

Attachment 6A

Explanatory Note for Department of Education Report February 1, 2010

Key components of the Department of Education's report for status of NEPA compliance for projects and activities funded under Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), through December 31, 2009, are explained below.

NEPA Applicability:

The vast majority of Department of Education ARRA funds are formula grants to States for programs, many of which are primarily related to teaching. Headcount is the primary component of many of these grants. Accordingly, most ED programs are listed as NEPA Not Applicable for this report.

One exception to this statement is TAFS #91-0103, Impact Aid – Construction. The discretionary portion of these awards that are not yet awarded may be subject to NEPA requirements and we are working with CEQ to develop the appropriate NEPA process for these grants.

Basis for Total Projects/Activities Calculation for Titles/Programs:

Impact Aid: The total number of grantees (these grantees are local educational agencies or LEAs) is increasing as grants are reviewed and determined eligibility. 179 is the total number of grantees that have received the \$39.8 million in formula grants that have been awarded. The number of discretionary grants that will be awarded the remaining \$59.2 million is unknown at this time.

Higher Education: each grantee for these discretionary grants will be counted as 1 project upon award. Discretionary grants have yet been awarded as follows:

- A small amount of pre-award administrative expenses have been expended for Higher Education funds, TAFS #91-0196 (Teacher Quality Partnerships); this is considered 1 activity and is listed for the first time with this report.

Student Aid Administration: TAFS #91-0198: 5 representing each contract awarded

Student Financial Assistance: TAFS #91-0199: Approximately 6,000 schools and 8 million students receive student financial assistance under ARRA. We have chosen to aggregate these awards at the state level to provide a definition of projects/activities comparable to other ED programs. Accordingly, we are defining a Student Financial Assistance project/activity by the number of states/ territories receiving this funding (57).

Institute of Education Sciences/Innovation and Improvement: each grantee for these discretionary grants will be counted as 1 project upon award. Discretionary grants have yet been awarded as follows:

- A small amount of pre-award administrative expenses have been expended for Innovation and Improvement funds, TAFS #91-0207 (Teacher Incentive Fund); this is considered 1 activity.
- 15 Teacher Incentive Fund continuation awards, TAFS #91-0207, were granted during the past quarter. These are listed for the first time with this report.

Special Education: TAFS #91-0299: The number of formula awards (164) reflects the total of awards covered by three different CFDA numbers:

- 56 Grants to States, with a total ARRA appropriation of 11.3 billion
- 52 Preschool Grants, with a total ARRA appropriation of 400 million
- 56 Grants for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families, with a total ARRA appropriation of 428,085,940

Rehabilitation Services & Disability Research: TAFS #91-0302: The number of awards (266) listed under Rehabilitation Services & Disability Research (Vocational Rehab, Independent Living Centers) reflects both formula and discretionary awards covered by multiple CFDA numbers as follows:

- 80 Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants formula awards to 57 States and territories
- 78 Independent Living (IL) Grants formula awards to States and territories
- 56 IL Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program Grants formula awards to State and territories
- 52 Centers for Independent Living Program discretionary awards were made during the past quarter and are listed for the first time with this report

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund: TAFS #91-1909: Each State/Territory will be counted as 1 project as that state is awarded funding. All 52 states plus Puerto Rico and DC have received funding as of this reporting period, an increase of 1 since the last report.

Formula Grants to States: Projects/activities are identified as individual grant awards. These programs include:

- Education for the Disadvantaged (Title I), TAFS #91-0901 – 57 awards including all States, Territories, District of Columbia, Indian Set-Aside
- School Improvement Grants, TAFS #91-0901 – 52 awards to all states plus DC and Puerto Rico. These awards are new this reporting period.
- School Improvement Programs (Homeless Youth, Education Technology), TAFS #91-1001 – 57 awards for each program (a total of 114 awards) including all States, Territories, District of Columbia, Indian Set-Aside

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