

Attention County Preschool Administrators
Important ARRA Information on
Reporting of Jobs Retained

The STAC, Special Aids and Medicaid Unit has been informed by the U.S. Department of Education that they have revised their guidance on the ARRA reporting of jobs created and jobs retained. Under the new guidance, jobs created and retained can be reported when the jobs are worked or when the ARRA funding is used to pay for the jobs. However, because the Federal government is not going to modify its online reporting system to allow for reporting in prior quarters, counties cannot report jobs when they were actually worked (2009-10 school year) and, therefore, must report jobs in the July - September 2010 quarter when ARRA funding was received.

As discussed during the ARRA reporting training on September 8, 2010, SED will calculate jobs saved by providers whose rates are set by its Rate Setting Unit. SED will input these job estimates into its online reporting system early by October 13, 2010. Counties will verify SED's estimates, add jobs retained by independent related service providers and transportation providers and certify and submit the data.

Some counties are having difficulty with the concept that ARRA funding has created or retained jobs because preschool special education is mandatory and costs for the 2009-10 school year were paid long before ARRA funding was received. For these counties, it may be helpful to think of reporting ARRA jobs as reporting the jobs of staff who provided preschool special education services that were funded by ARRA. Although the counties paid for the jobs in the first instance, the State used ARRA funding to reimburse counties for the jobs.

Counties have until close of business on **October 25, 2010** to submit their job estimates on SED's online ARRA reporting system. Counties who do not report jobs retained, including jobs retained by independent related service providers and transportation providers, risk losing the ARRA funding they received for section 4410 preschool special education services. There is no State funding to compensate counties if they lose their ARRA funding.

As explained during the September 8, 2010 ARRA reporting training, counties can report jobs based on 1) hours worked or 2) salaries and fringe benefits paid. Please refer to SED's ARRA website (<http://usny.nysed.gov/arra>) for the September 8, 2010 presentation on ARRA reporting and frequently asked questions and answers on the presentation.

You may also contact the STAC, Special Aids and Medicaid Unit for assistance at 518-474-7116.