

Supporting State Child Care Efforts with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is providing a \$2 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for 2009 and 2010, including \$255 million for improving the quality of child care, of which \$93.6 million is targeted for activities to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers. States are using their ARRA child care funds to maintain or expand access to child care assistance for families and to support initiatives to enhance the quality of care. For example:

- At least ten states are using ARRA funds to maintain child care assistance for families.
 - Alabama is using \$33.4 million for child care slots, including slots for 3,000 children who were prevented from losing child care in FY 2009.ⁱ
 - Arizona expended \$33 million between February and December 2009 to prevent 9,230 children, on an average monthly basis, from losing child care assistance.ⁱⁱ
- At least fourteen states are using ARRA funds to delay, avoid, reduce, or eliminate waiting lists for child care assistance.
 - Indiana is using \$35 million to provide child care assistance to 3,500 children who had been on the waiting list.ⁱⁱⁱ
 - New Jersey is using \$24 million to reduce its waiting list, which had 6,000 children on it as of August 2009.^{iv}
- At least six states are using ARRA funds to expand eligibility for child care assistance.
 - Iowa is using \$2.3 million for child care scholarships for families with incomes between 145 percent of poverty (the existing program's eligibility cutoff) and 185 percent of poverty to help them purchase high-quality infant/toddler care.^v
- At least nine states are using ARRA funds to expand the availability of child care assistance for parents searching for work.
 - Illinois is using \$2.2 million to extend the time parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it to search for a job from 30 to 90 days.^{vi}
- At least seven states are using ARRA funds to reduce copayments for some or all families receiving child care assistance.
 - Kansas is using about \$7.3 million to eliminate copayments for families with incomes below 100 percent of poverty and to cut copayments in half for families with incomes between 100 and 185 percent of poverty.^{vii}
- At least four states are using ARRA funds to maintain or increase reimbursement rates for child care providers serving children receiving child care assistance.

- Alaska is increasing rates from the 50th percentile of 2007 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2009 market rates for infants and toddlers and to the 50th percentile of 2009 market rates for preschoolers and school-age children.^{viii}
- At least nineteen states are using ARRA funds to implement or upgrade technology for their child care assistance programs, licensing systems, or quality rating and improvement systems.
 - Florida is using \$14 million to develop a new web-based centralized information technology system that will replace a system that had 34 separate servers.^{ix}
- At least sixteen states are using ARRA funds to implement new or strengthen or expand existing child care quality rating and improvement systems.
 - Nevada is using \$500,000 for its Silver State Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System Pilot Project, which will last two years and include 24 child care centers in Southern Nevada.^x
 - Ohio is using approximately \$5.3 million to provide increased payments to programs that are serving children receiving child care assistance and that are at the two highest levels of the state's quality rating and improvement system.^{xi}
- At least six states are using ARRA funds for initiatives that offer child care providers financial support and incentives to obtain more education linked to higher compensation and at least twenty-two states are using ARRA funds for other activities aimed at expanding training and professional development opportunities for providers.
 - Oregon is using \$2 million to support the first phase of a new public-private partnership called Education and Quality Investment Partnership (EQUIP), which provides education awards of \$100 to \$500 to providers who document educational achievements on the Oregon Registry.^{xii}
- At least fourteen states are using their ARRA child care quality funding to provide child care programs and providers with grants to help them purchase books, toys, other materials, and equipment, and to cover other costs to ensure healthy, safe, and educational environments.
 - Maine is using \$90,318 to assist child care providers serving children of all age ranges in purchasing equipment required to attain or maintain accreditation.^{xiii}
- At least three states are using their ARRA funds to evaluate and assess the quality of child care programs or develop a system for evaluation and assessment.
 - West Virginia is conducting a baseline assessment of the quality of child care programs using environmental rating scales. All centers and facilities will be evaluated as well as 10 percent of family child care homes.^{xiv}
- At least six states are using ARRA child care quality funds to develop and/or disseminate early learning guidelines to help child care programs and providers identify stages of children's development, skills, and knowledge, to develop curricula, and to design learning activities.
 - Georgia is using \$500,000 to align content standards for birth to third grade.^{xv}

- At least six states are using the ARRA infant/toddler set-aside for infant/toddler resource centers or infant/toddler specialists.
 - Arkansas is using \$498,000 for infant/toddler health specialists in six resource and referral agencies. During the first six months of ARRA funding, these specialists helped with 637 new infant/toddler slots in child care programs.^{xvi}
- At least thirteen states are using the ARRA infant/toddler set-aside for other forms of training and education for providers on infant/toddler care.
 - Louisiana is using \$795,000 for Beginning with Babies, a statewide infant/toddler pilot project that will provide CDA training with a focus on the social-emotional development of children before age three and \$540,000 for stipends to teachers to participate in the project.^{xvii}
- At least eight states are using the ARRA infant/toddler set-aside for grants for infant/toddler programs and providers to purchase equipment and materials and improve their quality.
 - Utah is using \$220,000 to provide quality improvement grants to infant/toddler providers.^{xviii}
- At least seven states are using the ARRA infant/toddler set-aside for other activities to improve the quality of infant/toddler care.
 - Pennsylvania is using \$2.88 million to implement Keystone Babies, a pilot program to support infants and toddlers in high-quality child care programs and offer supportive resources to their families.^{xix}
- At least six states are using a portion of their ARRA funds to increase families' access to and improve the quality of school-age care.
 - Massachusetts used \$2.5 million to provide Summer Learning Vouchers for working families with school-age children during the summer months of 2009. Over 800 school-age children attended more than 250 summer enrichment programs.^{xx}
 - South Dakota is using \$450,000 to provide Out-of-School-Time Maintenance Grants for Rural Programs to help cover costs for personnel, professional development, transportation, equipment and materials, and other expenses.^{xxi}
- At least ten states are using ARRA funds for screening and assessment, promotion of child care that is inclusive of children with disabilities or other special needs, and/or efforts to help address children's broader needs.
 - Connecticut is using \$151,375 to support a pilot program offering health and mental health consultation and training in child care settings and to fund the Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health to coordinate and implement guidelines for infant mental health training of infant/toddler providers.^{xxii}
- At least eight states are using ARRA funds to increase child care resource and referral agencies' capacity to support parents and providers.

- Idaho is using \$142,000 to support seven regional child care resource and referral offices.^{xxiii}
- Despite the availability of ARRA funds, at least twelve states are making cuts to their child care assistance programs or child care quality initiatives.
 - New Hampshire used ARRA funds to delay implementation of a waiting list, but the state started a waiting list for the first time on October 1, 2009. There were 1,198 children were on the list as of January 2010.^{xxiv}
 - North Carolina cut funding for child care assistance for FY 2010 by \$15 million, and for Smart Start—which funds a range of early childhood services, including child care assistance—by \$16 million. Agencies have been required to hold back additional state funds to meet budget requirements for FY 2010, including \$16.4 million for child care assistance and \$6.8 million for Smart Start.^{xxv}
 - Ohio reduced its income eligibility limit to qualify for assistance from 200 percent to 150 percent of poverty and reduced its reimbursement rates from the 65th percentile of 2006 market rates to the 35th percentile of 2008 market rates, effective July 23, 2009. In addition, the state eliminated funding for the Early Learning Initiative, a full-day, full-year early care and education program.^{xxvi}

Given continuing gaps in child care assistance programs and a state budget outlook that remains bleak, further federal and state investments in child care and early education will be necessary to sustain and build on the progress states have made in maintaining and expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care using ARRA funds.

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- ⁱ Emails from Jeanetta Green, Director, Office of Child Care Subsidy, Child Care Services Division, Alabama Department of Human Resources, to Karen Schulman, Senior Policy Analyst, National Women's Law Center, Aug. 6, 2009 and Feb. 17, 2010.
- ⁱⁱ Email from Violeta Pivac, Child Care Administration, Arizona Department of Economic Security, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 16, 2010.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Email from Melanie Brizzi, Child Care Administrator, Division of Family Resources, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, to Karen Schulman, Jan. 28, 2010.
- ^{iv} Email from Beverly Wellons, Assistant Director, Child Care Operations, Division of Family Development, New Jersey Department of Human Services, to Helen Blank, Director of Leadership and Public Policy, National Women's Law Center, Aug. 27, 2009; email from Beverly Wellons to Karen Schulman, Feb. 1, 2010.
- ^v Information from Sheila Hansen, Policy Director, Child and Family Policy Center, Transcript of CLASP Audio Conference Call: An Economic Recovery Update: How States Can Use Economic Recovery Funds to Help Child Care, May 21, 2009, *available at* <http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/0492.2.pdf> (last visited Mar. 23, 2010); email from Julie Fleming, Legislative Liaison, Iowa Department of Human Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 8, 2010.
- ^{vi} Emails from Stacey Splain, Manager, Policy Development and Appeals, Bureau of Child Care and Development, Division of Human Capital Development, Illinois Department of Human Services, to Karen Schulman, June 3, 2009 and Jan. 25, 2010.
- ^{vii} Email from Shannon Cotsoradis, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Kansas Action for Children, Voices for Children Foundation, to Karen Schulman, Aug. 24, 2009; emails from Sally Hargis, Child Care Subsidy Program Manager, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 12, 15, and 23, 2010; Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Monthly Family Income and Family Share Deduction Schedule for Child Care Services, Effective October 1, 2009. The new copayment schedule went in effect October 1, 2009, and refunds were issued retroactively to families for copayments made from March 2009 to September 2009.
- ^{viii} Email from Marcey Bish, Child Care Program Manager, Division of Public Assistance, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, to Karen Schulman, Mar. 5, 2010.
- ^{ix} Information from Brittany Birken, Director, Office of Early Learning, Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Transcript of CLASP/NWLC Audio Conference Call: Update on State Child Care Assistance Policies and Use of Economic Recovery Funds, Oct. 15, 2009, *available at* <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/Oct15AudioConfTranscript.pdf> (last visited Mar. 23, 2010); email from Michele Watson, System Development Manager, Office of Early Learning, Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 18, 2010.
- ^x Email from Jerry Allen, Chief of Child Care and Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, to Karen Schulman, Mar. 15, 2010.
- ^{xi} Email from Jamie Gottesman, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Child Care and Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 8, 2010.
- ^{xii} Email from Shiela Carter, Operations and Policy Analyst, Child Care Team, Oregon Department of Human Services, to Karen Schulman, May 15, 2009; email from Mark Anderson, Executive Director, Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 16, 2010.
- ^{xiii} Maine Department of Health and Human Services Activities and Reporting: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Funds, Stimulus Projects and Investment Areas: Child Care and Development Block Grant, *available at* <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/recovery/projects/ocfscdcbg.shtml> (last visited Mar. 19, 2010).
- ^{xiv} Email from Margie Hale, Executive Director, West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund, to Helen Blank, Aug. 24, 2009.
- ^{xv} Email from Clare Richie, Senior Policy Analyst, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 18, 2010, citing information provided by Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to Clare Richie, Feb. 10, 2010.
- ^{xvi} Information from Tonya Russell, Director, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Transcript of CLASP/NWLC Audio Conference Call: Update on State Child Care Assistance Policies and Use of Economic Recovery Funds, Oct. 15, 2009; emails from Tonya Russell to Karen Schulman, Feb. 11 and 17, 2010.

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- ^{xvii} Email from Joan Hoover, SNAP/CCAP Section, Louisiana Department of Social Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 22, 2010.
- ^{xviii} Email from Janis Dubno, Senior Policy Analyst, Early Childhood Voices for Utah Children, to Karen Schulman, Aug. 24, 2009; email from Lynette Rasmussen, Director, Office of Work and Family Life, Utah Department of Workforce Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 25, 2010.
- ^{xix} Emails from Todd Klunk, Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare, to Karen Schulman, Mar. 1 and 8, 2010; Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, *Improving the Development of Pennsylvania Infants and Toddlers: Recommendations from the Pennsylvania Infant-Toddler Systems Committee of the Early Learning Council (2010)*, available at <http://www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/News%20&%20Notes/IT%20Systems%20Report.pdf> (last visited Mar. 8, 2010).
- ^{xx} Emails from Corey Zimmerman, Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis, Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, to Karen Schulman, July 8 and Sept. 1, 2009.
- ^{xxi} South Dakota Department of Social Services, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), available at <http://dss.sd.gov/arra/> (last visited Aug. 6, 2009); email from Patricia Monson, Division Director, Division of Child Care Services, South Dakota Department of Social Services, to Karen Schulman, Mar. 8, 2010.
- ^{xxii} Connecticut Department of Social Services, CCDF ARRA Funding 2009-2010, available at http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/pdfs/stimulus/list_of_proposals_arra_02-05-10.pdf (last visited Mar. 18, 2010).
- ^{xxiii} Email from Brenda Breidinger, Program Director, IdahoSTARS, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 3, 2010.
- ^{xxiv} Email from Jackie Cowell, Executive Director, Early Learning NH, to Helen Blank, Nov. 17, 2009; email from Patrick McGowan, Contract Specialist, Child Development Bureau, Division for Children, Youth, and Families, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 25, 2010.
- ^{xxv} Email from Fay Lewis, Child Day Care Program Manager, Subsidy Services Section, Division of Child Development, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 22, 2010.
- ^{xxvi} Email from Roger Edens, Program Developer, Bureau of Child Care and Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, to Karen Schulman, May 7, 2009; email from Terrie Hare, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child Care and Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, to Karen Schulman, Sept. 2, 2009; email from Jamie Gottesman, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Child Care and Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, to Karen Schulman, Feb. 8, 2010.