

A square graphic divided into four equal quadrants by a horizontal and a vertical line. Each quadrant shows a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The word "OPPORTUNITY" is written in a bold, white, italicized sans-serif font across the center of the graphic, overlapping all four quadrants.

OPPORTUNITY

Infants and toddlers can't wait for the economy to recover.



Iowa lawmakers are considering a 2010 budget that would impose a 14% cut on Community Empowerment early childhood services. Community Empowerment is one of the few state programs that serves children from birth to the age of three, when the human brain is developing the most.

The federal economic stimulus package is a ***“Window of Opportunity”*** to restore these cuts for infants and toddlers.

Use the stimulus package for its intended purpose. Don't close this *window of opportunity* to invest in our children's future.

Opportunities are listed on the back

Opportunities

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
of 2009 Funds Eligible for Averting Proposed Community
Empowerment Cuts

State Fiscal Stabilization Flexible Grant Fund

Estimated Iowa share \$86 million

Federal Medical Assistance Percentage Increase

Estimated Iowa share \$550 million
(\$470 to the state budget)

These federal funds are designed to maintain existing state programs and services over the next two state fiscal years. Restoring Community Empowerment funding to its 2009 initial appropriations level for each of the next two years, instead of accepting the proposed cuts, can be achieved with \$12 million, or less than 3% of these federal funds.

For more information on ARRA and Iowa, see the policy briefs produced by the Iowa Fiscal Partnership at www.iowafiscal.org.

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***It's hard to tighten your belt when
you're wearing a diaper.***