



**UCAPA Legislative Priorities
Week of February 2, 2009**

Position Key:
1 = support
2 = neutral
3 = opposed

| Title | Sponsor | Description | Pos | Status |
|--|-------------------|--|-----|--|
| Asset Building | | | | |
| Funding for Individual Development Accounts | appropriation | \$50,000 - base budget | 1 | As far as we can tell, there were no cuts to IDA in the 2009 balanced budget bill |
| SCR 3 Concurrent Resolution Urging the Creation of a Utah Council on Financial Education | Sen. Pat Jones | Bill to create a state council on financial education | 1 | 1st reading in Senate, 1/30/09 |
| SB 100 Financial and Economic Literacy Education Amendments | Sen. Pat Jones | Bill requires public schools to provide financial and economic literacy passport and information about the UT Educ Savings Plan Account to parents or guardians of kindergarten students. | 1 | Senate Committee amended and favorably recommended back to Senate Floor for 2nd reading on 1/30/09 |
| Funding for EITC/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance | appropriation | FY09 funding was \$157,000; we are looking at cuts to below \$50K for FY10 | 1 | 2009 bill to balance the budget passed without cutting current funds on 2/2/09 |
| HB 91 IDA Amendments | Rep. Seegmiller | Provides that an IDA can be established for client's with disability to purchase assistive items and that the IDA funds cannot be used in determining eligibility for assistance. | 1 | House Committee amended and favorably recommended to House floor, circled after third reading on 2/2/09 |
| Children | | | | |
| Childcare Assistance | appropriation | Maintain pre-budget cut level; this year's level will be the same because of maneuvering to keep from losing the 4X federal match | 1 | Cuts made were backfilled with TANF funds and other state funds so no impact on program |
| Funding for Head Start Education | appropriation | Maintain at last year's level - base budget \$100,000. | 1 | Program was cut 7.5%, (\$7,500) but backfilled for total loss of \$3,900 |
| Food | | | | |
| Emergency Food Network | appropriation | \$300,000 base budget. | 1 | 2009 bill to balance the budget passed without cutting current funds on 2/2/09 |
| Health | | | | |
| Protect and restore eligibility, provider rate, and health promotion within Medicaid | appropriation | Restore Medicaid eligibility levels, programs, and provider rates that are likely to be cut (Age, Blind, Disabled eligibility; Closing Utah Primary Care Network to New Enrollees; Foster Care Independent Living Program; Primary Care Grants; Eliminate Workforce Financial Assistance; Provider rates). | 1 | Ongoing general funds for the Foster Care Independent Living Program, Presumptive Eligibility for pregnant women, and Primary Care Grants were cut, but restored for FY2009 use onetime money; same for Age Blind Disabled Eligibility, but onetime money not slated to take effect until FY2010. Medicaid Spend down reduced from 100% of poverty to 44% of poverty, program restored using onetime money for FY2009. |
| Restore Optional Medicaid Services | appropriation | Restore Medicaid services that were cut during special session (Eyeglasses, Dental Services, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Audiology) | 1 | Not for the 2009 balanced budget bill. |
| Children's Health Coverage Initiatives | Rep. Holdaway | Provide new CHIP premium payment mechanism to Utah Families | 1 | No bill file yet |
| HB 144 Medical Language Interpreter Act | Rep. Chavez-Houck | An omnibus (broad) bill calling for statewide adaptation & implementation of the national standards for Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) across all sectors and thru public-private sector partnership over 3 years. | 1 | Bill introduced on floor 1/30/09 |
| Medicaid Provider Rates Increase | appropriation | Restore and Increase provider reimbursement for primary care | 1 | Provider rates cut to pre FY2007 levels; Hospital Reimbursement cut to 90% of PEHP rates (\$30 million) |
| SB 114 Tobacco Tax | Sen. Christensen | Increase of tobacco tax with revenues to fund increased access to health care and cancer research | 1 | Bill substituted by Committee, sent to fiscal analysts on 1/30/09 |
| Health Reform Taskforce Bills | | It is too early to predict all the bills the taskforce will produce and whether to support them. We will be watching them throughout the session. | 1 | Several different bills are in the works. |



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| Housing | | | | |
| Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund | appropriation | Anticipating cuts of \$350K for FY10 as well as a loss of \$500K for one-time over FY09 | 1 | 2009 bill to balance the budget passed without cutting current funds on 2/2/09 |
| Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund | appropriation | Anticipating cuts of \$100K for FY10 as well as a loss of \$500K for one-time funding over FY09; looking to possibly renew one-time funding | 1 | 2009 bill to balance the budget passed without cutting current funds on 2/2/09 |
| Foreclosure notice for tenants | Working with a sponsor | Provide an earlier foreclosure notice to tenants renting from an owner who is going through the foreclosure process | 1 | No bill file yet |
| HB 82 Teacher Mortgage Loan Program | Representative Hemmingway | The State Board of Education would provide for teachers a program loan of \$15,000 to be used for purchasing a home which loan can convert into a grant | 1 | Returned to committee, but not considered as of 1/30/09 |
| HB 83 Property Tax Relief Programs | Rep. Froerer | Increases income qualifying limits for homeowners and renters | 1 | Assigned to Rev. and Tax Committee |
| SB 95 Mobile Home Park Amendments | Sen. Jenkins | Requires that a lease between a mobile home park owner and resident discloses utilities ownership in park and service fees | 1 | Voted out of Committee 6-0-1 |
| HB 10 Condominium & Community Association | Rep. Webb | Eliminate trust deed foreclosure as an alternative for homeowners associations | 1 | Introduced and sent to committee on 1/26/09, still not considered |
| General Housing Plans | Rep. Herrod | Will include additional legal incentive to producing adequate plans and may require additional specifications for cities and towns for their plan (details to create housing targeted at families 30, 50 and 80% of area median income) | 1 | No bill file yet |
| Welfare/Work Supports | | | | |
| General Assistance | appropriation | Maintain base budget; a cut to all staff for the program has been recommended | 1 | 2009 bill to balance the budget passed without cutting current funds on 2/2/09, but DWS has taken an administrative cut of \$550,000. |
| FEP | appropriation | Maintain base budget and funding of all programs. | 1 | 2009 bill to balance the budget passed without cutting current funds on 2/2/09, but DWS has taken an administrative cut of \$550,000. |
| Unemployment Insurance benefit changes to make Utah eligible for federal funds should UIMA pass. | | Looking at "trigger bill" that will provide for an alternative base period model, benefits for part-time workers, and allowing eligibility for individuals that quit to accompany their spouses - provisions to go into effect upon passing of Federal UIMA bill so Utah can immediately qualify for federal dollars. | 1 | DWS working with Legislative Council to draft bill. Still seeking a sponsor. |
| HB 218 FEP Amendments | Rep. Fisher | Provides that DWS shall make a rule for the amount of cash assistance a participant is eligible to receive under FEP. (Is currently set by legislature). | 1 | Resistance encountered on House Floor, bill was circled on 1/28/09 after 3rd reading. Looking to get more support for the bill. |
| Other | | | | |
| HB216 Telecommunication Pricing Flexibility Amendments | Rep. Hunsaker | Removes the cap on basic residential telecommunication pricing | 3 | Passed House, introduced in Senate and sent to committee on 2/2/09 |
| HB38 Refugee Services Fund Amendments | Herrod | Provides that all interest or earnings from the Refugee Services Fund are deposited into the fund rather than the General Fund. | 1 | Passed House, introduced in Senate and sent to committee on 2/2/09 |
| State Budget | program cuts | Anticipated cuts to balance the budget; we are watching that programs that support the poor do not get cut. | 2 | 2009 balance budget bill passed 2/2/09. |