



## Serving Idaho's Children, Youth and Young Adults: Tracking ARRA Spending in Idaho

April 2010

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This month's tracking report updates the January tracking report,<sup>2</sup> analyzing Idaho's use to date of specific funding streams under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). It relies primarily on data for the first quarter of 2010 recently made available on Idaho's recovery website, [www.accountability.idaho.gov](http://www.accountability.idaho.gov).

ARRA was enacted in February 2009, more than a year ago, and most of ARRA's funding streams were intended for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 and the first half of 2011. We are therefore now past the half-way point for most ARRA funding to be obligated if not actually spent. Given ARRA's emphasis on transparency and accountability—on making it easy for citizens to keep track of how our federal and state governments are managing the biggest stimulus package ever—it is also important to track the ease of tracking ARRA spending. Accordingly, this report is divided into observations about ARRA spending in Idaho and about the ease of tracking that spending.

**ARRA spending in Idaho to date:** See the table on the last page. The "Allocated" column gives estimates of total expected allocations to Idaho for the various ARRA funding streams of most direct benefit to Idaho's children, youth, young adults and their families. It is important to remember that these total allocations were to be spread over all or parts of three fiscal years, FY09, FY10 and FY11. The difference between the amounts in the "Allocated" column and the "Awarded" column is likely to represent the portion of the funding stream expected to be spent in FY11, which begins July 1, although at least two alternative explanations are also possible. The gap could be due to funds that were to be distributed through grants rather than by formula, and Idaho is being awarded less in grants than originally predicted. It could also be due to funding that required a state match that the state has not provided.

Table 2 in an earlier Idaho KIDS COUNT report, "Making Use of Economic Recovery Funds: Opportunities for Idaho to Better Serve Youth and Young Adults,"<sup>3</sup> identifies how ARRA's different funding streams were to be spread over FY09, FY10 and FY11. Taking the information from that table into account, the

amounts awarded and spent up to April 2010 in Idaho make possible the following comments about specific funding streams.

- Spending on education through the Public Schools Stabilization Fund appears to be as expected, with the balance between the total allocation and spending to date in line with what was anticipated to be spent in FY11.
- Spending to date on Medicaid may be somewhat ahead of what was originally anticipated, with spending originally predicted to be on the order of \$192 million for FY09 and FY10. This is in keeping with the recession's being more severe than originally expected and with the federal government's likely decision to extend the enhanced federal matching rate beyond June 30, 2011 when it was originally set to expire. More could be learned from comparing Idaho's Medicaid spending under ARRA with that of other states—a topic perhaps for a future tracking report.
- Again because of the severity of the recession, demand for increased and extended Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits across the nation exceeded the funding provided through ARRA some time ago. Congress has provided additional funding beyond ARRA, and is likely to continue to do so. Hence the table on the last page gives \$240,000,000+ as the amount spent in Idaho. Funding for UI is now taking place outside of ARRA and can no longer be tracked through ARRA.
- Food stamps, like Medicaid, is a funding stream that has experienced somewhat more demand than originally anticipated and that could benefit from comparing Idaho's experience with that of other states.
- Higher than anticipated spending on Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance and food stamps provide examples of government doing exactly what government should do in a severe recession. Ensuring that basic needs are met and promoting a stable labor force while enduring economic forces beyond anyone's control are basic functions of government.
- Idaho continues to fail to draw upon any of the recovery funds available to it through TANF. A one-year extension of the TANF Emergency Fund is being considered by Congress as this goes to press. At this point, Idaho seems unlikely to take advantage of these funds without being pressed to do so—an opportunity for professionals and advocates working on behalf of Idaho's children and families.
- Head Start and Early Head Start ARRA spending in Idaho appears to be significantly below what was originally anticipated, although there is some possibility that this is due to difficulties tracking this funding stream (see below). Head Start funds were to be distributed to the states primarily by formula while Early Head Start funds were to be distributed through a granting process and required some state matching.<sup>4</sup> These funds were expected to sustain programs for FY09 and FY10 and so at this point probably represent a lost opportunity for improving early education in Idaho.
- College work-study funding through ARRA also appears to be below expectations, although again this may be due to difficulties tracking this funding stream.
- Spending under all other funding streams identified in the table on the last page appears to be as expected at this point in time. Most funds for Title I, IDEA, Title II-D, and McKinney-Vento appear to have been awarded to the state but not yet spent. These are all funds for various education efforts, and most are awarded to the state then distributed or granted to school districts. Updated reporting on how they have been spent should be forthcoming as the school year comes to a close.

**How easy is it to track Idaho's ARRA spending?** The ease and frequency with which updates become available and therefore tracking is possible differs markedly between those funding streams that are federal-state partnerships and those that are primarily federal initiatives.

Here in Idaho, it is easiest to track those funding streams that are disbursed by the federal government in large chunks (usually an allocation for a fiscal year) to the state and then distributed by state agencies and according to state rules. This includes all funding streams except Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance, food stamps, Head Start/Early Head Start, and college work-study funds. However, tracking data is made available by the state on a quarterly rather than monthly basis only, and delays do occur. Tracking data that should have been available in early April, for instance, did not become available until May.

Funding streams that are primarily federal initiatives are either (i) drawn down by the state as they are spent and disbursed according to well-defined rules (Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance, food stamps) or (ii) simply entail little state involvement (Head Start/Early Head Start, college work-study). As a result of the state's minimal influence over these funds, the state is not required to include them in its quarterly reporting. As a result, tracking data for them is not available on Idaho's recovery website, [www.accountability.idaho.gov](http://www.accountability.idaho.gov). For two of these streams (Medicaid and food stamps, although the latter requires quite a bit of digging) weekly reporting data is available on [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov), the federal government's recovery website. For others, (Unemployment Insurance, Head Start/Early Head Start, college work-study) regular tracking data does not seem to be readily available—thus falling short of ARRA's promise of transparency and accountability.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup>Judith L. Brown is a consulting economist with interests in poverty reduction, economic development and tax policy. She has master's degrees in both economics and agricultural economics from Michigan State University, and for 10 years was director of the nonpartisan Idaho Center on Budget and Tax Policy.
- <sup>2</sup>Idaho KIDS COUNT (January 2010), "Serving Idaho's Children, Youth and Young Adults: Tracking ARRA Spending in Idaho—January 2010," by Judith L. Brown at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/ARRA\\_report\\_Jan\\_2010.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/ARRA_report_Jan_2010.pdf).
- <sup>3</sup>Table 2 is available at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf). The full report, "Making Use of Economic Recovery Funds: Opportunities for Idaho to Better Serve Youth and Young Adults," by Judith L. Brown (September 2009) for Idaho KIDS COUNT is at [www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesPart5.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesPart5.pdf).
- <sup>4</sup>See page 3 of "Making Use of Economic Recovery Funds: Child Care and Early Education Options for Idaho," by Judith L. Brown (May 2009) for Idaho KIDS COUNT, available at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf).

## Notes to Table

- <sup>1</sup>Except where otherwise noted, these figures are from Table 2 in Idaho KIDS COUNT (September 2009), at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesSupportingDataTables.pdf).
- <sup>2</sup>Except where otherwise noted, this is preliminary April 2010 data from Idaho's recovery website, [http://www.accountability.idaho.gov/TrackingReports/StimulusTracking\\_Q2.pdf](http://www.accountability.idaho.gov/TrackingReports/StimulusTracking_Q2.pdf), downloaded May 10, 2010.
- <sup>3</sup>Idaho KIDS COUNT (May 2009), p. 3, at [http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary\\_research/Small\\_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf](http://www.idahokidscount.org/downloads/library/downloads/primary_research/Small_Faces/SmallFacesPart4.pdf).
- <sup>4</sup>This includes WIA funding streams for adults, youth and dislocated workers.
- <sup>5</sup>"State and Territories Medicaid Program Funding (FMAP)" at <http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=Reinvestment>, downloaded May 7, 2010. Note that since Medicaid funds are drawn down as they are spent, the "Available" column has no relevance for this funding stream.
- <sup>6</sup>Idaho Department of Labor, *Idaho Employment* newsletter, January 2010, p. 2, available online at <http://labor.idaho.gov>. Note that since Unemployment Insurance funds are drawn down as they are spent, the "Available" column has no relevance for this funding stream.
- <sup>7</sup>Calculated from data included in the USDA weekly financial and activity report retrieved at [http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/agency/reporting/agency\\_reporting2.aspx?agency\\_code=12&dt=04/30/2010](http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/agency/reporting/agency_reporting2.aspx?agency_code=12&dt=04/30/2010). It is not clear whether the expenditures on Food Stamps identified by this source include or exclude the rather small amount spent directly by the state of Idaho on "Food Stamp Administration," which is all that is reported on Idaho's recovery website, [www.accountability.idaho.gov](http://www.accountability.idaho.gov).

<sup>8</sup>CLASP, "TANF Emergency Fund State Applications Approved as of May 13, 2010," available at [www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/TANF-ECF-Use-May-13.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/TANF-ECF-Use-May-13.pdf).

<sup>9</sup>"Awards in Idaho," [www.stimuluswatch.org](http://www.stimuluswatch.org), searched May 15, 2010. This website is operated by volunteers at George Mason University, and it reports on some funding streams not readily available elsewhere, including for Head Start and Early Head Start, and for College Work-Study. However, the reporting schedule is not identified, so it is not possible to determine if these figures are up-to-date.

<sup>10</sup>This money was obligated by the 2010 Legislature for spending during FY 2011, and will be discussed in an upcoming tracking report.

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	<u>Allocated<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Awarded<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Spent<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Available<sup>2</sup></u>
<b>State Fiscal Relief</b>				
<b>Education - Public Schools Stabilization Fund</b>				
<b>K-12</b>	\$166,175,780	\$120,190,000	\$120,180,427	\$9,573
<b>Higher Ed</b>	\$35,535,300	\$14,948,787	\$13,262,265	\$1,686,522
<b>Medicaid</b>	\$255,661,900	\$214,117,786 <sup>5</sup>	\$214,117,786 <sup>5</sup>	-
<b>Governor's Discretionary</b>	\$44,877,000	\$44,877,000	\$35,470,600	\$9,406,400 <sup>10</sup>
<b>Unemployment Insurance</b>	\$150,236,000	\$240,000,000+ <sup>6</sup>	\$240,000,000+ <sup>6</sup>	-
<b>SNAP (Food Stamps)</b>	\$65,100,000	\$45,964,700 <sup>7</sup>	\$45,964,700 <sup>7</sup>	-
<b>TANF - Emergency Contingency Fund</b>	\$336,000	\$0 <sup>8</sup>	\$0	\$0
<b>- Supplemental Grant Extension</b>	\$3,498,000	\$0 <sup>8</sup>	\$0	\$0
<b>Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)</b>	\$4,946,000	\$4,945,865	\$2,370,575	\$2,575,290
<b>Child Care &amp; Development Fund (formerly CCDBG)</b>	\$11,946,000	\$11,946,497	\$9,355,545	\$2,590,952
<b>Head Start &amp; Early Head Start</b>	\$2,628,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$1,068,680 <sup>9</sup>	not readily available	not readily available
<b>Title I - LEA and School Improvement grants</b>	\$34,907,300	\$34,955,709	\$7,301,646	\$27,654,063
<b>IDEA - Part B - Preschool</b>	\$2,268,800 <sup>3</sup>	\$2,268,765	\$441,679	\$1,827,086
<b>- Part B - School Age</b>	\$53,247,400	\$53,247,375	\$11,024,465	\$42,222,910
<b>- Part C (Infants and Toddlers)</b>	\$2,358,600 <sup>3</sup>	\$2,689,423	\$344,664	\$2,344,759
<b>Title II-D - Education Technology grants</b>	\$3,209,400	\$3,209,375	\$136,300	\$3,073,075
<b>School Lunch Equipment Assistance grants</b>	\$469,300	\$481,315	\$470,003	\$11,312
<b>McKinney-Vento funds - education for homeless</b>	\$191,000	\$212,196	\$88,374	\$123,822
<b>College Work-Study</b>	\$543,000	\$395,766 <sup>9</sup>	not readily available	not readily available
<b>Job Training - WIA</b>	\$6,985,000 <sup>4</sup>	\$6,985,249	\$5,553,807	\$1,431,442