

## **DSS/ARRA Second Quarter Summary**

### **Background**

The Department of Social Services is the Connecticut state agency charged with implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for programs that support a broad range of services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, families, and individuals who need assistance in maintaining or achieving their full potential for self-direction, self-reliance and independent living.

ARRA funds continue to be used to provide Weatherization, additional services to the residents of CT through the Community Service Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grants for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing, Commodity Assistance through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Child Care Assistance, and Elderly Nutrition and Community Services Employment for Older Americans (Titles III and V of the Older Americans Act).

ARRA monies entrusted to the Connecticut Department of Social Services were received from the federal agencies below:

- Department of Health and Human Services;
- Department of Agriculture;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Energy;
- Department of Housing and Urban Development;

### **Program and Reporting Guidelines**

In addition to the provision of ARRA enhanced services, DSS must ensure that funds are used according to federal guidelines and must report on its activities and the activities of its sub-grantees. Funds must be kept separate and not commingled with other funding sources. Reporting requirements are stringent and must be transparent. Documents and communications related to activities performed by DSS and its sub-grantees are housed on the agency website.

The distribution of funds in the state was conducted with public input, according to federal guidelines, and to insure equitable access to services.

### **Programs and Activities**

With the program structures now in place to deliver services, the second quarterly period has been dedicated to the delivery of programs. Included in the narrative are updates on the activities to date by program.

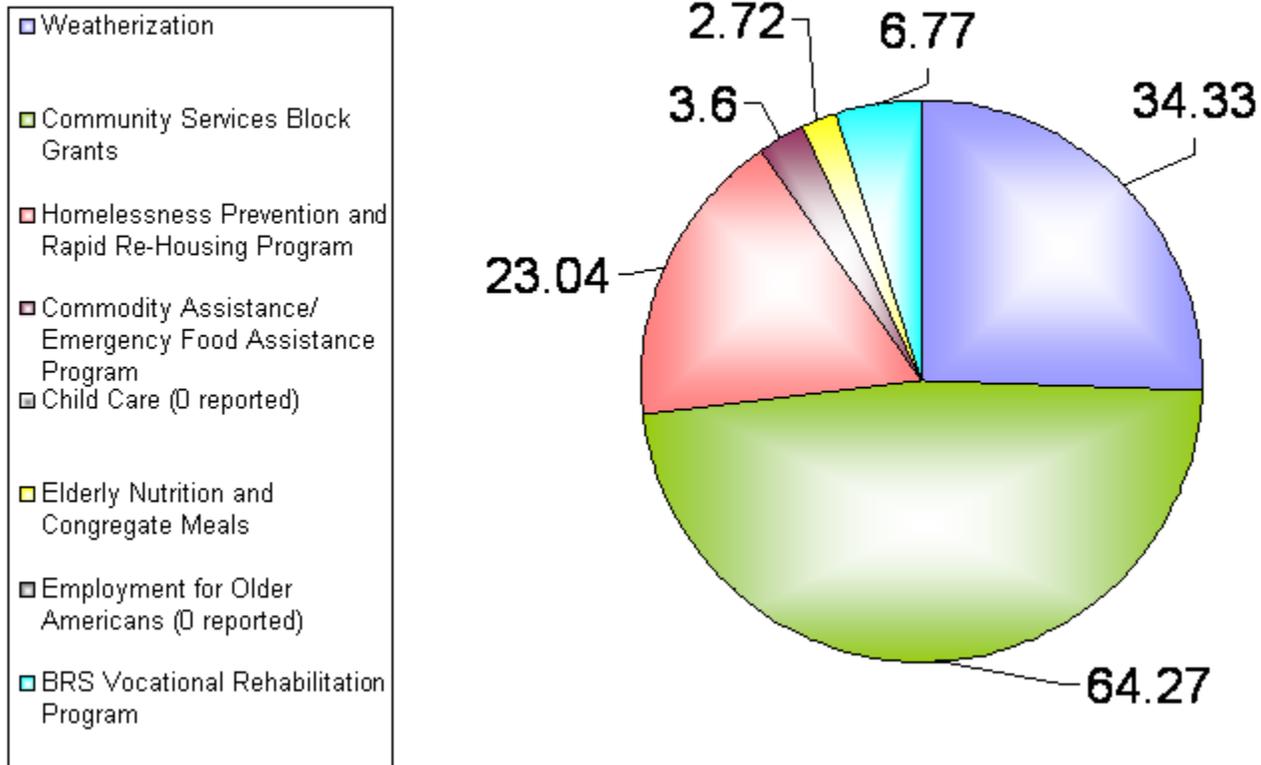
Below is summary data of the ARRA funded programs:

**Fast Facts - What Has The ARRA Money Accomplished To Date**

New this quarter:

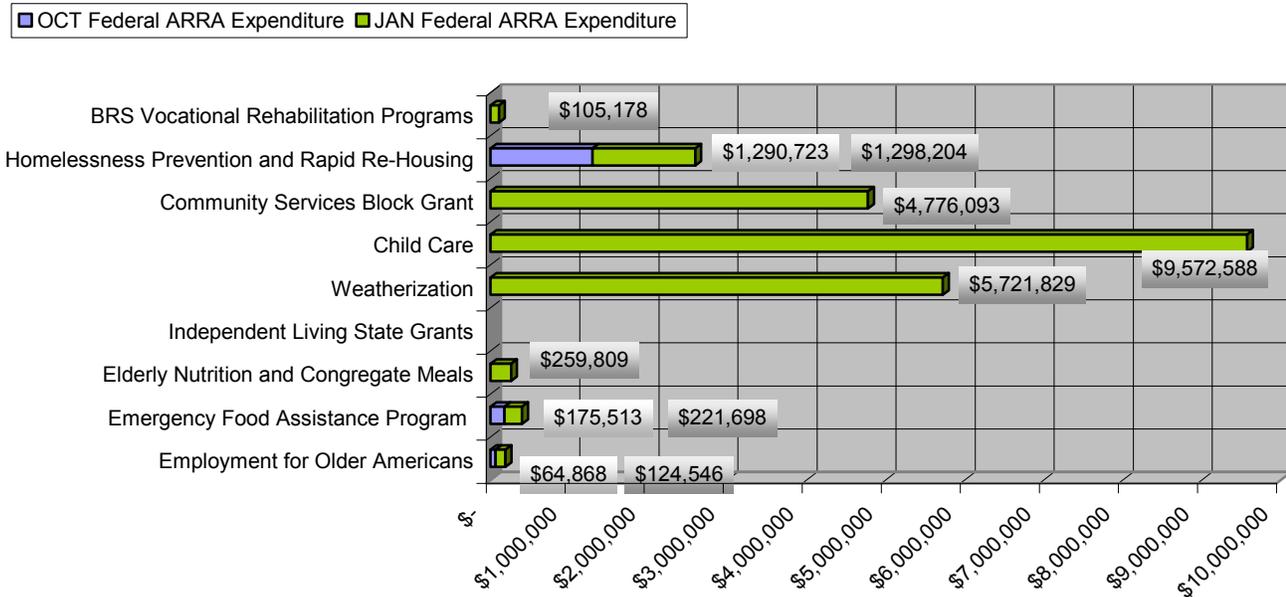
- 443 total Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) services were provided.
- CT Food Bank purchased four vehicles so that vital food commodities can now be transported and distributed to people living in hard to reach communities in our state.
- CT Food Bank will receive another \$148,532.00 to purchase one more vehicle and hire a full-time driver.
- Foodshare used the remainder of its allocation for food storage and distribution for individuals and families who need food.
- Foodshare will receive another \$73,157 to purchase insulated blankets and support warehouse operations and audit obligations.
- Child Care funding has prevented 12,000 jobs from being lost by families that receive child care certificates paid with stimulus funds
- 260 individuals with varying disabilities have entered temporary or permanent paid positions through the Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- 7,400 home-delivered meals have been served to seniors.
- With Weatherization dollars more than 1,300 units have received energy audits and 180 have been weatherized.
- Job skills training, job development and supportive services are being provided to 11 program participants in the Senior Community Service Employment Activities Program.
- Increased reimbursement in the Federal Medical Assistance (FMAP) - Also known as Medicaid, has resulted in \$638,800,000 additional federal monies deposited to General Fund revenue in Connecticut as of December 31, 2009.

**2nd Quarter ARRA-Calculated FTEs**



\*An FTE is a Full-Time Equivalent, calculated by adding all hours worked within a program, and then dividing by number of hours in a full-time schedule.

**1st & 2nd Quarter Expenditures**



### Third Quarter Forecast

- **Weatherization** – There are 1300 units in process or completed as of January 2010.
- **Community Services Block Grant** – activities continue in Employment assistance, training, internships and job opportunities; Counseling on housing and mortgages, taxes and income management; and Emergency and nutrition services
- **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) Emergency Shelter Grant** – funding has been provided and will continue to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless, or to re-house/stabilize those who have already become homeless
- **Commodity Assistance/TEFAP** – the majority of this funding has already been used for food commodities (\$884,575) and capital investments (\$175,573). The funds have purchased delivery vehicles that will allow delivery of perishable food to neighborhoods that need it most. Additional funding will be used to purchase a vehicle, hire a driver, and purchase insulated blankets.
- **Child Care Assistance** – the majority of this funding (\$9.4 m) continues to be used to pay for child care services for low income families who are working and on Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) or in TFA employment activities. This enables 12,260 families to access quality child care and continue working. Under a proposal currently being reviewed, \$1,786,590 will be allocated for quality activities and child care infrastructure improvements.
- **Elderly Nutrition: Home Delivered and Congregate Meals** – home delivered meals will continue with the support of ARRA dollars.
- **Community Services Employment for Older Americans (Title V of the OAA)** - Job skills training, job development and supportive services will be provided to an additional 14 people over the life of the grant.