

ARRA OUTREACH

From the U.S. Department of Education

On April 1, at Doswell E. Brooks Elementary School in suburban Maryland, Secretary Duncan announced the availability of \$44 billion from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA). "Given our economic circumstances, it's critical that money go out quickly, but it's even more important that it be spent wisely," he said. "The first step toward real and lasting reform that will ensure our students' competitiveness begins with transparency and accountability in how we invest our dollars, educate our children, evaluate our teachers, and measure our success. We must be much more open and honest about what works in the classroom and what doesn't." The initial \$44 billion consists of:

- \$32.6 billion (67%) of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). This includes \$26.6 billion to save teacher jobs and improve K-12 and higher education and \$6 billion to pay for public safety and other government services (which may also involve education, such as K-12 and higher education facility modernization, renovation, and repair). Funds in this first round will be released within two weeks of receipt of an approved application from the governor. A second round of funds will be released later this year.
- \$5.0 billion (50%) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* Title I, Part A grants to school districts.
- \$5.7 billion (50%) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA), Part B grants to states.
 - \$200 million (50%) of the IDEA, Part B preschool grants.
 - \$250 million (50%) of the IDEA, Part C grants for infants and families.
 - \$270 million (50%) of vocational rehabilitation state grants.
 - \$18.2 million (100%) of independent living services state grants.
 - \$34.3 million (100%) of independent living services for older individuals who are blind.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/04/04012009.html>. (Note: For each of these programs, the Department has published both a fact sheet and guidance at <http://www.ed.gov/recovery/>. These documents will be modified as needed based on feedback from the field. Also, the agency has produced tables showing state allocations of all ARRA funding, state allocations of initial ARRA funding, and district allocations of Title I, Part A at <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/news.html#ARRA>.)

Two days later (April 3), the Secretary hosted more than 150 representatives from education and community groups at the Department for a briefing on the ARRA. "We see an extraordinary opportunity to change students' lives," he stated. "We want to push a dramatic reform agenda. We want to use an unprecedented investment in education to change outcomes and dramatically improve achievement." An archived webcast of this

briefing is available online. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.connectlive.com/events/deptedu/>.

Moreover, the next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast (April 21, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET) will continue the discussion from the previous show by highlighting the ARRA, its potential to save and create hundreds of thousands of jobs, and, critically, its promise for generating urgently needed reform in schools across the country. As mentioned previously, the law reserves \$5 billion of the SFSF for the Secretary, with a \$4.35 billion "Race to the Top" fund (for states moving forward with bold programs to improve student achievement) and a \$650 million "Invest in What Works and Innovation" fund (for districts and non-profit organizations with strong track records of improving student achievement). Applications for these competitive programs will be posted this spring. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SHOW, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>. (You can watch archived webcasts at <http://www.connectlive.com/events/ednews/>.)

Note: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced new ARRA funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/04/20090402a.html>.