



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Grant Opportunities and Federal Legislation Pending Action		
Race To The Top (RTTT)	<p>The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocated \$4.3 billion for Race To The Top competitive grants. This federal grant program is designed to encourage and reward implementation of significant education reforms across four specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standards and Assessments• Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems/Use• Great Teachers, Great Leaders• Support to Struggling Schools <p>The second round of Race To The Top applications from states were due June 1, 2010.</p>	<p>Arizona was not selected for the second round of RTTT funding. The state was the highest-ranking Western state and placed 12th among the 19 finalists. It missed a grant by 5.4 points.</p> <p>Second round winning states were Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio and Rhode Island.</p>
Early Learning Challenge Fund	<p>In late July, the Senate Labor, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations proposed significant investments in early childhood programs, including \$1 billion in new funds for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, an increase of \$990.3 million for Head Start and Early Head Start. The bill includes \$300 million for a new Early Learning Challenge Fund that will provide competitive grants to states to raise the bar for early childhood programs.</p> <p>The Early Learning Challenge Fund will encourage states to coordinate quality improvement activities across early learning settings, including child care, Head Start and pre-kindergarten programs; expand the number of low-income children in high-quality programs; and ensure that more children enter kindergarten ready to succeed. These investments were part of the subcommittee's</p>	<p>These recommendations were included in SB 3686 which was introduced in the Senate on August 2, 2010. With the changes in the composition of the Senate beginning 2011, efforts are underway to urge passage of this legislation before the end of 2010. Staff will continue to follow progress.</p>

	plan for FY 2011 funding for agencies under its jurisdiction.	
H.R. 3590: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Formerly America's Healthy Futures Act of 2009)	<p>The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act establishes a home visiting grant program for states administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) as a new section of the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant program. It provides \$1.5 billion over 5 years for maternal, infant and early childhood home visitation programs. Grantees are required to use an evidence-based program model with a benchmark component that measures: improvement in maternal and child health, childhood injury prevention, school readiness and achievement, crime or domestic violence, family economic self-sufficiency, and coordination with community resources and supports.</p> <p>Funding Breakdown: \$1.5 billion* over 5 years \$100M for FY2010 \$250M for FY2011 \$350M for FY2012 \$400M for FY2013 \$400M for FY2014 <i>*State and Federal Reservations Apply</i></p> <p>It requires states to complete a needs assessment to identify communities that have few quality home visitation programs and are at risk for poor maternal and child health as a pre-condition for receiving the home visiting funds.</p>	<p>ADHS as the Title V Maternal and Child Health submitted an assessment of maternal child health and welfare risk and of early childhood home visiting currently operating throughout Arizona in fulfillment of the grant application process. The application provides an overview of the state, how the determination was made to identify a community as at risk, identifies the communities considered to be at risk and gives Arizona's plan for addressing the needs identified in those communities.</p> <p>Additional guidance is pending in anticipation of submitting the communities that will be the focus of this project and the home visiting model selected. It appears that the final submission, the Updated State Plan, will not be submitted until late fall.</p>
HR 3047, Balancing Act of 2009,	Legislation would make available funding to support a range of family support activities in states. It was referred to the following committees:	Not scheduled in any committee for hearing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Administration Committee • House Armed Services Committee • House Education and Labor Committee, • House Oversight and Government Reform Committee • House Ways and Means Committee 	
<p>Promise Neighborhoods</p>	<p>The Promise Neighborhoods initiative makes \$10 million available in fiscal 2010 to support up to 20 organizations with one year of funding to plan for the implementation of cradle-to-career services designed to improve educational outcomes for students in distressed neighborhoods. Promise Neighborhoods, established under the legislative authority of the Fund for the Improvement of Education Program (FIE), provides funding to support eligible entities, including (1) nonprofit organizations, which may include faith-based nonprofit organizations, and (2) institutions of higher education.</p> <p>The program is intended to significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of all children in the most distressed communities, including rural and tribal communities, and to transform those communities.</p>	<p>Twenty-one Promise Neighborhood planning grants were announced September 21, 2010 by US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Three of 339 applications submitted represented Arizona neighborhoods (Balsz in Phoenix, Flowing Wells and South Tucson in Tucson). Unfortunately no Arizona applicant was selected. Although there is no further information at this time, Secretary Duncan indicated in his press release that additional communities may be selected at a later date. FTF staff will continue to monitor for this opportunity.</p>

