

## **Suggested Uses of American Recovery and Reinvest Act (ARRA) Education Funds for Early Childhood Programs**

### **Title I of the ESEA Act/NCLB:**

*Because the ARRA funds constitute a large increase in Title I, Part A, funding that will likely not be available at the same level beyond September 30, 2011, schools and LEAs have a unique opportunity to improve teaching and learning and should focus these funds on short-term investments with the potential for long-term benefits, rather than make ongoing commitments that they might not be able to sustain once ARRA funds are expended.*

*In its ARRA conference report, Congress indicated its intent that grantees use some of their Title I funds for early childhood programs and activities. President Obama's administration has indicated a commitment over the long term to expand early childhood educational opportunities and create a more seamless web of high-quality services for parents and children. The U. S. Department of Education has noted that in the coming weeks, it intends to provide additional guidance on opportunities to use ARRA funds to expand high-quality early childhood educational service., (USDOE, Title I, Part A Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Fact Sheet)*

### **Expand or enhance programs for children from birth to the age that the LEA provides elementary education (34 CFR Section 77.1(c)):**

- Provide full day kindergarten, as long as the division is not providing full day kindergarten for the non-Title I schools and using Title I funds to fund the full day programs at the Title I schools. (CLASP, Title I and Early Childhood Programs: A Look at Investments in the NCLB Era, page 6 and USED Guidance of Funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, April 2009, question C-9, page 28)
- Complement or extend Head Start programs to full day and/or extend the year of service

*Eligibility for Head Start is based on the income levels of parents. Children eligible for Title I because they reside in an eligible attendance area and are most at risk of not meeting the State's challenging student achievement standards, might not qualify for Head Start under Head Start's income requirement. In this case, Title I funds may be used to provide services to Title I eligible children who are not eligible for Head Start services.*

*Head Start may be unable to serve all its eligible students. Title I funds may be used to serve unserved children who are also eligible for Title I (i.e., those who reside in eligible Title I attendance areas and are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State's challenging student achievement standards). Note that some Head Start-eligible children might not be eligible for Title I.*

*Title I may be used to provide additional services to Head Start children who are also eligible for Title I services. This may include extending the daily program for additional time or increasing the number of days, providing services at times Head Start is not operating, or enriching services through provision of extra personnel to work with Title I-eligible children.*

*Title I funds may provide educational services for children who are eligible for both Title I and Head Start, with Head Start funds providing other services.* (USED, Serving Preschool Children, Non-Regulatory Guidance, March 4, 2004, Question G-3., page 25)

- Expand preschool programs directly or through contracts with Head Start and high quality child care programs.

*Preschool services may be provided at any location that other Title I services may be provided, including public school buildings, public libraries, community centers, privately owned facilities (including facilities owned by faith-based organizations (FBOs)), the child's home and other appropriate settings.*

*If appropriate district or school facilities are not available for preschool services, the district and school should consider working with children in existing childcare programs such as Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, or a program funded under the Child Care Development Block Grant, or a site conducting a family literacy program. In any case, the setting should be of sufficient quality to facilitate effective program implementation.* (USED, Serving Preschool Children, Non-Regulatory Guidance, March 4, 2004, Items D-3. and D-4, page 17)

- Provide comprehensive services for preschool participants if not available from other sources (USED, Serving Preschool Children, Non-Regulatory Guidance, March 4, 2009, Item H-3, page 27)

## **Professional Development**

- Provide professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals, including joint professional development among Head Start teachers and paraprofessionals and Title I elementary school teachers and paraprofessionals.

*Title I funds may be used to provide professional development for any teacher or paraprofessional working in a Title I preschool program supported partly by Title I funding even if their salary is not paid for with Title I funds if the training is related to the Title I program and is designed to meet the educational needs of Title I children. For example, Title I funds may be used for professional development for a Head Start teacher working in a preschool program jointly funded by Title I and Head Start if the training is related to the Title I program or is designed to help the Head Start teachers meet the educational needs of Title I children.*

*Under certain conditions, Title I funds may also be used for joint professional development for non-Title I preschool teachers and paraprofessionals working in programs with no Title I funds, such as Head Start staff, and for Title I elementary school teachers and paraprofessionals. For example, Title I funds may be used for such joint professional development if the children served in the non-Title I preschool are likely to be attending a Title I school when they enter kindergarten, and if the purpose of the professional development is to improve coordination between the non-Title I preschool and the Title I school or to facilitate children's transition from preschool into the Title I elementary school.* (USED, Serving Preschool Children, Non-Regulatory Guidance, March 4, 2004, Item E-6., page 21)

- Provide financial incentives to teachers

*As authorized in section 1113(c)(4) of the ESEA, an LEA may reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds the LEA receives under Subpart 2 of Title I, Part A, including Title I, Part A ARRA funds, to provide financial incentives and rewards to teachers who serve in Title I schools that are identified for school improvement, corrective action, and restructuring for the purpose of attracting and retaining qualified and effective teachers.* (USED Guidance, Funds Under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1964, Made Available Under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, April 2009, Item D-5, page 34)

## **Facilities**

- Support minor remodeling to accommodate a preschool program

*If appropriate space is not available, Title I funds may be used for minor remodeling, which means minor alterations in a previously completed building and does not involve building construction or structural alterations to buildings. [34 CFR Section 77.I(c).]* (USED Non-Regulatory Guidance, Serving Preschool Children, March 4, 2004, Item H-2., page 27)

- Rent or lease space in privately owned facilities for preschool instructional purposes or for office space

*The cost to rent or lease space in privately owned buildings is allowable if the space is necessary to ensure the success of the program, appropriate space is not available to the grantee, and the cost is reasonable.* (USED Non-Regulatory Guidance, Serving Preschool Children, March 4, 2004, Item H-1., page 26)

## References

CLASP, Title I and Early Childhood Programs: A Look at Investments in the NCLB Era, October 2007

[http://www.clasp.org/publications/ccee\\_paper2.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/ccee_paper2.pdf)

U.S. Department of Education, Title I, Part A Recovery Funds for Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Fact Sheet, April 1, 2009

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>

U.S. Department of Education Guidance, Funds Under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1964, Made Available Under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, April 2009

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/funding\\_grants/arra/info\\_alerts/2009/04\\_01\\_title\\_1\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/funding_grants/arra/info_alerts/2009/04_01_title_1_guidance.pdf)

U.S. Department of Education, Serving Preschool Children Under Title I Non-Regulatory Guidance, March 4, 2004

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/preschoolguidance.pdf>