



# ARRA GUIDANCE UPDATE MARCH 28, 2011



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## **April Timeline for Section 1512 ARRA Quarterly Reporting Now Available**

Recipients of Recovery funds are required to submit their reports by April 10, 2011 for the current reporting cycle. However, **FederalReporting.gov will remain open until 11:59 E.S.T, April 14, 2011.** Reports entered between April 11, 2011 and April 14, 2011 will NOT be flagged as late.

April 1-10 -----Initial Submission Period  
April 11- 14 ----- Extended Submission Period  
April 15 -----Prime Recipient Review  
April 16-29-----Agency Review Period  
April 30 -----Published on Recovery.Gov

## **Reminder to Agencies/Institutions for Certification and Re-Certification of Section 1511 Infrastructure Projects**

As you know, infrastructure projects must be certified by the Governor prior to expending funds. Please send any projects, which are classified as infrastructure by the applicable funding agency, to the Recovery Office for certification. The rules have not changed, but are restated below.

Agencies/Institutions are reminded that projects which fall under the infrastructure definition provided by the federal funding agency are required to be certified by the Governor prior to expending funds on these projects. As required by the Recovery Act, the 1511 Certification Form indicates that the investment “has received the full review and vetting required by law.” In addition, the certification, along with a description of the investment, estimated total project cost, and the total amount of ARRA funds to be expended, must be posted and linked on the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board website at [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov). To meet the posting requirement, the Alabama Recovery Office will post a list of the certified projects on the State Recovery website, which is linked to [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov). Agencies and institutions are encouraged to post a copy of their signed certifications on their ARRA web pages.

For those agencies and institutions that have previously submitted projects to be certified, or for those that may receive future awards for infrastructure projects, please note that changes to a list of certified projects will constitute the re-certification of a new list. Re-certification can be achieved by following the same steps that are taken for the initial certification. The process for certifying or re-certifying your agency or institution’s projects under Section 1511 is as follows:

- 1) Prior to expending ARRA funds, print the certification form, located at the following link:  
[http://stimulus.alabama.gov/EPO/Content/State\\_Recovery/documents/Governor%20Certification.docx](http://stimulus.alabama.gov/EPO/Content/State_Recovery/documents/Governor%20Certification.docx)
- 2) Print and complete the 1511 Certification Form and the Infrastructure Project List. (Attached to this e-mail and found under the log-in section of [www.Stimulus.Alabama.gov](http://www.Stimulus.Alabama.gov))
- 3) Send the signed form and the list of projects to [AlabamaStimulus@finance.alabama.gov](mailto:AlabamaStimulus@finance.alabama.gov). The Recovery Office will submit the forms and project lists for signature by the Governor and remit a copy to your agency.
- 4) Keep the completed form on file for compliance reviews, complaint investigations or audits.
- 5) Post the signed form on your agency's Recovery web page. A copy of your certification, along with your project list, will be posted on [www.Stimulus.Alabama.Gov](http://www.Stimulus.Alabama.Gov) and additionally forwarded to the Recovery and Transparency Board to be posted on [www.Recovery.Gov](http://www.Recovery.Gov) by the Recovery Office.

Please find below a copy of Section 1511 as it reads in the Recovery Act:

*“With respect to covered funds made available to State or local governments for infrastructure investments, the Governor, mayor, or other chief executive, as appropriate, shall certify that the infrastructure investment has received the full review and vetting required by law and that the chief executive accepts responsibility that the infrastructure investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. Such certification shall include a description of the investment, the estimated total cost, and the amount of covered funds to be used, and shall be posted on a website and linked to the website established by section 1526. A State or local agency may not receive infrastructure investment funding from funds made available in this Act unless this certification is made and posted.”*  
(ARRA, Title XV, Subtitle A – Transparency and Oversight Requirements, Sec. 1511. Certifications)

### **Agency/Institution Responses to Federal Review Agent Comments**

As the April federal quarterly reporting period draws near, agencies/institutions are encouraged to provide responses to each comment made by federal review agents. Providing a response is not mandatory by the federal reporting website, however, the Recovery Office was recently notified that providing a response for each comment in the system is encouraged by the federal agencies, as they will provide documentation of corrections for future audits that will likely occur. Not all federal comments suggest a data error or necessitate a correction, but where corrections are needed, recipient responses should simply explain an issue's resolution and the change(s) that were made to the data.