

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Impacts to the Child Care Development Block Grant

**Prepared for the Governor's Office and the AARA Recovery Team
by Sue Bacon, Administrator, Early Childhood Division, Department of Family Services
February 20, 2009**

Executive Summary

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) signed by President Obama on 2-17-09 will provide Wyoming with an additional \$2,586,524 in federal funds for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The purpose of the funding is to provide child care assistance for low income families with the exception of \$213,825 which has been earmarked for quality expansion and \$123,833 which has been earmarked to improve the quality of infant/toddler care.

Federal Requirements

The language in the ARRA is specific to the use of the funding. With the exception of the two quality earmarks, the funds "shall be used to supplement, not supplant State general revenue funds for child care assistance for low income families." In FFY 08, Wyoming provided child care assistance for 8059 children (4768 families). Currently, assistance is made available to families with countable income up to 200% of the current federal poverty level for the hours that the parent or caretaker is working or attending an educational program. To date, all eligible families who have applied for assistance are served with no waiting list.

The earmarked funds are subject to the requirements in section 658G of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as amended, and must be used to improve the quality of child care. Quality activities can include activities such as, but not limited to: professional development and compensation for child care providers, grants to providers/local communities, special needs and inclusive care, and activities that support cultural diversity.

The funding will be subject to the requirements of the Discretionary Funding for the CCDF (45CFR § 98.60). Funds are made available to the state as reimbursement for actual expenditures and must be obligated no later than 9-30-2010 and must be expended no later than 9-30-2011.