

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Impacts to the Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF) Program

**Prepared for the Governor's Office and the AARA Recovery Team
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Executive Summary

The ARRA has made changes to the TANF program. The first change is to the Emergency Contingency Fund. This does not impact Wyoming because we do not qualify for these funds.

The second change is to the supplemental grants. This does not impact Wyoming because we do not qualify for these funds.

The third change is related to the caseload reduction credit. No has no significant impact on the State. This could keep the State out of a penalty situation if caseloads increase over the next 2 years.

The fourth change lifts the restrictions on carry over TANF dollars. Wyoming is allowed to use these funds for all spending related to TANF benefits or services.

Policy and Implementation Issues

The fourth change described above will allow the state to provide more dollars to communities for programs meeting the TANF requirements. It should be noted that these are one time funds. The current total on these funds is approximately \$43 million.

Funding Issues

TANF funds are available to the State as a reimbursement. The funds provide the State with more spending authority. In addition, per the 2001 Session Law, the agency must hold in reserve \$13,400,000 of these funds for direct assistance.