

**Aging Division**  
**Wyoming Department of Health**  
**ARRA Nutrition Program Funds Fact Sheet**  
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Prepared by Michelle Ammerman, Interim Administrator, Aging Division

**Wyoming ARRA Nutrition Program Funds Allocation**

According to the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA), the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Nutrition Program funds are allocated and distributed to States by a population-based formula that takes into account the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III interstate funding formula minimums, and the 60+ population of each State. The purpose of the ARRA Nutrition funds is to increase the number of congregate and home delivered meals provided to older adults, and required reporting must document such increases. Awards to States were available in March, however; States will not be able to draw down funds until they sign and return the governor's certification of ARRA funds usage.

The ARRA Nutrition funds are considered to be a one time allocation. ARRA Nutrition Program funds are appropriated for a two-year period. A state match is required for the funding. Non-Federal share requirements that mirror the current AoA Title III-C nutrition program match requirements, i.e., 15%, are in place for ARRA Nutrition funds. Wyoming is eligible to receive the minimum amount of funding available to any state in the following amount(s):

Congregate Nutrition \$325,000 (Meals will be served in a group setting)  
Home-Delivered Nutrition \$160,000 (Similar to programs like Meals on Wheels)  
**Total \$485,000**  
Total State Match Requirement \$72,750 (Can be matched at both the State and Local Level)

For the matching requirement, funding for this match is not available in the Aging Division's existing budget. For that reason, the match requirements in their entirety would need to be passed on to the providers. To meet the match requirements, in-kind contributions can be used. In-kind contributions must meet the same grant requirements as a cash match for OAA funds. The contribution must be verifiable and the records must show how the value of the in-kind contribution was determined. That valuation must be reasonable and is subject to audit. Examples of such in-kind contributions include, but are not limited to:

- volunteer services;
- donated time of employees of other organizations;
- donated supplies and loaned equipment;
- utilities; and



- space.

### **Usage and Timelines**

As stated previously, the purpose of the ARRA Nutrition funds is to increase the number of congregate and home delivered meals provided to older adults. This does present a challenge for Wyoming as we do not have a waiting list for meals at any Title III C meal site in Wyoming. Funding currently received for Title III C nutrition programs in Wyoming is often under utilized and often reverted at both the Federal and State level. The AoA has indicated that the timely obligation of funds by State programs is imperative in order to address reported funding cutbacks, impending program closures and waiting lists throughout the country.

As stated by the AoA, ARRA Nutrition funds should be obligated and expended as soon as possible for allowable meal and job expenditures. Since the funds are to be used to provide additional meals, it is not recommended that they be used to increase reimbursement rates for current meals.

The ARRA Nutrition funds are designed, in part, to help address the decrease in state and local funds available during the current economic downturn. To that end, ARRA Nutrition funds may be used to replace already existing or planned cuts to nutrition programs, however; ARRA Nutrition funds should not serve as a reason to make new cuts to nutrition services.

ARRA Nutrition funds may be used for ancillary services (nutrition counseling and education) as they are a part of “congregate” meal service and “nutrition services,” i.e., the language used in the ARRA legislation.

If funds are used for nutrition education and/or counseling, the funds should involve and be reported as the retention or creation of jobs (just as using funds for administrative purposes would).

There have been numerous inquiries about utilizing the funding to purchase equipment at meal sites. The AoA has recommended that the standard Title III C Nutrition program funds be used for this purpose and not the ARRA Nutrition funds.

### **Reporting**

While specific reporting requirements are still being finalized, an preliminary guideline has been posted here: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-7317.pdf> The reporting requirements are in the open comment phase through the Federal Office of Management and Budget until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

States will be required to report ARRA data on a quarterly basis via an on-line, internet based system. This data will include the number of home delivered and congregate meals provided, number of people served, number of jobs created and/or retained, as well as, the amount of ARRA Nutrition funds expended.

A reasonable amount of the ARRA Nutrition funds may be used for administrative purposes, however; the tracking of such use will be stringent and States are to expend the

bulk of the funds for meal provision. The Office of Inspector General is charged with tracking the ARRA Nutrition funds in order to ensure reasonable and allowable costs, accountability and transparency.

### **Distribution Methods**

There are two methods of distribution most feasible for Wyoming: A Grant Application and Distribution mechanism or a RFP and Award Distribution mechanism.

The funding is not limited to current AoA Title III C Nutrition Program providers and could be utilized by any organization serving persons eligible under the Older Americans Act. This could include hospitals, faith based organizations, etc.

### **Current Inquiries**

The Aging Division has presented several items needing clarification to the Administration on Aging. As of this time, we have not received a response to these and are waiting on this response before making any recommendation.