



FFIS Weekly Update—June 7, 2016

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[House Republicans Release Proposal to Overhaul Anti-Poverty Programs](#) Earlier this year, the House created six task forces to examine a wide range of issues. The Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility released its report today. Highlights of the policy recommendations include:

- Expanding work requirements
- Increasing state and local flexibility, with additional accountability
- Reducing program duplication and overlap, as well as redesigning federal matching rates
- Measuring results and targeting resources to effective programs
- Preventing incorrect payments
- Improving skills and knowledge of workforce

EDUCATION

[ED Seeks Comment on Proposed Study of Turnaround School Leaders Program](#) The Department of Education (ED) is seeking comment on a proposed study of the implementation of the Turnaround School Leaders Program.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[ACF Publishes Final Rule on Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System](#) The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published a final rule, effective August 1, to replace the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS) rule. The rule encourages data sharing, requires states to develop and implement data quality plans, reduces mandatory functional requirements, and allows states to build systems tailored to their needs. More details, including a summary and FAQs, are available [here](#).

ACF Reallots LIHEAP Funds ACF [published](#) the final FY 2014 amounts available for reallocation under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). West Virginia and four Native American tribes did not spend their entire grant, totaling \$4.3 million.

It also [released](#) estimated reallocations for FY 2015. Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and five tribes had unspent funds, totaling \$1.2 million.

[ACF Releases State Abstinence Education Grant Awards](#) ACF awarded \$59 million for FY 2016. Although this is a formula grant, not all states apply for funds.

[HRSA Proposes Performance Standards for Rural Opioid Overdose Reversal Grant](#) The Health Services Administration (HRSA) seeks comment on performance standards for the new program.

[CMS Releases Guidance on Medicaid and Zika](#) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released information on how states can use Medicaid to prevent, detect, and respond to the Zika virus.

[HHS Releases Final Rule on SHIP](#) The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a final rule on the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) to reflect the transfer of the program from CMS to the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

[HHS OIG Releases Performance Data on SHIP](#) The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) released 2015 SHIP performance data, which reports recoveries and savings by state.

HOUSING

[HUD/VA Announces FY 2016 HUD/VASH Voucher Awards](#) The departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded \$38 million in HUD/VA Supportive Housing vouchers, which provide rental assistance as well as case management and clinical services to veterans.

LABOR

[DOL Announces New Grant Competition for Job-Training Partnerships](#) The Department of Labor (DOL) announced a new \$100 million America's Promise Job-Driven Grants competition to develop and expand partnerships between workforce agencies, education and training providers, and employers.

[ETA Publishes Guidance in Profiling UI Claimants Likely to Exhaust Benefits](#) The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) published a reminder of the assistance it provides to states in building and maintaining profiling models to identify unemployment insurance (UI) claimants most likely to exhaust their benefits.

NUTRITION

[FNS Publishes Report on SNAP Participation Rates](#) The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a report that examines trends in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation rates from FY 2010 to FY 2014.

[FNS Report on Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Finds Mixed Results](#) FNS published a report on a demonstration that allowed states to use Medicaid data to directly certify students for free meals, and found that the impacts on certification varied across states.

[FNS Issues Guidance on Updated School Meal Professional Standards](#) FNS published a Q&A describing updated professional standards for state and local nutrition program personnel.

TRANSPORTATION

[FRA Seeks Comment on Benefit Cost Analysis Guidance](#) The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is seeking comment on new guidance for performing cost benefit analyses for intercity passenger rail projects. The guidance is available [here](#).