



ARRA GUIDANCE UPDATE OCTOBER 2, 2009



alabamastimulus@finance.alabama.gov

(334) 242-7160

Compliance Coordinator Responsibilities

Due to the start of federal reporting on October 1, the State Recovery Office is experiencing an increase in questions about recovery reporting requirements. The Recovery Office would like to remind compliance coordinators to share any and all guidance they receive regarding recovery reporting requirements with anyone in their office that plays a role in stimulus reporting. Guidance from the Alabama Department of Finance and the federal government should be provided in a timely fashion to all members of your agency or institution's stimulus team. The State Recovery Office sincerely appreciates your help with this effort.

Reporting/Identification of Infrastructure Spending

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) does not plan to issue formal guidance directly to state or local governments on the requirement related to state and local certifications for infrastructure investments as set forth by Section 1511 of the Recovery Act. However, federal agencies have been asked to issue formal guidance when necessary for potential infrastructure project funding through their programs. State agencies should contact their appropriate federal agencies if they are unsure whether a particular project falls under the regulations for infrastructure projects set forth in Section 1511 of the Recovery Act. The OMB Recipient Reporting Data Dictionary explains the infrastructure data elements the following way:

Total Federal ARRA Infrastructure Expenditure

This is a conditional field for investing in infrastructure. Recipients are asked to include only the funds that are spent on the infrastructure project.

Infrastructure Purpose and Rationale

Recipients must identify the purpose and rationale of funds received for infrastructure investment with funds made available under the Recovery Act. Recipients are also asked to explain how the infrastructure investment will contribute to one or more purposes of the Recovery Act:

Purposes of the Recovery Act

- (1) To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery.
- (2) To assist those most impacted by the recession.
- (3) To provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health.
- (4) To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.

(5) To stabilize State and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.

Infrastructure Contractor Contact Information

This is for grants and loans only. The field required recipients to include the name, phone number, address and e-mail address of the infrastructure contractor.

Section 1511 of the Recovery Act:

SEC. 1511. CERTIFICATIONS.

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.

Update on Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency

The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (RATB) has improved public information access on the federal recovery website, www.Recovery.gov. Citizens are now able to locate detailed information on projects in their states, congressional districts and even their own neighborhoods. Beginning October 15, the Recovery Board will also post Section 1512 contract data on Recovery.gov. Grant and loan data will follow on October 30.

The Federal Recovery Board has also unveiled a major anti-fraud initiative that significantly improves the ability of federal, state and local government officials to identify instances of fraudulent use, waste and mismanagement of recovery funds. Additionally, the RATB has created a toll-free fraud hotline, open between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. (EST) seven days a week from anywhere in the United States. The number is (877) FWA-DESK. Those who want to report allegations of misconduct can visit Recovery.gov and link to a form that can be submitted electronically, by regular mail or via fax at a separate toll-free number, (877)FAX-FWA2.

Dates to Remember

FEDERAL REPORTING DATES

October 1, 2009: Data Collection and Pre-Submission Data Quality Review

October 1, 2009: Reporting Period Begins

October 10, 2009: Reporting Period Ends at 11:59:59 EST

October 11-October 21, 2009: Recipient Data Validation

October 22-October 29, 2009: Federal Agency Data Validation

October 30, 2009: Reports finalized and posted to Recovery.gov.

STATE REPORTING DATES

October 1-10, 2009(Prior to Data Reporting): Certification to the Governor for each grant/program

October 10, 2009: Deadline for Monthly Update Forms and internal 1512 Reporting Form

October 11, 2009: State agencies and institutions begin updating their websites with the data submitted in the Monthly Update Forms.