



ARRA GUIDANCE UPDATE MARCH 25, 2010



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Updated guidance from OMB now available

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently released a memorandum to federal agencies designed to continue improving the quality of data reported. The new guidance, M-10-14, is formatted as a question and answer document. It includes a number of items of interest to the recipient reporting community, including answers to the following questions:

- Question Six: Which of the recipient reporting data fields are a quarterly and which are cumulative?
- Question Seven: What steps should be taken on Single Audits reports for oversight and accountability of Recovery Act funding?
- Question Nine: Can Federal agencies limit the recovery of administrative costs associated with ARRA activities when the State's Statewide Cost Allocation Plan has been approved?

The new guidance may be accessed at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-14.pdf.

FederalReporting.gov enhancements

As recipients enter the third round of ARRA federal reporting, please note there have been several enhancements to FederalReporting.gov. **State agencies/institutions should be aware that no changes have been made to what or how recipients are required to report.**

- Most e-mails from FederalReporting.gov to recipients will now include the Award ID in the subject line.
- For batch XML filers: if the sub-award number, amount or date fields are left blank, an error message will be sent back.
- Federal agency reviewers can make bulk comments and/or mark reports as "Reviewed with No Comments."
- During the Continuous QA period following the recipient reporting period, federal agencies' nightly reports of 1512 changes will include a consolidated list of their own comments.
- The User Guide has been re-written in a more user-friendly, easily understandable format. This was posted Wednesday, March 24.

New timeline for round three of federal reporting

The reporting timeline for the third round of 1512 reporting is now available. Please note the changes from the previous reporting periods. Recipients must report April 1-10, but records will be unlocked April 11 and 12 for recipients to review data and make changes.

Since the law tasks federal agencies with data quality, and because there were very few changes made by recipients during the last two recipient change periods, OMB shifted the agency review period to April 12-29. Between April 13 and 29 agencies and recipients will communicate and agencies can unlock records for changes. Data will be posted to Recovery.Gov on April 30. Around May 3, the most recent round of records will be unlocked and available for recipient changes. Just like the most recent Continuous QA, data will be updated on Recovery.gov every other Wednesday.

New timeline

April 1-10.....Recipients Report
April 11-12.....Recipient Review
April 13-29.....Agency Review
April 30.....Data is published on Recovery.gov
May 3-June 14.....Continuous QA Period
June 16.....Final Continuous QA data published on Recovery.gov

Reference data now available on FederalReporting.gov

FederalReporting.gov has added a new reference data feature under the “Downloads” tab on its Web site. The page can be accessed at the following address:
<https://www.federalreporting.gov/federalreporting/downloads.do>.

Reference data allows recipients to click on a quick reference tab, enter a brief amount of information about a grant, and receive the correct code information instantly. These codes are required data elements for 1512 federal reporting.

In addition to the reference data, any agency or institution involved with 1512 reporting that may need to contact Dunn and Bradstreet may do so through the expedited Federal D&B help service online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform?rfid=fedrep> or by calling (866) 705-5711. Below is the list and description of the quick reference options found on the site:

- **Activity Codes Reference:**
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) – Recipients of federal contracts need the six-digit NAICS code in the solicitation/contract. For infrastructure awards, the recipient will use the NAICS code that describes the Recovery project or activity.

National Center for Charitable Statistics (NTEE-NPC) – Recipients of federal grants and loans need the NTEE-NPC code(s) that describe the Recovery projects and activities. The list is accessible via the Activity Code Reference Lookup button, which includes NAICS and NTEE-NPC codes.
- **Agency Codes Reference:** Provides the two-digit department-level codes for federal agencies, and four-digit agency codes for recipients

- **CFDA Number Reference:** Provides the numbers for the published descriptions of federal assistance programs in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Recipients reporting on a grant or loan award need the CFDA number associated with the federal assistance program
- **GCO Codes Reference:** Provides the agency-specific codes for the contracting offices executing federally awarded contracts
The GCO is directly related to the awarding federal agency.
- **Program Source (TAS) Reference:** Provides the codes that identify the programs funding awards
- **State and ZIP Code Reference:** A catalog of all available ZIP codes for states and U.S. possessions
- **ZIP Code Extension Reference:** A catalog of all available ZIP code extensions for U.S. ZIP codes
- **Congressional District Reference:** A catalog of congressional districts for U.S. ZIP codes

Reports from Government Accountability Office now available

Please find below two links for the latest ARRA reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO). In the first report, dated February 2010, GAO was asked to identify key federal requirements that apply to Recovery Act projects and to assess the extent to which (1) selected agencies have obligated and spent funds for Recovery Act projects and (2) federal requirements and other factors have affected, or are expected to affect, project selection and start dates. Some federal agency officials reported that certain federal requirements and other factors affected their ability to select and start Recovery Act projects. The report below highlights those requirements and details how these requirements affect the spending timelines.

- **Project Selection and Starts Are Influenced by Certain Federal Requirements and Other Factors** <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10383.pdf>

The second report, dated March 2010, is a one-year summary review of ARRA. It is the fifth in a series of reports since passage of the Recovery Act on the uses of and accountability for Recovery Act funds in 16 selected states, certain localities in those jurisdictions, and the District of Columbia. These jurisdictions are estimated to receive about two-thirds of the intergovernmental assistance available through the Recovery Act. It is also the second report in which GAO is required to comment on the jobs created or retained as reported by recipients of Recovery Act funds.

- **RECOVERY ACT: One Year Later, States' and Localities' Uses of Funds and Opportunities to Strengthen Accountability** <http://www.gao.gov/Products/GAO-10-437>