

Attachment 6A

Explanatory Note for Department of Education Report November 2, 2009

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 September 30, 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. These programs are being reassessed to determine whether any of these programs involve grants that would require some additional environmental review.

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:

The ARRA projects or activities are grouped and reported in column E of page 1 of the spreadsheet as follows:

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 \$39.6 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: Although some funds, such as Work-Study, are distributed to institutions, for this report the projects are grouped by States, Territories, and the District of Columbia for a total of 57 projects/activities. For the School Improvement Programs, 2 awards are made to each of the the States, Territories, and District of Columbia for a total of 114.

Education for the Disadvantaged (Title I) – 57

Student Financial Assistance – 57

School Improvement Programs (Homeless Youth, Education Technology) – 114

Student Aid Administration: 5 representing each contract awarded

Special Education: The number of formula awards (164) listed under Special Education (IDEA), Recovery Act TAFS 91-0299 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: The number of formula awards (214) listed under Rehabilitation Services & Disability Research (Vocational Rehab, Independent Living Centers) TAFS 91-0302 also reflects the total formula awards covered by multiple CFDA numbers including:

- 80 Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants to 57 States and territories with a total ARRA appropriation of \$540 million
- 78 Independent Living (IL) Grants to States and territories with a total ARRA appropriation of \$18.2 million
- 56 IL Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program Grants to State and territories with a total ARRA appropriation of \$34.3 million
- In addition, the Centers for Independent Living Program will have a number of discretionary awards with a total appropriation of \$87.4 million and the total number of awards is unknown at this time.

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund: Each State/Territory will be counted as 1 project as that state is awarded funding. 51 have received funding to date.

Higher Education/Institute of Education Sciences/Innovation and Improvement: In future reports, each grantee for these discretionary grants will be counted as 1 project after the awards are made. No discretionary grants have yet been awarded. A small amount of pre-award Innovation and Improvement funds (Teacher Incentive Fund) administrative expenses have been expended.

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