

Child Support Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

In response to the economic downturn, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) specifically targeting low-income and working-class families who are particularly impacted by the recession. President Obama signed the ARRA into law on February 17 as P.L. 115-5. One provision to assist struggling families through child support enforcement services will provide additional federal resources to the states.

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) created a provision that reduced federal child support funding by 20 percent. The ARRA temporarily repeals the provision on using incentive funds earned for program performance as match to draw down additional federal child support funds to use for their child support enforcement programs. The repeal is retroactive to the first quarter of the current federal fiscal year, and continues through September 30, 2010 and is funded at \$1 billion.

The following table, prepared by the Center for Law and Social Policy, shows the approximate maximum amount of federal matching funds that each state can now potentially receive. These funds are available through federal match on incentive payments as a result of the ARRA's temporary repeal of the DRA provision. Please note that this chart shows the amount a state could receive if it maximized its ability to draw down new funds with incentive funds. It does not take into account the degree to which states have backfilled the federal funds that were cut in the DRA.

State	Additional funds state could receive during 2-year period from restored performance incentive matching funds (\$ millions)	State	Additional funds state could receive during 2-year period from restored performance incentive matching funds (\$ millions)
Alabama	16.5	Montana	4.2
Alaska	6.8	Nebraska	10.3
Arizona	22.1	Nevada	7.9
Arkansas	14.5	New Hampshire	7.1
California	154.5	New Jersey	63.3
Colorado	19.1	New Mexico	4.6
Connecticut	16.1	New York	101.0
Delaware	4.9	North Carolina	52.7
District of Columbia	3.0	North Dakota	6.5
Florida	100.1	Ohio	114.4
Georgia	43.2	Oklahoma	16.3
Guam	0.4	Oregon	22.2
Hawaii	6.0	Pennsylvania	99.5
Idaho	9.6	Puerto Rico	13.0
Illinois	37.0	Rhode Island	4.6
Indiana	31.8	South Carolina	13.3
Iowa	27.2	South Dakota	5.9
Kansas	13.1	Tennessee	32.0
Kentucky	28.8	Texas	160.7
Louisiana	24.0	Utah	13.3
Maine	8.4	Vermont	3.9
Maryland	29.2	Virginia	40.4
Massachusetts	35.2	Virgin Islands	0.4
Michigan	104.1	Washington	49.2
Minnesota	47.6	West Virginia	15.4
Mississippi	12.9	Wisconsin	52.8
Missouri	41.2	Wyoming	4.7

Source: Turetsky, Vicki. Feb. 13, 2009. Center for Law and Social Policy. <http://www.clasp.org/publications/statebystateatch021309.pdf>

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