

Attachment 6A

Explanatory Note for Department of Education Report May 3, 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), for the period ending March 31, 2010, 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 Department programs are listed as NEPA Not Applicable because the funding determinations are made pursuant to statutory formulas and there is no decisionmaking that triggers NEPA requirements.

The Impact Aid – Construction awards (TAFS #91-0103) are not yet awarded and may be subject to NEPA requirements. This program is being reassessed. We are working with CEQ to determine whether a NEPA process is appropriate 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. There are a total of 179 grantees that have received the \$39.6 million in formula grants that have been awarded. The number of discretionary grants that will be awarded the remaining \$59.4 million is unknown at this time.

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 from the Homeless Youth and Education Technology programs (totaling 114) includes funding to all States, Territories, District of Columbia, Indian Set-Aside

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 Department programs. Accordingly, we are defining a Student Financial Assistance project/activity by the number of states/ territories receiving this funding (57).

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

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 (420) 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
- A total of 206 Centers for Independent Living Program discretionary awards have now been made; this is an increase of 154 vs. the previous report.

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, TAFS #91-1909: Each State/Territory will be counted as 1 project as that state is awarded funding. All 50 states plus Puerto Rico, DC, Guam, and Northern Marianas Islands have received funding as of this reporting period for a total of 54, an increase of 2 since the last report.

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

- A small amount of pre-award Innovation and Improvement funds, TAFS #91-0207 (Teacher Incentive Fund) administrative expenses have been expended; this is considered one activity.
- 15 Teacher Incentive Fund continuation awards, TAFS #91-0207, were granted during the prior quarter.
- 12 Teacher Quality Partnership awards, TAFS #91-0196, were awarded during this reporting period and the remaining program funds were obligated. These awards are now listed on the report.

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