



# ARRA GUIDANCE UPDATE DECEMBER 11, 2009



alabamastimulus@finance.alabama.gov

(334) 242-7160

## More information available on Davis-Bacon Act requirements

The Federal Department of Energy recently published a list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA). That information is available by clicking the link below.

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/state\\_energy\\_program/davis\\_bacon\\_faqs.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/state_energy_program/davis_bacon_faqs.cfm)

The site also provides answers to questions about compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA) requirements of the 2009 Recovery Act for U.S. Department of Energy Programs.

Section 1606 of the Recovery Act states:

“All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded by the ARRA shall be paid no less than the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141-3148) prevailing wage rates for similar work in the project’s geographic area.”

Although this specific guidance is tailored to energy related programs, the Davis-Bacon information applies to all recipients that are required to comply with Section 1606 of the Recovery Act. The link posted above provides answers on the following topics:

- Where do agencies go for more help with Davis-Bacon requirements?
- General questions
- Davis-Bacon and other utility or LIHEAP funding
- Who is covered by the Davis-Bacon Act?
- Davis-Bacon wages
- Davis-Bacon and weekly payroll
- Davis-Bacon compliance
- Davis-Bacon and multifamily homes
- Davis-Bacon and travel time
- Davis-Bacon and training programs
- Davis-Bacon and volunteer organizations
- State oversight of Davis-Bacon requirements
- Davis-Bacon compliance costs to the states and local agencies

## **Updating state agency websites: assess, evaluate and reconcile**

The State Recovery Office (SRO) would like to remind state agencies and institutions that evaluating and updating the ARRA information posted on agency and institution websites is a critical part of meeting Recovery Act transparency requirements. The SRO recently reviewed all state agency and institution websites and was pleased to see most of them were populated with accurate, updated and useful data.

The Recovery Office compiled a list of best practices found during these recent website reviews and has listed them below for your convenience. Agencies and institutions are encouraged to consider using these best practices to further enhance their websites.

- Post grant and program recipient lists, when possible, and the funds allocated to each.
- Post copies of federal reports received after submitting data via [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov).
- Create a Fraud Prevention hotline or e-mail that links to the state stimulus website.
- Post grant and program-specific application information and tips for applying.
- Post copies of grant and program award letters, agency action plans and specific program guidance.
- Post any certifications required by the Recovery Act (Section 1511).
- Post “updated as of” dates so users know whether the data is current.
- Post website links to state agency and institution recovery pages if they are sub-recipients of your agency.
- Post a link to [www.stimulus.alabama.gov](http://www.stimulus.alabama.gov) for additional information.
- Post copies of monthly, quarterly or annual federal reports, other than those required by Section 1512.
- Post federal agency rejection letters for denied grants and program applications.
- Post copies of Monthly Update Forms for each grant or program. These forms should be in addition to the cumulative data mentioned above.

## **ARRA resource page for agencies and institutions**

Agencies and institutions are reminded to use the resource page on the Alabama Stimulus Website at [www.stimulus.alabama.gov](http://www.stimulus.alabama.gov). This page offers a variety of downloadable documents published by the Recovery Office. Documents include hand-outs from previous trainings, quarterly reporting timelines, all guidance documents issued by the State Finance Director, OMB guidance released from Washington, D.C., information on upcoming 1512 related webinars and more. To access this page, click the link titled “Agency/Institution Login,” located at the bottom of the Alabama Stimulus home page. When you click this link, you will be asked to provide the following login credentials:

Username: Alabama (case sensitive)  
Password: ARRA2009 (case sensitive)

## **State-reported information now available on Recovery.gov**

On Friday, October 30, 2009, the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (RATB) began posting recipients’ section 1512 reports. Recovery.gov now reflects more than 131,000 recipient data reports on federal contracts, grants and loans awarded under ARRA spending initiatives through September 30, 2009.

By selecting the appropriate fields using the drop down menus, a full list of Alabama’s grants, contracts and loans is available for review. Users may then click on the award numbers to see more detailed information.

Alabama's information can be directly accessed at the following link:

[www.recovery.gov/pages/TextViewProjSummary.aspx?data=recipientAwardsList&State=AL&Agency=12&Amount=ALL&AwardType=CGL&RenderData=ALL](http://www.recovery.gov/pages/TextViewProjSummary.aspx?data=recipientAwardsList&State=AL&Agency=12&Amount=ALL&AwardType=CGL&RenderData=ALL)

The federal recovery website also added new features that provide user-friendly access to state-reported data. Some of the new features are listed below.

#### *State and territory summary pages*

With this feature, recipients will be able to determine how many contract, grant, and loan recipient awards have been made in states and territories. You may also view the number of jobs created and the total value of the awards. A state search of Alabama will yield information on jobs created in congressional districts, the top recipients of recovery funds, the top infrastructure recipients, etc. There are more than 500 new charts and tables for jobs and award data.

#### *Dynamic search capability*

Type the name of a recipient in the search engine, click "go," and every report that contains that recipient's name (prime contractor or sub-contractor) will be listed for review, as well as other information about the recipient. You may also type in the name of a federal agency to see a list of that agency's recipients.

#### *Data access flexibility*

For those who want flexibility in accessing data, Recovery.gov offers two new formats in the Download Center. The site previously provided only the CSV format. Users may now access files containing recipient contracts, grants and loan data in XML and XLS formats.

#### *Report downloading*

As part of its commitment to greater accountability, Recovery.gov provides a feature allowing users to download a list of recipients that failed to submit reports on time. In addition, users may download files containing the history of any changes made by recipients in their reports after October 10, 2009.

## **Section 8 Housing Assistance Program removed from 1512 reporting list**

The list of grants requiring Section 1512 reporting was updated December 1. The revised list no longer includes CFDA 14.317, which is Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program Special Allocations (Recovery Act Funded). The complete, revised list is available online at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda\\_fy2009/m09-21-suppl.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m09-21-suppl.pdf).