 million in additional administrative funds. These funds are allocated to the Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission.

Other Employment Funding: The bill also includes:

- \$750 million for a new program of competitive grants for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industries. Of this amount, \$500 million is intended to prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy fields;
- \$200 million in competitive grants for the dislocated worker assistance national reserve, to award national emergency grants to respond to plant closings, mass layoffs, and other worker dislocations; and
- \$50 million for YouthBuild, a program that employs at-risk youth in constructing or rehabilitating low-income housing.

E. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER

\$6 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$63.4 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill provides \$6 billion for water projects as follows:

- \$4 billion to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for loans to help communities upgrade wastewater treatment systems, \$31.9 million for Oklahoma; and
- \$2 billion to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for drinking water infrastructure, \$31.5 million for Oklahoma.

There is no state match requirement for this funding under ARRA. To ensure that funds are used expeditiously, the bill directs that funds be spent on projects that are ready to proceed to construction within 12 months and instructs that funds be reallocated if projects are not under construction within 12 months of the law’s enactment. The bill requires that 20 percent of each revolving fund be used to address green infrastructure, energy efficiency and conservation. The bill includes various provisions to ensure that funds are used in ways that will create jobs.

In FFY ‘09, the Clean Water SRF was appropriated \$690 million nationally; Oklahoma’s share was \$5.5 million. In FFY ‘09, the Drinking Water SRF was appropriated \$829 million nationally; Oklahoma’s share was \$13.2 million.

HOME WEATHERIZATION

\$5 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$63.3 MILLION OKLAHOMA

ARRA makes available \$5 billion to help low-income families reduce their energy costs by weatherizing their homes. The bill contains language to expand eligibility of households for the Weatherization Assistance Program from 150 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level and increases the funding assistance level per dwelling unit from \$2,500 to \$6,500.

In Oklahoma, weatherization funds are distributed through the Department of Commerce to local community action agencies.

STATE ENERGY PROGRAM**\$3.1 BILLION NATIONALLY****\$43.9 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

States use these grants to address their energy priorities and to adopt emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.²¹ In Oklahoma, State Energy Program funds are allocated through the Department of Commerce. To receive these funds, the bill requires that the Governor notify the federal Secretary of Energy that he has obtained assurances regarding the adoption of certain utility regulatory policies to encourage utility-sponsored energy efficiency and updated energy-efficient building codes. Under ARRA, the 20 percent state match requirement is waived, as is the limitation on the percentage of funding that can be used for purchase and installation of energy-efficient equipment and materials.²²

Other Energy and Environment Funding. The bill also includes:

- \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, of which \$2.8 billion is to be awarded by formula and \$400 million is to be awarded competitively;
- \$1.38 billion to support grants and loans to help communities fund drinking water and wastewater treatment systems;
- \$400 million for a new grant program to encourage electric vehicle technologies; and
- \$300 million to help state and local governments purchase efficient alternative fuel vehicles to reduce fuel costs and carbon emissions.

F. HOUSING**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT****\$1.0 BILLION NATIONALLY****\$8.3 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$1 billion through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for community and economic development projects, including housing and services for those hard hit by tough economic times. Recipients must give priority to capital projects that can award contracts within 120 days. Oklahoma's allocation consists of \$3.8 million in CDBG entitlement funds and \$4.5 million in non-entitlement funds. The CDBG funding formula allocates most funds to cities and large counties, with a smaller portion going to the state. In FFY '09, CDBG funding was \$3.6 billion nationally; Oklahoma's share was \$29.6 million.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**\$1.5 BILLION NATIONALLY****\$12.4 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

ARRA provides \$1.5 billion to the Emergency Shelter Grant Program to provide short-term rental assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services for families at risk of becoming homeless during the economic crisis. Funds are distributed by formula. An estimated 3,400 households are expected to be assisted by this funding.¹² In Oklahoma, these funds are allocated by the Department of Commerce.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP**\$2.25 BILLION NATIONALLY****\$25.7 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$2.25 billion for gap financing to restart low-income housing construction stalled during the credit crisis. Funds are allocated to state housing credit agencies based on the FY '08 HOME formula grant distributions.²³ FFIS allocates \$1.8 billion of the total amount.

PUBLIC HOUSING**\$4.0 BILLION NATIONALLY****\$25.3 MILLION OKLAHOMA**

The bill provides \$4 billion to public housing authorities (PHAs) for rehabilitating and retrofitting public housing units, including increasing energy efficiency and making critical safety repairs. Of the total, \$3 billion will be allocated to PHAs by formula and \$1 billion will be awarded competitively. The state allocation of \$20.2 million is for the formula amount only. The bill provides an additional \$510 million to Native American housing programs to rehabilitate housing and improve energy efficiency. This money will be allocated half by formula and half competitively to projects that can be started quickly.

Other Housing Funding. The bill also includes:

- \$2 billion in neighborhood stabilization funding to help communities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed and vacant properties and help create affordable housing and stabilize neighborhoods. The funding will be awarded by competitive grants to states, local governments, and non-profit organizations;
- \$130 million in grants and loans for rural communities for critical community facilities, including fire and rescue, education, libraries, community centers and health care; and
- \$100 million for competitive grants to local government and nonprofit organizations to remove lead-based paint hazards in low-income housing.

G. INFRASTRUCTURE

HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

\$29.0 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$464.7 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The full amount includes \$27.5 billion for highway and bridge construction projects and \$1.5 billion for competitive grants to state and local government for transportation investments. Oklahoma's \$465 million share is for the formula funding component only, which is allocated on the basis of an equal mixture of the FY '09 obligation limitations and surface transportation program apportionment formula. States must automatically make 30 percent of their allocation available to sub-state jurisdictions based on population, and set aside 3 percent of their allocation for "transportation enhancement" projects. These funds do not require a state match but states must certify a maintenance of effort of state funding. States must give priority to projects that can be completed within three years and are located within economically-distressed areas. Funds that are not obligated or spent within the first year may be reappropriated.²⁴

These funds will be allocated in Oklahoma to the Department of Transportation. Oklahoma is expected to receive \$819 million in federal transportation funds in state FY '09.

In addition to formula funding, the bill makes available \$1.5 billion for competitive surface transportation supplemental grants. Funding is available for projects costing between \$20 million and \$300 million, with no requirement of a state match. No more than 20 percent may be awarded to projects within a single state.²⁵

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

\$6.9 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$39.2 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill provides \$6.8 billion in Public Transit Investment formula grants to purchase buses and equipment needed to increase public transportation and improve intermodal and transit facilities. Funding is allocated between states based on a mixture of transportation formulas, with no obligation for a state match. States will be required to obligate 50 percent of funds within 180 days and all funds within one year, with unobligated funds withdrawn for redistribution. An additional \$100 million is allocated for discretionary grants towards reducing energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions.²⁶

Other Infrastructure Funding: The bill also includes:

- \$9.3 billion for railways, including \$8 billion for the high speed rail corridor program and intercity passenger rail service and \$1.3 billion for Amtrak;
- \$7.2 billion for broadband and wireless service in underserved areas. Of this amount, \$4.35 billion is provided for competitive broadband deployment grants to increase broadband in unserved and underserved areas; \$2.5 billion will be provided in loans, grants, and loan guarantees for open-access broadband infrastructure projects that serve rural areas primarily;²⁷ and
- \$1.1 billion in discretionary grants for airport infrastructure improvements.

H. JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

\$3.6 BILLION NATIONALLY

\$27.1 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill provides funding for several law enforcement programs:

- \$2.25 billion for Byrne/Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) to support local law enforcement efforts with equipment and operating costs. Of the total funds, \$2 billion will be allocated by formula and \$225 million will be awarded competitively. Current FFY '09 Byrne/JAG funding amounted to \$170 million, of which Oklahoma's share is \$1.5 million. These funds are allocated in Oklahoma to the District Attorneys Council;
- \$1 billion to the COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) program as grants to state, local and tribal government for the hiring of additional law enforcement officers;
- \$225 million in grants for tribal law enforcement assistance. Funds will be allocated in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands program; and
- \$125 million for rural law enforcement grants to combat drug-related crime in rural areas. Funds will be awarded competitively to enhance law enforcement and for community drug prevention and treatment programs.

Oklahoma's allocation of \$27.1 million is for the formula portion of Byrne/JAG funding only.

CRIME VICTIMS

\$375 MILLION NATIONALLY

\$4.4 MILLION OKLAHOMA

The bill provides funding for three grant programs assisting victims of crime:

- \$100 million for crime victims' assistance; \$1.1 million for Oklahoma. Funding is to support state compensation and assistance programs for victims and survivors of federal and state crimes. These funds are allocated to the District Attorneys Council;
 - \$225 million for violence against women; \$2.7 million for Oklahoma. Of the total, \$175 million is allocated through formula grants and \$50 million for transitional housing. These funds are allocated to the Attorney General's office; and
 - \$50 million for Internet crimes against children; \$0.7 million for Oklahoma. Funding is intended to enhance investigate responses to offenders who use the Internet to sexually exploit children. These funds are allocated to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.
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II. Direct Assistance to Individuals

In addition to funding allocated through state and local governments, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide direct assistance to individuals and families by expanding public benefits and supports and through tax cuts. The fiscal impact of these provisions are taken from the summary of provisions from Senate Finance, House Ways and Means Committee.

A. PUBLIC BENEFITS

FOOD STAMPS

\$19.3 BILLION NATIONALLY

ARRA increases the monthly benefit in the Food Stamp Program (or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) by 13.6 percent effective April 2009. The new level will stay in place in subsequent years until the program's regular annual inflation

tion adjustments overtake the benefit increase. All food stamp households will benefit from the increase. In Oklahoma, more than 440,000 people in over 180,000 households, representing some 12 percent of the state's population, receive food stamps. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that Oklahomans will receive \$302 million in additional food stamp benefits as a result of ARRA.²⁸ The bill also suspends for 18 months the three-month time limit on assistance for many childless adult recipients.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

\$24.7 BILLION NATIONALLY

ARRA provides for subsidized COBRA health insurance coverage for unemployed workers. Under the bill, workers who have been involuntarily terminated, and their families, may receive a 65 percent subsidy for COBRA continuation premiums for up to nine months. To qualify, a worker must be involuntarily terminated between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009, make under \$125,000 per year, and have a right to continued coverage under COBRA or another law. Workers who were terminated but did not initially elect COBRA because it was unaffordable will have 60 days to elect COBRA and receive the subsidy. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this provision will help seven million people maintain their health insurance.

Under Oklahoma law, employees in firms of fewer than 20 employees who lose their jobs are entitled to continued coverage but only for six months. Oklahoma could expand this coverage to nine months to ensure that workers losing jobs in small businesses will be able to get the full nine months of premium subsidies provided by the federal government.²⁹

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

\$17.2 BILLION NATIONALLY

The bill increases funding for Pell Grants to a maximum of \$5,350 in 2009 and 2010 to help college students meet the rising costs of higher education. Congress had already approved increased Pell Grant funding earlier in the year. Of the \$17.2 billion, \$15.7 billion is for the appropriated Pell Grant account and \$1.5 billion is for mandatory Pell Grants.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

\$2 BILLION NATIONALLY

The bill provides \$2 billion for full-year payments to landlords participating in the Section 8 project-based rental assistance program.

SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

\$4.2 BILLION NATIONALLY

ARRA provides a one-time payment to recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) of approximately \$450 for an individual and \$630 for a couple. The payment is expected to help 7.5 million low-income elderly and disabled individuals keep up with rising costs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

\$36.6 BILLION NATIONALLY

ARRA provides for a \$25 increase in weekly benefits through 2009 (\$8.8 billion) and extends the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which provides up to 33 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to workers exhausting their regular benefits, through the end of 2009 (\$26.7 billion). The National Employment Law Project has estimated that 96,000 Oklahomans will benefit from increased UI payments and 16,000 will qualify for Emergency Unemployment Continuation.³⁰

B. TAX RELIEF

ARRA provides a substantial number of tax cuts for individuals and tax incentives for businesses. These are the major provisions affecting individual taxpayers. The fiscal impacts are the costs of the provisions over 10 years as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

\$69.8 BILLION NATIONALLY

The bill protects more than 26 million families from the alternative minimum tax by extending AMT relief for nonrefundable

personal credits and increasing the AMT exemption amount.

CHILD TAX CREDIT **\$14.83 BILLION NATIONALLY**

ARRA expands the \$1,000 per child tax credit by lowering the floor above which the credit is refundable from \$8,500 in 2008 to \$3,000 in 2009 and 2010. This change benefits low-income workers who are currently excluded from claiming the credit. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that 130,000 to 190,000 Oklahoma children will benefit from the expansion of the Child Tax Credit.³¹

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT **\$4.633 BILLION NATIONALLY**

ARRA increases the EITCs for families with three or more children and provides marriage penalty relief for all married couples filing a joint return.

EDUCATION TAX CREDIT **\$13.9 BILLION NATIONALLY**

ARRA creates a new “America Opportunity” education tax credit of up to \$2,500 of the cost of tuition and related expenses for 2009 and 2010. Forty percent of the credit will be refundable, with a phase-out of \$80,000 for individuals and \$160,000 for married couples filing jointly.

HOME BUYERS CREDIT **\$6.6 BILLION NATIONALLY**

ARRA creates a new first-time home buyer tax credit that replaces a credit passed by Congress in 2008. Under the new credit, first-time home buyers will get a refundable credit of up to \$8,000 for homes purchased after January 1, 2009 through December 1, 2009. The credit phases out for individuals with income above \$75,000 and for married couples filing jointly above \$150,000. Previously, first time homebuyers were eligible for a credit that was equivalent to an interest free loan equal to 10 percent of the purchase price of a home, up to \$7,500.

MAKING WORK PAY CREDIT **\$116.2 BILLION**

The Making Work Pay credit is a new refundable credit of up to \$400 for a working individual and \$800 for a couple. It is available to all workers not claimed as a dependent on someone else’s return. The credit is calculated at a rate of 6.2 percent of earned income and phases in at the same rate as Social Security income. It would phase out for individuals with gross income in excess of \$75,000 for an individual (\$150,00 for married couples). The credit can be claimed either by reduced withholding of income tax or on one’s tax return. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that 1.2 million to 1.3 million working Oklahomans will benefit from the Making Work Pay credit.³²

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS **\$4.74 BILLION NATIONALLY**

The bill exempts the first \$2,400 in unemployment insurance benefits from taxation for tax year 2009.

VEHICLE PURCHASES **\$1.7 BILLION NATIONALLY**

ARRA allows taxpayers to deduct state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase of new vehicles through 2009. The deduction will phase out for taxpayers with incomes above \$125,000.

Summary of Major Funding Provisions for State and Local Government

Provision	Purpose	Recipient of Funds	National Funding (in \$ millions)*	Oklahoma Funding (in \$ millions)
State Fiscal Stabilization				
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	Support for states to stabilize budgets	State; Local Education Agencies	\$ 48,586	\$ 578.0
Medicaid	Increases the share of Medicaid costs the federal government reimburses states	Oklahoma Health Care Authority and other agencies	\$ 80,065	\$ 838.5
Support for Children, Families and Seniors				
Child Care	Provide child care services for children of low-income working parents	Department of Human Services	\$ 2,000	\$ 30.2
Child Support Enforcement (1)	Reinstates federal matching funds for child support enforcement efforts	Department of Human Services	\$ 1,100	\$ 16.3
Commodity Assistance Program	For commodity purchases and Emergency Food Assistance program	Food banks through states	\$ 150	\$ 1.4
Community Services Block Grant	To local communities to support employment, food, housing and healthcare services for those hardest hit by the recession	Local communities through Oklahoma Department of Commerce	\$ 1,000	\$ 11.9
Emergency Food and Shelter	Provide food, shelter and support services to the hungry, homeless and people in economic crisis	Local community organizations	\$ 100	\$ 1.0
Food Stamp Administration (2)	Help states with administrative changes and rising enrollment	Department of Human Services	\$ 295	\$ 3.3
Foster Care/Adoption Assistance	Increases the share of Medicaid costs the federal government reimburses states for Title IV programs	Department of Human Services	\$ 843	\$ 9.7
Immunization	Funds to state and local health departments for immunizations	State Department of Health and local Health Departments	\$ 300	\$ 2.6
Senior Nutrition	Senior food programs, including Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals	Department of Human Services	\$ 100	\$ 1.0
TANF	A capped temporary emergency contingency fund to assist states during the recession and extension of TANF supplemental grants	Department of Human Services	\$ 2,737	
Education				
Education Technology	21st Century classrooms, including computer and science labs and teacher technology training	Local Education Agencies	\$ 650	\$ 7.1
Head Start and Early Head Start	Preschool programs primarily for low-income children	Head Start and Early Head Start agencies	\$ 2,100	\$ 10.1
Homeless Students	Serve homeless children and youth affected by the economic crisis	State and Local Education Agencies	\$ 69	\$ 0.8
IDEA K-12 Special Education	Increased federal education support for children with special needs	Local Education Agencies	\$ 12,200	\$ 157.1
Title I K-12 Education	Supplemental education funding to local educational agencies	Local Education Agencies	\$ 13,000	\$ 140.9
Vocational Rehabilitation	Serve people with disabilities	Department of Rehabilitative Services	\$ 680	\$ 7.8

Provision	Purpose	Recipient of Funds	National Funding (in \$ millions)	Oklahoma Funding (in \$ millions)
Employment				
Community Service Employment for Older Americans	Support additional employment opportunities for low-income workers		\$ 120	\$ 1.6
State Employment Services	Reemployment services for unemployed workers and job-matching assistance		\$ 400	\$ 4.1
Unemployment Insurance Modernization (3)	Incentives to states that increase access to unemployment benefits for more low-wage and part-time workers	Oklahoma Employment Security Commission/ UI Trust Fund	\$ 7,500	\$ 76.7
Working Training and Employment	Job training for adult, dislocated worker and youth services	Local Workforce Investment Boards and Councils	\$ 2,950	\$ 19.9
Energy and Environment				
Clean Water	Loans to help communities upgrade wastewater treatment systems		\$ 4,000	\$ 31.9
Drinking Water	Loans for drinking water infrastructure		\$ 2,000	\$ 31.7
Home Weatherization	Help low-income families reduce energy costs by weatherizing their homes	Community action agencies through Oklahoma Department of Commerce	\$ 5,000	\$ 63.3
State Energy Program	Support for state energy priorities, including emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies	Oklahoma Department of Commerce	\$ 3,100	\$ 43.9
Housing				
Community Development Block Grant	Community and economic development projects including housing and services for those hit by tough economic times	Local communities and states	\$ 1,000	\$ 8.2
Emergency Shelter Grant Program	Short-term rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services	Department of Commerce	\$ 1,500	\$ 12.4
HOME Investment partnership	Restart low-income housing construction	State housing credit agencies	\$ 2,250	\$ 25.7
Public Housing Capital Funds	Repair and modernize public housing and vacant properties	Public Housing Authorities	\$ 4,000	\$ 25.3
Infrastructure				
Highway and Bridge Construction	Highway and bridge construction projects	Oklahoma Department of Transportation and local governments	\$ 29,000	\$ 464.7
Public Transit	Grants to upgrade and modernize public transit systems	States and local governments	\$ 6,900	\$ 39.2
Law Enforcement				
State and Local Law Enforcement	Support for state and local law enforcement equipment and operating costs and to hire new police officers	District Attorneys Council; state and local law enforcement agencies	\$ 3,000	\$ 27.1
Crime Victims	Funding for crime victims assistance and to combat violence against women, Internet crimes against children	District Attorneys Council; Attorney General's office; Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation	\$ 375	\$ 4.4

*: National funding amounts combine formula grants, competitive grants and set-asides

SOURCE: FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Becomes Law, February 23, 2009 except where otherwise noted

(1) Source: Center for Law and Social Policy, "How Much Restored Child Support Funding Will Each State Receive Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?", February 13, 2009.

(2) Source: 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, updated February 13, 2009

(3) Source: National Employment Law Project, The Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act: Filling the Gaps in the Unemployment Safety Net While Stimulating the Economy, November 2008.

NOTES

See page 3 for a discussion of additional sources of information on ARRA provisions.

¹ Elizabeth McNichol and Iris Lav, *State Budget Problems Worsen*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, updated February 10, 2009. Available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/9-8-08sfp.htm>

² See David Blatt, *Options for Addressing State Budget Shortfalls*, Oklahoma Policy Institute, January 2009. Available at: <http://okpolicy.org/options-addressing-state-budget-shortfalls-jan-2009>

³ See OMB Watch, *A Summary of the Transparency and Accountability Provisions in the Economic Stimulus Package Conference Report*. Available at: www.ombwatch.org/files/budget/OMB_Watch_HR1_Conf_Transparency.pdf The bill requires the government to maintain a website that would be a “portal or gateway to key information” related to the Act; this site has been launched at: www.recovery.gov

⁴ FFIS, *Estimated State Allocations of Selected Proposed House Stimulus Funds*, January 23, 2009. Made available by subscription.

⁵ The Medicaid provisions are described thoroughly in: Iris J. Lav, Edwin Park, Jason Levitis, and Matthew Broaddus, *Recovery Act Provides Much-Needed, Targeted Medicaid Assistance to States*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, updated February 13, 2009. Available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-13-09sfp.htm>.

⁶ Medicaid allocations are estimates only, as they will depend on how much states spend on the program and on implementation of the unemployment-related FMAP changes. Earlier FFIS projections estimated Oklahoma’s share at \$919 million, while the GAO calculated Oklahoma’s share at \$950 million.

⁷ Jim Myers, *Henry Cagney on Stimulus*, Tulsa World, February 23, 2009

⁸ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04, *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Becomes Law*, February 23, 2009. Available by subscription only.

⁹ Center for Law and Social Policy, *Impact of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 on Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Funding*, February 13, 2009. Available at: http://clasp.org/publications/ARRA_childcarestatealloc.pdf

¹⁰ The number of children benefited was calculated by CLASP. Available at: <http://clasp.org/ChildCareAndEarlyEducation/2DollarBillHouseAppropsCtte.pdf>

¹¹ Center for Law and Social Policy, *How Much Restored Child Support Funding Will Each State Receive Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?*, February 13, 2009.

¹² FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

¹³ 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*, updated February 13, 2009. Available at <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.htm>

¹⁴ Title IV-E will benefit from increased FMAP under the hold-harmless and across-the-board provisions but not the increase based on unemployment.

¹⁵ For a discussion of the TANF provisions, see Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Despite Critics’ Overheated Rhetoric, the Economic*

Recovery Bill Does Not Undermine Welfare Reform, February 17, 2008. Available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-17-09tanf.htm>

¹⁶ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

¹⁷ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

¹⁸ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

¹⁹ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

²⁰ See National Employment Law Project, *The Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act: Filling the Gaps in the Unemployment Safety Net While Stimulating the Economy*, November 2008. Available at: <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/UIMAFactSheet2008.pdf?nocdn=1>

²¹ U.S. Department of Energy website: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/state_energy_program/

²² FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

²³ 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*, updated February 13, 2009. Available at <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.htm>

²⁴ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

²⁵ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

²⁶ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

²⁷ FFIS, Budget Brief 09-04 (see note 8).

²⁸ See 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*, updated February 13, 2009. Available at <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.htm>

²⁹ Families USA, *Understanding COBRA and mini-COBRA Premium Assistance*. Available at: <http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/private-insurance/understanding-cobra-premium.html>

³⁰ See the fact sheet produced by the National Employment Law Project, available at: <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/RecoveryPlanEstimates.pdf>

³¹ Arloc Sherman, *Recovery Agreement Temporarily Expands Child Tax Credit for Large Number of Children in Every State*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 12, 2009. Available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-12-09tax.htm>

³² Arloc Sherman, *Tax Aid in Recovery Package Would Reach Large Number of Workers in Every State*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 13, 2009. Available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/1-21-09tax3.htm>

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