

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Impacts to The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Prepared for the Governor

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Executive Summary

The ARRA has made changes to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to assist individuals and families who are struggling in the current economy. The amount received by each state depends on its low income and unemployed population. It is expected these funds will be spent quickly to address the food assistance need at the local level.

Under TEFAP, commodity foods are made available by the USDA to states. States provide the food to local agencies that they have selected, usually food banks which in turn distribute the food to soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public.

The increase for Wyoming is anticipated to be approximately \$109,316. According to the ARRA, these increases will not be sustained beyond the end of the ARRA. This increase is aimed at addressing immediate food assistance needs.

In addition, the State could have access to additional TEFAP administrative of approximately \$27,398. The Department of Family Services historically has passed all TEFAP (including administrative dollars) to local programs and would continue to do so with the ARRA funds.

Annually the State receives approximately \$260,000 from the USDA for TEFAP. In addition, the State of Wyoming provides approximately \$146,304 per biennium for program administration in the Agency's general fund appropriation. The \$260,000 does not come directly to the agency. It is used to purchase food at the federal level. Therefore, the ARRA increase will increase our purchasing authority at the federal level. All of the State administrative dollars are reimbursed by the USDA to the State. The Agency contracts all administrative funds to the Food Bank of the Rockies for distribution of the commodities throughout the state

Implementation and Funding Issues

There are no major implementation impacts to this provision of the Act.

At the end of the ARRA the TEFAP funding will return to its current level. To maintain the increased purchasing power provided in the ARRA, would require additional State General Fund dollars.