

PANEL: “THERE’S MORE TO STIMULUS THAN BROADBAND: MAKING THE MOST OF OTHER STIMULUS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES”

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Moderator materials

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Federal guidelines for ARRA (stimulus) funding

The Federal Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) has issued numerous extensive guidelines to the federal agencies with respect to the receipt and handling of funds authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. OMB memos can be accessed at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery. I recommend that you take a look at these guidelines.

However, this memo gives a summary of information relevant to finding funding opportunities and managing the reporting requirements associated with these grants.

1. Sources of funding information

The federal agencies themselves will be in control of the available funding and will be posting information on their own individual agency websites as well as several other connected sites.

A. www.Recovery.Gov

Recovery.gov will be the major clearinghouse site for all basic information including major press announcements by the individual agencies and others, reports, state information, etc... It is important to note that Recovery.gov will NOT be the main site that contains specific grant and funding information.

In addition and to facilitate more transparency, each agency must establish a clearly marked and dedicated page on their existing website relating to ARRA with a link to www.Recovery.gov that will provide a single portal for all agency-specific information. Attached is the list of federal government websites by agency that will be in charge of posting their own grant and funding information.

B. Finding Opportunities

Federal agencies offer more than 1,000 grant programs and access to approximately \$400 billion in annual awards. You can search and apply for grants from 26 different federal agencies through the Grants.gov site. For grant opportunities related to the Recovery Act, use the [Find Recovery Act Opportunities](#) option on Grants.gov.

FedBizOpps.gov is the site for all federal government contracting opportunities that exceed

\$25,000. The site lists all major solicitations, contract awards, subcontracting opportunities, surplus property sales and foreign business opportunities. For actions related to funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, use the [Search Recovery Actions](#) option on [FedBizOpps.gov](#).

To reduce the burden of the extra volume resulting from the Recovery Act, select programs other than [Grants.gov](#) have been temporarily authorized to process grant applications. The following agencies will be accepting some or all applications: Corporation for National and Community Service; Department of Defense; Department of Education; Department of Energy; Department of Housing and Urban Development; Department of Justice; Department of Treasury; Department of Transportation; Department of Homeland Security; the National Science Foundation; Environmental Protection Agency; and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. If you apply for a grant through one of these agencies, the [Grants.gov](#) Contact Center will not be able to address questions or issues relating to the grant; you will need to contact the agency official specified in the grant.

If you're interested in finding loans or benefits that you might be eligible for, visit [GovLoans.gov](#). The site will help you determine the loans that may be right for you, and where to find more information about them. You can also visit [GovBenefits.gov](#), which has a screening tool to help you find government benefits that you may be eligible for, and how to apply for those programs.

A large portion of the Recovery Act funding is going to states, territories and tribes, which in turn are distributing funds through grants, contracts, subsidies, and loan programs. Be sure to check the list of [State Recovery sites](#) for a link to your state and its programs.

2. Tips for Applying for Funding

The OMB guidelines contain instructions for the agencies on what criteria are important when weighing applications for funding. Please keep the following criteria in mind when drafting your grant.

- Funds are awarded and distributed in a prompt, fair, and reasonable manner and through an open and very competitive process;
- The recipients and uses of all funds are transparent to the public, and the public benefits of these funds are reported clearly, accurately, and in a timely manner;
- Projects funded under this Act avoid unnecessary delays and cost overruns; and;
- Program goals are achieved, including specific program outcomes and improved results on broader economic indicators;
- Projects funded are low-risk in terms of the ability of the recipient to deliver results and meet the intent of ARRA;
- Any funding that involves a contract must be a fixed-price contract
- Always include an impact on number of conventional jobs impacted, saved or created;
- It is uncertain whether ARRA funds can/should be used to pay internal fixed costs associated with the project

3. Federal Reporting Requirements

The ARRA Act requires an unprecedented level of transparency and reporting by federal agencies as well as by recipients of funding. **Any prime recipient that receives ARRA funding directly from the federal government will have extensive reporting requirements.**

In addition, the agency may impose additional oversight requirements for grants such as mandatory field visits and/or repeated monitoring and priority audits of the funding.

NOTE: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE REQUIRED BY THE SINGLE AUDIT ACT TO HAVE AN ANNUAL AUDIT OF THEIR FEDERAL AWARDS EXCEEDING \$500,000.

A. www.FederalReporting.gov

This portal is the central government-wide data collection system for all Federal Agencies and Recipients of Federal awards under Section 1512 of the Recovery Act. Recipients will access FederalReporting.gov in order to fulfill their reporting obligations. Federal Agencies, Prime Recipients and Sub Recipients are required to submit data on a quarterly basis for grants, loans, and contracts under the Recovery Act. This Website provides a user-friendly mechanism for submitting required data.

Through FederalReporting.gov Recipients and Federal Agencies will have the ability to:

- Register for the site and manage their account(s)
- Submit reports
- View and comment on reports (if the user represents a Federal Agency or Prime Recipient)
- Update or correct reports when appropriate.

Only registered Federal Agency and Recipient users will be able to submit and/or review data through FederalReporting.gov.

The general public will be able to view reporting data beginning October 11, 2009, via www.Recovery.gov. Go to Recovery.gov to view reports and other Recovery Act information.

Registration for all Federal Agencies and Awardees (Prime Recipients and Sub Recipients) begins on Monday, August 17th. Each individual who will be submitting or reviewing reports on behalf of an Agency or a Recipient must register as a user.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY WEB SITES

Department of Agriculture (USDA)	www.usda.gov
Department of Commerce (DOC)	www.doc.gov
Department of the Interior (DOI)	www.doi.gov
Department of Labor (DOL)	www.dol.gov
Department of State (DOS)	www.dos.gov
Social Security Administration (SSA)	www.ssa.gov
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	www.va.gov
National Science Foundation (NSF)	www.nsf.gov
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	www.nea.gov
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	www.neh.gov
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)	www.imls.gov
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	www.epa.gov
Department of Transportation (DOT)	www.dot.gov
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	www.dhs.gov
Small Business Administration (SBA)	www.sba.gov
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	www.hhs.gov
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	www.nasa.gov
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	www.hud.gov
Department of Energy (DOE)	www.doe.gov
Department of Education (ED)	www.ed.gov
Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)	www.cncs.gov
Agency for International Development (USAID)	www.usaid.gov
Department of Defense (DOD)	www.dod.gov
Department of Justice (DOJ)	www.doj.gov
Department of Treasury (TREAS)	www.treas.gov
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	www.nara.gov