

# **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Impacts to Child Support Enforcement**

**Prepared for the Governor's Office and the AARA Recovery Team  
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The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) removed the ability of states to claim federal participation matching dollars to the performance incentives earned by state Child Support Enforcement programs. In Wyoming, this amount equaled 66% of our annual incentives of about \$1,200,000, so the effect was to take \$800,000 per year out of the Child Support Enforcement Budget. In the 2008 Legislative Budget session, the Legislature granted DFS the funds to backfill this loss in the amount of \$1,600,000 in state general funds.

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) temporarily restores the ability of states to claim federal matching dollars on incentives earned. The application dates are for two federal fiscal years of October 1, 2008, to September 30, 2010. The effect is to restore about \$2,953,718 into the Child Support Enforcement budget for the 2009 biennium. As of September 30, 2010, the cut to the federal participation matching dollars of the DRA goes back into effect.

It is a federal requirement that Child Support Enforcement incentive funds and the federal match to incentive funds be reinvested into the Child Support Enforcement program. Therefore, the ARRA funds we receive will be used to support our nine Child Support districts around the State of Wyoming, the offices of the Clerks of District Court who assist in collecting child support, and the work of our program which is to assist parents in the establishment of paternity, the enforcement of child support orders, and the collection of child support for Wyoming's children and families.

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