

U.S. Senator

TOM HARKIN OF IOWA



<http://harkin.senate.gov>

(202) 224-3254

HARKIN: STIMULUS WILL PROVIDE A LIFELINE TO THOSE IN NEED

“We are in the grips of a destructive recession that has shaken people’s confidence in America’s economic system. People are hurting. Millions have lost their jobs, retirement savings and access to health care. It took many years of flawed policies and reckless behaviors to get us into the current economic mess and recovery will not happen overnight.”

“The economic recovery package will chart a new course for America by investing in our most important natural resource - our people. It begins a new era of transformational change in our economy – one that will give us true 21st century health care system emphasizing information technology, prevention and wellness, an energy system based increasingly on clean, renewable, domestically produced electricity and fuels, an education system that begins with world-class early childhood education and ends with giving every American access to higher education and advanced training.” – Senator Tom Harkin.

Community Health Centers: \$2 billion will be available nationally with \$500 million for new centers, expansion grants, and one-time supplemental operating grants to help health centers deal with the current spikes in uncompensated care. The other \$1.5 billion will be used for construction, renovation and equipment, including health IT systems. These funds will be awarded competitively from the Federal Government.

In addition, \$300 million is dedicated to the National Health Service Corps. These funds will be used to provide loan repayment and scholarship to health professionals who agree to serve for 3-5 years in a shortage area. Community Health Centers qualify as shortage areas.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program: Iowa will receive \$638,641 for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, which provides grants to nonprofit and faith-based organizations at the local level to supplement their programs for emergency food and shelter to provide for the immediate needs of the homeless.

Child Care and Development Block Grant: Iowa will receive \$18.1 million in Child Care and Development Block Grants to provide quality child care services for low-income families who increasingly are unable to afford the high cost of day care.

Head Start: Iowa will receive \$5.3 million for Head Start to allow additional children to participate in this program, which provides development, educational, health, nutritional, social and other activities that prepare children to succeed in school. These funds will be given out to current grantees to be distributed for cost of living increases for teachers’ salaries, other quality improvements, and serving additional children. Additionally, \$1.1 billion nationwide for new grantees for early head start expansion. These grants will be competitively awarded by Department of Health and Human Services.

Community Service Block Grants: Iowa will receive \$10.9 million in Community Services Block Grants to local community action agencies for services to the growing numbers of low-income families hurt by the

economic crisis, such as housing and mortgage counseling, jobs skills training, food pantry assistance, as well as benefits outreach and enrollment.

Weatherization Assistance Program: \$82.8 million nationwide for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Senior Meals Programs: Iowa will receive \$440,895 for the Senior Meals Programs to help them cope with steep increases in food and fuel costs. Many programs are reducing meal deliveries to seniors or closing meal sites.

Centers for Independent Living: \$87.5 million is available for centers for independent living nationally. These monies are awarded competitively. In addition, \$18.2 million is available for state grants for independent living, which are awarded by formula.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be carried out with full transparency and accountability. To track the progress: please go to www.recovery.gov.

.