The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

<< Helping Colorado Children >>

May 6, 2010

www.colorado.gov/recovery

Gov Bill Ritter Jr.

In February 2009, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in Colorado. The landmark law will pump $787 billion into the economy to create jobs, support those in need and invest in infrastructure and growth industries. Colorado expects to receive more than $7.1 billion in the next two years. The largest portion of funds provides tax relief for working families and businesses. The remainder is a combination of direct aid to struggling families, loans and grants that come to Colorado through more than 140 different programs. In addition to the funds described above, Colorado also is competing for and winning a wide range of competitive grants available through the Recovery Act, mainly in education, broadband, health information technology and renewable energy.

The day after the Recovery Act was signed, Gov. Bill Ritter appointed an oversight panel called the Colorado Economic Recovery and Accountability Board that is charged with ensuring that Recovery Act dollars are spent wisely and with full transparency. Gov. Ritter has directed his staff and state agencies to work diligently to maximize the impact of the funds to create jobs, improve infrastructure, support families in need, and boost the New Energy Economy.

This report offers an overview of the funds coming to Colorado and how they affect children**. The report is based on the latest information available. More grants and awards are expected to be announced in future months.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Recovery Act is a steady two-year plan that is improving the economy through a sound strategy that directs funds in key areas of need. First, the Recovery Act reduces taxes for individuals, families and businesses while also strengthening the safety net so that struggling families can stay in their homes and put food on the table. Second, the Recovery Act invests in education and healthcare programs, especially those that serve low income children and families. Third, the Act pays for a variety of infrastructure projects to create jobs. And finally, the Act invests in growth industries, including healthcare information technology, high-speed Internet and the New Energy Economy, to shift the economy in a healthier direction.

The Recovery Act benefits a wide swath of Americans, from babies to seniors. Well over 3 million Coloradans are impacted by the Act, and that includes tens of thousands of children:

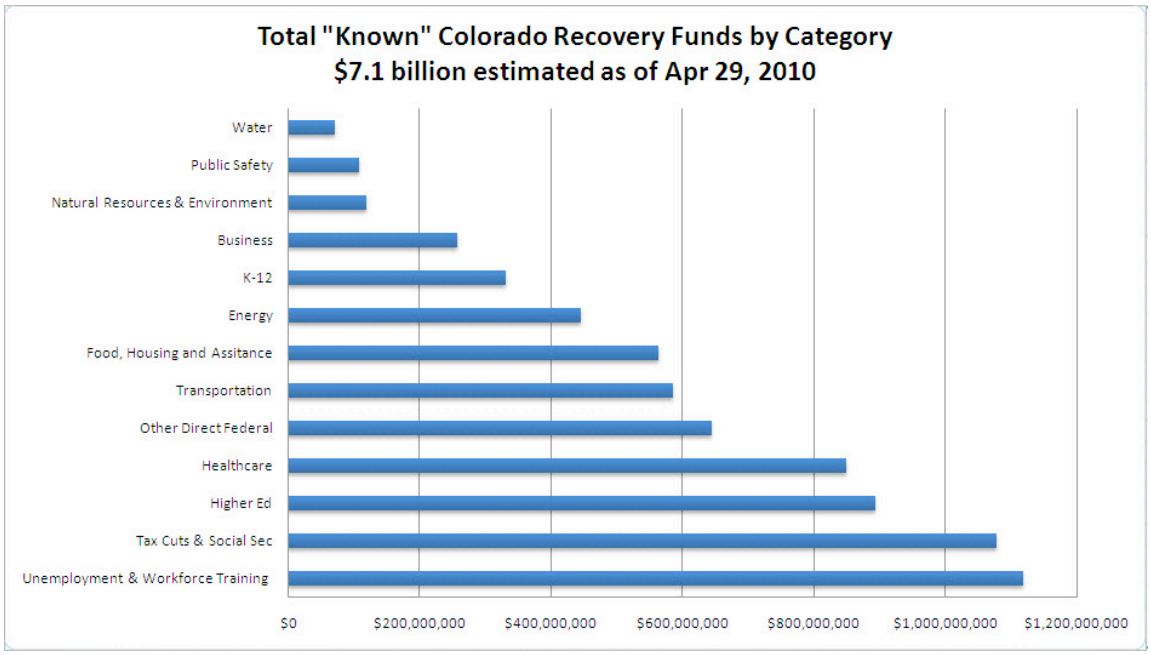
- At least 4,000 additional children have been given affordable child care.
- About 6,600 children are receiving adoption and foster care services.
- More than 600 disabled infants and toddlers have received educational services.
- More than 300,000 low-income children are receiving healthcare and other services through Medicaid that were preserved due to Recovery Act funds.
- 65,000 women and children are served through the Child Health Plan Plus program, which would have been cut without Recovery Act funds.
- Tens of thousands of low-income, disabled and homeless school children are getting additional services through school-based programs.
- More than 3,500 low-income youth ages 15-24 have received summer jobs and valuable work experience.

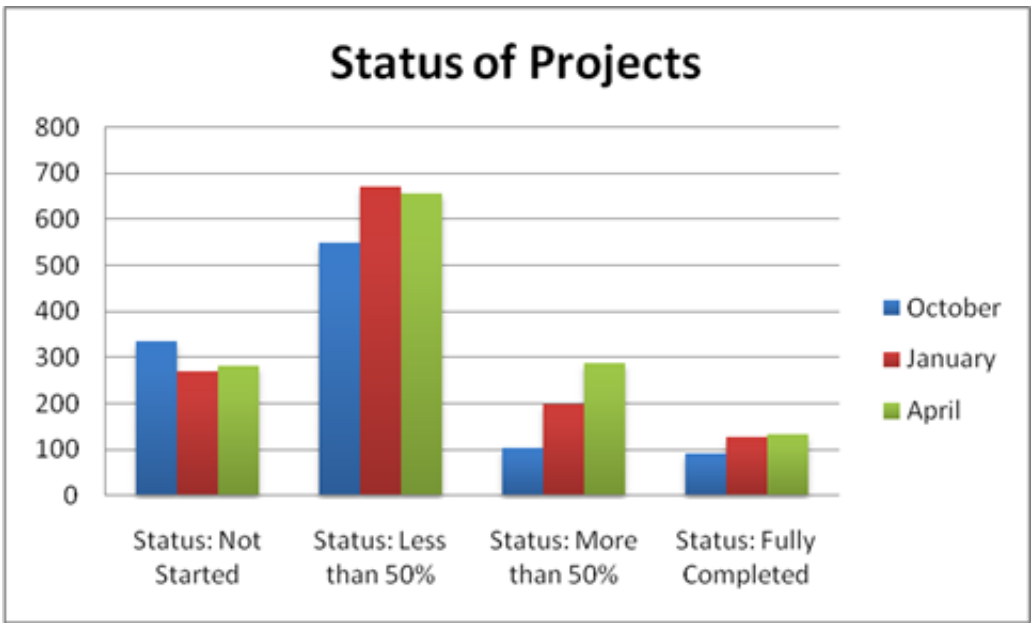
Children are also benefitting from the Recovery Act-funded services for their parents and caregivers. Thousands of laid-off workers are paying hundreds of dollars less a month for medical insurance that covers children through COBRA. Thousands of low-income families will get access to affordable housing and programs to keep them off the street. And more than 400 Colorado companies are receiving grants and contracts that benefit the employees – and their children.

More than a year since the Recovery Act was signed into law in Denver, it is clear that the landmark law has not overlooked the needs of children. From medical care to education, the Recovery Act has been supporting our most vulnerable children at a time when they need it the most. And this is not the end of the story. More competitive grants that will benefit children are expected to be awarded in future months.

HELPING COLORADO

- More than 25,000 Coloradans are saving money on purchases of energy-saving appliances and home upgrades thanks to an $18 million rebate program operated by the Governor's Energy Office.
- Roughly 1.8 million families have been bringing home an additional $60-$80 a month in Their paychecks thanks to the Making Work Pay tax cut.
- 6,200 households are saving up to $8,000 with their first home purchase.
- More than 500,000 Coloradans received an extra $250 check from the Social Security Administration to help make ends meet.
- 52,000 low-income college students will receive up to $500 more in tuition assistance for the current school year.
- Thousands of laid-off workers are paying hundreds of dollars less per month for health care coverage through COBRA.
- More than 260,000 laid-off Coloradans have been receiving an extra $25 a week in unemployment checks since February 2009.
- More than 300,000 people obtained job search assistance.
- 82 roadway improvement projects using more than $338 million have begun construction, 18 projects have been completed, and more than 19,000 people were hired to work on those projects.
- Construction projects at seven airports worth $36.7 million are under way or complete.
- 31 vital water improvement projects worth $60 million are underway.
- About a dozen local agencies have taken advantage of bond programs, financing almost $900 million in capital projects and saving more than $150 million in interest.
- Correction facilities and public colleges and universities across Colorado have preserved thousands of jobs with almost $700 million in state budget stabilization funds.
- Colorado has maintained Medicaid services with about $700 million in increased funds. Without those funds, the state would have been forced to shut down its Children's Health Plan Plus program that serves 65,000 pregnant women and children.
- More than 400 Colorado companies are winning sizeable grants and contracts.
- Contractors have completed weatherization work on about 2,200 homes at no cost to the owner or renter.
- Researchers at universities across Colorado have been awarded hundreds of Recovery Act grants worth more than $244 million, allowing them to retain or hire more than 200 full-time equivalent jobs.





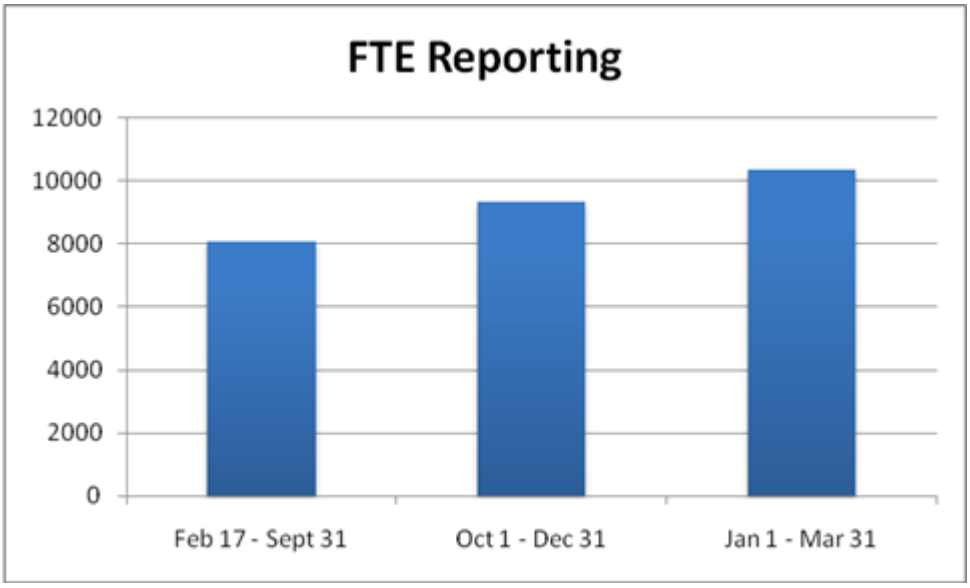
Jobs and spending data:

Every three months since October 2009, thousands of recipients of Recovery Act grants, contracts and loans have been submitting information to the federal government about job creation/retention and spending and project status. This information, submitted to comply with Section 1512 of the Recovery Act, is made public on the national Recovery Act website,

www.recovery.gov. The Governor's Office in Colorado also compiles its own reports and posts them on the state website, www.colorado.gov/recovery.

On April 30, 2010, the latest round of 1512 information was released. Here is a summary of the Colorado data:

Total number of Colorado grants subject to 1512 reporting	1,423
Total dollars awarded by recipients included in 1512 process	$3.6 billion
Total dollars received by recipients included in 1512 process	$1.06 billion
Total dollars spent by recipients included in 1512 process	$929 million
Total full-time equivalent jobs reported by recipients included in 1512 process	10,342.6



Recovery Act programs that impact Colorado Children

JOB TRAINING

Youth training and support:
The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment expects to receive funds through several grants to help train young people enter the workforce. They include:

- $11.8 million to Colorado to help train young people, ages 15 to 24, to enter the workforce through paid summer jobs.
- The potential for grants through a competitive program called YouthBuild, offering $50 million nationwide to help young people finish high school and learn housing construction job skills through work on low-income and affordable housing projects.
- Formula funds through the Job Corps Program, offering $250 million nationwide, to support construction and modernization of residential facilities for at-risk youth. It is unclear how much Colorado will receive.

More than 3,500 young people were placed in summer jobs or other positions across Colorado.

"I want to do something that gives back to the community and helps underprivileged youth. This helps me see how things work."

- Julia Kirklen, a Denver teen who spent the summer of 2009 working with other youth at the Denver Youth Workforce Office

EDUCATION

Race to the Top:
Two competitive grants worth a total of $4.3 billion will be divided among about 12 states who propose ambitious reforms in K-12 education. One grant is worth $4 billion and the other is worth $350 million. On Jan. 19, 2010, Colorado submitted an application requesting $377 million. Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien coordinated the application and conducted extensive public outreach for input. More than 600 people helped develop the proposal. About 134 school districts serving 94 percent of the 802,000 K-12 students in Colorado supported the state's application. To support the application, Gov. Ritter issued an executive order creating a Colorado Council for Educator Effectiveness. By the end of this year, the council will define teacher and principal effectiveness and design a high-quality system of evaluation. The proposal calls for providing incentives for improved performance and opportunities for innovation. Proposed investments include professional development for newly-adopted academic

standards, creating an integrated data system that links agencies and provides more immediate information, and develops a Colorado Turnaround Center. Colorado was named one of the 16 finalists for the first round of funds, but only 2 other states won that round. Colorado is applying again for the second round of funds in mid 2010.

Title IA:
Colorado received an allocation of $111.1 million allocation to support improving the academic achievement of disadvantaged students at schools with high percentages of low-income students. Title I funds are disbursed by the Colorado Department of Education according to a federal formula, based upon approved applications submitted by school districts. Eighty-five percent of the state's total Title I, Part A funds (including regular FY 2009 Title I, Part A funds) must be obligated at the state and local level by Sept. 30, 2010. Any remaining Title I, Part A funds will be available for obligation at the state and local level until Sept. 30, 2011. The state also expects to receive $33.8 million in January 2010 for Title I schools that are persistently low-performing (this program is called the Title I School Improvement program).

Title I School Improvement grants:
Colorado was awarded $33.8 million for Title I schools that are persistently low-performing.

Title I-D:
Colorado received 4863,346 in grants for Delinquent Institution Grants that were distributed by formula to Title I schools.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act:
Colorado has received $80.5 million through the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for students and children with disabilities. This represents half of Colorado's total allocation of $161 million for IDEA parts B and C. These funds are available through three programs:

- Part B (section 611) formula grants totaling $148.7 million in Colorado, will be given to state education authorities and then to local schools to improve services for children and youth with disabilities by making short-term investments that can have long-term benefits. The state has announced allocations to school districts around Colorado. Ten Colorado school districts will soon receive a total of $4.4 million for the current school year, while the majority of the IDEA funding will be for FY 2009-10. All Part B, section 611 funds must be obligated by the state by September 20, 2011.
- Another Part B formula grant program (section 619), totaling $5.3 million in Colorado, will help schools expand the availability and range of placement options for preschoolers (ages three to five) with disabilities by developing the capacity of public and private preschool programs to serve them. All Part B, section 619 funds must be obligated by the state by September 20, 2011.
- The IDEA part C program for infants and toddlers is distributing $7,954,827 million across Colorado. These grants will help fund early intervention services for birth through two-year old children being served by the 20 Community Centered Boards and increase funding for statewide initiatives to improve services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. As of April 2010, $2.2 million had been spent, 614 infants and toddlers were served and 40.76 full-time equivalent jobs were created.

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grants:
The state received $924,815 in Title X McKinney-Vento formula funds from the federal government on April 10, 2009. Grant awards were made in August 2009 to 17 school districts and BOCES across

Colorado. All funds through this program must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2011. The funds are designed to help homeless children enroll in, attend and succeed in school.

Enhancing Education Through Technology (Title IID):
Colorado was awarded$3.5 million to help school districts improve the use of technology in curricula and to help all students become technologically literate by the end of 8th grade. Half of the money will be distributed by formula related to Title I criteria. The rest will be given out through a competitive process developed by the state.

Early Head Start/Head Start:
Colorado expects to receive almost $8 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand capacity at pre-schools, improve services and establish advisory councils for early childhood programs. Administered by the Colorado Department of Human Services, $690,000 has been awarded to six Head Start programs.

Pell Grants:
Colorado students are expected to receive $131 million in additional grants. The maximum Pell Grant award will increase by $500 to $5,350 and will help more than 52,000 students in Colorado.
There also are tax credits for college tuition. The credit will be increased from $1800 to $2500 for families earning up to $180,000. All Colorado families who qualify for this tax credit will benefit from this increase.

Work Study:
Colorado students are expected to receive an estimated $2.7 million in federal work study grants through a competitive process through the Department of Higher Education.

National School Lunch Program:
The U.S. Department of Education is distributing up to $1 million in Colorado in competitive grants to public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions, with priority given to schools that have at least 50 percent of students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch**.** The funds are used for equipment that will improve the quality of meals, safety of food served, energy efficiency of food service operations and expansion of the meal program. Grants were awarded in June 2009 to more than 30 school districts. Recipients are required to finish procurement and expenditure activities within three months of the grant award.

Impact Aid Construction:
Colorado has received $1 million in formula grants for emergency renovations and modernization projects. The Fountain-Fort Carson School District #8 in El Paso County has awarded three contracts: $176,000 to Weathercraft Company for roof replacement at Fountain Middle School, $383,142.50 to All Seasons Inc. to replace boilers at Jordahl Elementary, and $154,324 for classroom/library construction at Abrams Elementary. Two more projects are expected to be financed. These funds allowed the district to spend more on building a new school.

Teacher Residency Program:
In April 2010, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Denver Public Schools an $8.2 million grant to expand its teacher residency program. The program is part of DOE's Teacher Quality Partnership program. DPS will train dozens of new teachers to work in areas of critical need in the district.

Qualified School Construction Bonds:
The Recovery Act dedicates $22 billion for a new category of tax credit bonds for construction, rehabilitation or repair of public school facilities or for the purchase of land on which to build a public school. Colorado received an allocation of $87 million. The state issued all of its allocation to fund the Building Excellent Schools Today program. The funds will be used to replace 6 schools in the San Luis Valley. The bonds will save the state about $65 million in interest and sinking fund interest earnings. Other school projects are expected to be financed. In late September 2009, Denver Public Schools saved an estimated $3.69 million on the sale of bonds for school repairs and renovations.

High-speed Internet:
In December 2009, the USDA awarded a $1.5 million grant to the Peetz Cooperative Telephone Company in Logan County. This grant will allow the company to provide broadband service for the first time to hundreds of customers in northeastern Colorado. This will benefit the local schools so that the students can do distance learning over the Internet.

In March 2010, the Wiggins Telephone Association in Morgan County received a grant and a loan totaling $4.3 million to expand broadband access to county residents by installing fiber optic cables to homes. This will help the local schools by giving students the opportunity to do distance learning and research on the Internet.

HEALTHCARE

Medicaid:
The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing was eligible to receive $247,634,837 of increased Medicaid funds retroactive to October 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. As of August 1, 2009, Colorado had drawn down 100 percent of these funds.

Colorado experienced a significant increase in Medicaid recipients in the last year increasing by 57,916 clients, 14.4 percent, from June 2008 to June 2009. These extra dollars reduced the burden on the state General Fund and other funds that would have been tapped to cover the increased Medicaid costs. The anticipated federal relief enabled the Department to avoid provider reimbursement cuts in FY 2008-09 and prevented the reduction of services to additional children and low-income adults eligible for Medicaid or the Child Health Plan Plus program.

Health Insurance Benefits for the Unemployed:
Colorado residents who involuntarily lost jobs between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009 and worked for businesses that offered health insurance are eligible for help with paying for health insurance. To be eligible for the increase in benefit, residents must meet certain income requirements. The benefit is part of the program known as COBRA. The Recovery Act adds a premium subsidy to the existing COBRA program, so the employee pays 35% of the health insurance premium and the employer pays 65% for up to nine months. For the state health insurance continuation program the ratios are the same, but the coverage lasts for six months. Employers are reimbursed by the federal government in the form of credits against their payroll taxes or as refunds. State officials estimate that thousands of people are getting this benefit, although exact figures are not available at this time.

Community Health Centers:
The Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services will distribute $2.5 billion nationally in competitive grants through three programs designed to support services at federally qualified community health centers.

- Capital Improvement Program: Colorado's 15 federally qualified community health centers have received a combined $16.9 million for construction, renovation, and equipment (including health information technology systems). In addition, the Colorado Coalition of the Homeless has received $1.9 million to support electronic health records implementation and the Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN) received $441,250 to devise plans to use existing EHRs to improve patient health outcomes.
- Increased Demand for Services: Colorado's 15 federally qualified community health centers have received $7.5 million, creating or retaining an estimated 154 jobs and reaching 39,689 new patients and 21,619 uninsured patients. In addition, one health center in Colorado Springs was awarded $1.3 million, which is estimated to create 40 jobs and reach 5,240 patients.
- Facility Investment Program: $515 million in one-time competitive grants will support health center efforts to expand their capacity to provide primary and preventive health services to medically underserved populations nationwide as well as create employment opportunities in underserved communities over the next 2 years.

The **Metro Community Provider Network** in Aurora, which serves low-income and uninsured people, is receiving a host of benefits funded by millions of dollars from the Recovery Act. They will save on energy bills by installing solar panels on the roof. They will get new dentist chairs, more IT equipment for electronic medical records, and funds to cover services to an increasing number of clients.

Communities Putting Prevention to Work:
The Recovery Act dedicates $650 million nationwide to state and local levels to increase levels of physical activity, improve nutrition, decrease obesity rates, and decrease smoking prevalence, teen smoking initiation, and exposure to second hand smoke. In February 2010, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment received three grants totaling $2.7 million for tobacco cessation, improving school nutrition and to increase physical activity. Much of this work will be done in schools.

HOUSING

Low-Income Weatherization Program:
The Governor's Energy Office is coordinating the dispersal of $79.5 million over three years for low-income residents to improve the energy efficiency of homes by replacing energy consuming appliances, weather stripping and insulation. To be eligible, a person's income must be up to 200 percent of the poverty level. Priority is given to the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high energy users, and households with high-energy burdens. The grant is up to $6,500 per home. More than 10,000 homes are expected to receive improvements each year through this program. The program includes funds to train contractors for the work. All funds must be spent by March 31, 2012. Weatherization services will be provided by 11 partner agencies across the state. Work began in July and 2,200 homes received work using ARRA dollars as of March 31 2010. In addition, the state has hired an organization to administer a $2,501,242 statewide multi-family program that will serve approximately 625 homes through June 30, 2010.

Tax Credit Assistance Program and Tax Credit Exchange Program:
Colorado will receive $45.1 million in competitive funds for help with local housing needs. The Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP) provides grant funding for capital investment in Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has federal oversight of the program. These funds will provide financing for gaps caused by the collapse of the tax credit equity market, to help stalled development projects and to stimulate economic activity and job creation. Priority is given to projects that are expected to be completed by February 2012. All funds must be expended by the recipients by February 2012. As of April 2010, 16 organizations working on housing projects in Fort Collins, Denver, Boulder, Lakewood, Westminster and Golden had been awarded funds. Denver Gardens, a 100-unit housing complex for low-income seniors, was the first applicant to receive an award for rehabilitation of the units. The Tax Credit Exchange Program (TCEP) allows state housing credit agencies the option of exchanging eligible portions of the state's housing credit ceiling for cash grants. The Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) applied to HUD in May 2009 for these funds. Grants can then be used by the agency to make sub-awards to qualified projects, including the construction or acquisition and rehabilitation of qualified low income buildings. As of April 2010, eight projects in Cortez, Rifle, Denver, Loveland and Silver Cliff were awarded funds.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program:
Colorado has been awarded $44.4 million in grants to stabilize housing values and properties in neighborhoods heavily impacted by foreclosure. This will be done by purchasing and rehabilitating or demolishing foreclosed and vacant homes and then turning them into affordable housing. The awards were:

- $23,433,236 to Chicanos Por La Causa Inc.: This grant application was coordinated by the Phoenix-based organization Chicanos Por La Causa Inc. on behalf of local organizations in cities across the country. Several Colorado agencies, including the Colorado Rural Housing Development Corporation and Del Norte/NEWSED CDC and the Northeast Denver Housing Center, will administer the grant. The rural housing agency will use the funds to serve Thornton, Westminster, Conejos County, Costilla County, Alamosa, Saguache, Hayden, Walsenburg, Monte Vista, and Del Norte in southern Colorado. The other agencies will serve Denver neighborhoods.
- $18,994,444 to the City and County of Denver Office of Economic Development: Denver will focus on efforts to revitalize 12 neighborhoods of the city, including Montbello, Northeast Park

Hill and West Colfax, to create affordable housing. The funds will also be used for workforce training and assistance, developing small business opportunities and green job creation.

Homelessness Prevention:
In July 2009, the federal government awarded $8.2 million in competitive grants to Colorado to re-house families that fall into homelessness, or prevent them from becoming homeless. These grants will be administered by the state Department of Local Affairs. Five percent of the funds have been designated for administration. Colorado Springs, Aurora, Pueblo, Adams County, and Denver have also received $7.3 million in direct allocations from HUD. Local Affairs awarded the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless $5,036,663 for management of program funds in the Metropolitan Denver area, which has the highest prevalence of homelessness in state. The coalition will also use $2,182,664 to provide services for the 56 counties outside of metro Denver and El Paso County. The City of Colorado Springs has been awarded $795,668 for management of HPRP funds in Colorado Springs and El Paso County. All funds must be spent by Sept. 30, 2011.

Public Housing Capital Fund:
Colorado's 43 public housing agencies received $16,949,529 from the Public Housing Capital Fund formula grant awards. These funds can be used for developing, financing, or modernizing public housing or for improving management or the physical condition of housing units. There also is a separate competitive grant for addressing the needs of the elderly and/or persons with disabilities, public housing transformation, gap financing for stalled projects, and creating energy efficient, green communities. Colorado housing agencies have received $28.8 million. ***For more information:*** *www.hud.gov/recovery*

Rental Assistance:
Colorado expects to receive $35.5 million to enhance benefits through the Project Based Rental Assistance program (Section 8, 202 and 811 housing). This money would provide full-year payments to 152 existing landlords in the program so that the low-income residents can stay in those homes longer.

FOOD AID

SNAP (Food stamps):
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, increased an estimated 13.6 percent. Starting April 1, 2009, Colorado families began receiving an average monthly increase of $40, amounting to almost $180 million in additional funding to the state. As of Oct. 31, 2009, $46.7 million had been disbursed in additional benefits statewide to more than 160,000 households – consisting of more than 370,000 people. The food stamp caseload continues to grow each month. As of April 2010, 177,596 households which include 407,731 people were receiving the extra food stamp benefit.

Food stamp administration:
The 10 largest counties, which handle more than 80 percent of the statewide caseload of food stamps, have received $2.4 million to hire more workers or pay overtime to existing staff to process the increased number of food assistance requests in a timely manner. The funds were spent on overtime for existing staff and the hiring of 20 full-time and 20 part-time workers to process applications. The funds helped county workers serve 148,725 additional people as of April 2010.

WIC:
Supplementary Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funding will increase by $500 million nationwide for a contingency fund to handle caseload growth and $100 million to support state MIS projects. Colorado submitted an application for $444,066 to the Department of Agriculture on May 29, 2009.

Food banks:
Food banks and assistance agencies across Colorado are receiving huge shipments of commodity food items paid for with $1.3 million in formula grants through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) targeting people below the poverty line. The grants are distributed through food commodities, not dollars, distributed to food pantries. The USDA is using their bid process to purchase food. More than 560,000 cases of food are being distributed to 50 county agencies and food banks and 43 soup kitchens across Colorado. More than 113,000 households with more than 306,000 people are receiving high-quality food including whole chickens, cheese, eggs and sliced turkey.

TEFAP:
County agencies also received $715,030 to improve food delivery service to the needy through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The funds paid for the hiring of 2 refrigeration service technicians and more freezers and refrigerators to store food. The equipment and services will benefit 30 counties across the state.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs:
Colorado expects to receive $68 million to boost benefits in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, formerly known as welfare. These funds are expected to be used in conjunction with a homelessness prevention project targeting low-income individuals and families with children. As of April 2010, the program helped 1,667 people with subsidized employment, 1,440 people with housing, 1,400 people with refugee services and 15,000 people with utility payments (LEAP).

Child Care Assistance:
County human service agencies are receiving $24.3 million through 2010 for child care services to low-income families. These funds come as discretionary block grants to supplement state funding for to improve access to quality child care. Colorado has spent more than $11.7 million and provided services to more than 4,000 additional families above existing clients served across the state. Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2010. Just over $3 million of that grant must be spent on improving quality of child care. In addition, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Indian Tribe will receive $60,124 and $66,936 respectively.

Child support enforcement:
A Federal match of 66 percent is available for State administrative costs of carrying out child support enforcement program activities. Colorado has been awarded $6.7 million, of which $5 million has been spent as of April 2010. The funds were used to serve more than 147,000 children across all counties. The funds will be distributed to counties based on their performance. The intent of the funds is to restore financial incentives based on performance of the county agencies and retain jobs and current levels of services.

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care:
Colorado has been awarded $1,860,880 to support foster care programs. As of April 2010, all funds had been spent to serve about 2,100 children across all counties. The state also was awarded $1,658,485 to support adoption programs. As of April 2010, all of the adoption funds had been spent to serve about 6,600 children across the state.

Boys and Girls Club grants:
The U.S. Department of Justice awarded the Boys and Girls Clubs of America a $44.4 million grant to preserve jobs in programs that serve youth. That grant was distributed among more than 1,000 local programs, including the Boys and Girls Club of Salida, which serves hundreds of children every weekday afternoon.

Juvenile Justice Capacity Building:
The Colorado Department of Human Services received $1.8 million to provide training in juvenile justice programs and to provide direct services to children in the justice sytem in 9 counties. The program began in March 2010. The goal is to serve 400 youth in Alamosa, Conejos, Denver, Douglas, Fremont, Grand, Garfield, Larimer and Mesa counties.

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force:
These funds are distributed by the US Department of Justice to states and local law enforcement agencies to enhance investigation of child sexual exploitation over the Internet. The City of Colorado Springs received a $675,991 grant in May 2009. The Colorado Springs Police Department ICAC Task Force plans to use funds to create a new ICAC Coordinator position. The ICAC Program Coordinator will coordinate and oversee the operations and activities of the Colorado ICAC Task Force.

Local Youth Mentoring Initiative:
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado and Poudre R-1 School District have received approximately $500,000 each to develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs that promote measurable, positive outcomes for at-risk youth and reduce juvenile delinquency, violence, gang participation, school failure, and dropout rates. The U.S. Department of Justice administers these grants.