

ARRA COMPLIANCE

There is an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability associated with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding that is beyond standard practice typically associated with federal awards. These expanded responsibilities include reporting which makes distinguishing recovery act funds from other non-recovery act funds necessary.

The System Accounting Office has developed a method of isolating and identifying grant and contract projects funded by the ARRA. All ARRA-funded project titles must begin with the acronym “ARRA”, and will be assigned project numbers with a range of “C700010” to “C701000” with the “C” representing the campus number.

As we await greater clarity on specific reporting, we are taking steps to understand and prepare for the additional assurances and compliance responsibilities associated with these awards based on what we *do* know. This involves working together with our sponsored programs and financial offices across the system to actively assess administrative practices necessary to support these reporting responsibilities and to develop the most efficient delivery mechanisms.

Current requirements include:

- Federally mandated quarterly ARRA reporting with quick turn-around times (i.e., within 10 days after the end of the quarter) including sub-recipient information;
- Reporting the estimated number of jobs created and jobs preserved;
- Timely expenditure of funds - expectation of a government response if funds are not being spent "fast enough";
- Obligation of funds by September 30, 2010;
- Close adherence to purpose of spending, and monitoring to ensure that fraud or waste does not occur;
- Draw-down of ARRA funds on an award-specific basis; and,
- Anticipated implications for the OMB Circular A-133 audit.

As federal agencies begin to release additional details on reporting requirements, System-Wide Services will utilize this site, as well as other internal communiqués, to share the most up-to-date information. In the meantime, as questions arise on campuses related to ARRA proposal submission and reporting requirements, please see your designated sponsored program contacts for guidance.

RESOURCES

- <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/recipient-reporting>
- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/recovery/webinartrainingmaterials/>
- http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/
- <http://federalreporting.gov>
- <http://www.recovery.gov>

- <http://www.maine.gov/recovery/>