



M. Jodi Rell

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

February 4, 2010

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
448 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
706 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Himes
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John B. Larson
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
501 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joseph Courtney
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Connecticut Congressional Delegation:

I am writing to you to urge you to support extending the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund program for an additional year to allow reimbursement on quarterly program expenditures through September 30, 2011. This request is to extend only the time when program expenditures may be made and reimbursed for applications received by the current deadline of September 1, 2010, within the \$5 billion authorized funding. The TANF Emergency Contingency Fund made possible thru the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 will play an important part in Connecticut in providing direct assistance to needy families and creating employment opportunities during this economic recession. Currently, funding is available for qualifying expenditures made between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2010. The deadline for securing these funds is fast approaching. The complexity of establishing and extending short term programs, training, and work opportunities, such as Summer Youth Employment and Subsidized Employment, during this difficult economic time is high. A time extension will allow us to increase supports to our most vulnerable families and provide incentives for Connecticut businesses and non-profit agencies to help build program capacity and increase access for needy families to Connecticut's TANF programs and services.

Connecticut has applied for Emergency Contingency Fund reimbursement in the Basic Assistance category. In addition, I have convened a workgroup with representatives from foundations, non-profit agencies, workforce investment boards and state agencies to capitalize on opportunities and to develop a plan to design initiatives and effective programs that qualify for and are accountable to the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund. The workgroup will be submitting a plan to me within the next month that will identify resources that can help leverage access to this opportunity for additional federal funds.

Implementation of programs such as subsidized employment takes a great deal of time and commitment by businesses and agencies working with potential employees. It is difficult to quickly build capacity, increase program spending, and then end programs within months of their commencement. The ability to establish and maintain new programs without reimbursement in this economy is almost impossible. Additional challenges for creating employment include:

- Start-up time to find employers and establish contracts
- Employer costs, supervision & training, benefits & Worker Compensation
- Recruitment, application & eligibility determination, and administration
- Need for record retention and audit records back to October 1, 2006
- Collective Bargaining Issues - not replace workers, etc.
- Understanding and compliance with Wage & Workplace Standards (including standards for minors)

Connecticut is pleased to have this opportunity to maximize its' dedication and support to families through the support of federal funds and urges Congress to extend in time to implement successful and accountable programs through federal fiscal year 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

M. Jodi Rell
Governor