

FRCD *Newsletter*

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January/February 2009

President's Stimulus Package Shows Gains for Special Ed Funding

The final \$787 Billion Stimulus Package adopted and signed by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009, shows gains in special education and disability services funding, in the supplemental appropriation designed to jump start the U.S. economy.

Facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the thirties, Congress approved the \$787 Billion economic recovery legislation without a single republican vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, and only the three republican votes needed for passage in the U.S. Senate from Maine Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe and Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter.

The final Stimulus Package was adopted by the House/Senate Conference Committee convened to reach agreement on the differences between the U.S. House version and U.S. Senate version of the legislation, which had been passed simultaneously in both Houses earlier in February. However, the final legislation approved by the Senate/House Conference Committee included more than \$1 billion less for IDEA, than the legislation originally approved by both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate: \$12,200,000,000 instead of \$13,600,000,000 approved in the U.S. House of Representatives, and \$13,500,000,000 approved in the U.S. Senate.

The Senate/House Conference Agreement includes:

- **\$11,300,000,000** for Section 611 of Part B of IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- **\$400,000,000** for Section 619 of Part B of IDEA
- **\$500,000,000** for Part C of IDEA

The Senate/House Conferees "intend that these funds shall be provided to school districts over the period of two fiscal years to help mitigate the reduction in local revenues and state support to school districts."

- **\$680,000,000** for Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research, including:
 - **\$540,000,000** for Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants
 - **\$140,000,000** for Independent Living Programs which includes \$18,200,000 for state grants, \$87,500,000 for Independent Living Centers, and \$34,300,000 for services for Older Blind Individuals.
 - **\$15,840,000** for student financial assistance

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How did Illinois rate in the "7-Pak?" see page 4

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- **\$100,000,000** for Higher Education
- **\$720,000,000** for School Improvement Programs
- **\$13,000,000,000** for the Education of Disadvantaged Students. Some of these funds are expected to be utilized for early childhood programs, according to the conference agreement.
- **\$3,950,000,000** for Workforce Investment Act programs, which includes \$2,950,000,000 for formula grants to the States for training and employment services for youth and adults.
- **\$120,000,000** for the Community Service Employment for Older Americans program.
- **\$400,000,000** for State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations
- **\$250,000,000** for the Office of Job Corps
- **\$2,500,000,000** for health resources and services, including \$500,000,000 for services at community health centers, and \$500,000,000 for health professions training programs.
- **\$10,000,000,000** for the National Institutes of Health
- **\$1,300,000,000** for the National Center for Research Resources
- **\$1,100,000,000** for Comparative effectiveness research
- **\$3,150,000,000** for Children and Families Services Programs, including \$1,000,000,000 for Head Start programs and \$1,100,000,000 for Early Head Start
- **\$50,000,000** for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund
- **\$1,000,000,000** for the Prevention and Wellness Fund
- **\$1,000,000,000** for the Social Security Administration for both infrastructure improvements and critical agency operations
- **\$53,600,000,000** for a State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, to be used only for activities authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 and for school modernization, renovation and repairs.

In Illinois, the following services will benefit from the Stimulus Package:

Roads and transit – For highways, Chicago will get \$175,253,359. For transit, RTA will receive the following minimum amounts: CTA 238,090,000, Metra 139,570,000, Pace 32,840,000. Total - \$410,500,000.

Education – Illinois is to get \$525 million for Title 1 education for the disadvantaged and \$560 million for IDEA. Chicago public schools' share is \$391,469,000.

Energy - \$103 million through the State Energy Program, plus \$248.6 million through the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Information from: the Stimulus Package House/Senate Conference Report and the Office of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin; House Education & Labor Committee
