

Investing Federal Recovery Act Funds in Iowa



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October 30th Primer on the State of Iowa's Information on
www.recovery.gov

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Overview

Today the federal government will report the status of all national ARRA funding on www.recovery.gov. This primer is to provide a quick overview of some of the issues associated with Iowa's data posted on www.recovery.gov.

Federal Review Period

The federal government has conducted a review of Section 1512 data submitted by all ARRA funding recipients and requested edits to the data. As expected, this data reconciliation process has resulted in changes to the initial Iowa 1512 report. During the federal review period, the State received comments on almost 50 awards from federal agencies and made adjustments as appropriate.

Total Expenditures

The 1512 Report submitted from the State of Iowa represents a total expenditure of \$269 million in ARRA funds. Top expenditures were for highway capital projects at approximately \$119 million and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund - education (SFSF) at approximately \$88 million.

Jobs Created/Saved

The number of jobs created and saved through State ARRA expenditures was 4,379. As noted in the October 14 report, the number in the State 1512 data only reflects those jobs created or retained by funds that passed through state government. A link to provide more detail to the jobs created or saved with ARRA funding is posted at www.recovery.iowa.gov. The complete report on www.recovery.gov provides data collected from all recipients of ARRA funds in Iowa and will be different than the number referred to in this document.

Highway Capital Projects

There may be a comment placed on the Iowa Highway Capital Projects award (#N4510.705) that indicates that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was unable to verify the data in the report. The Coordinating Team understands that this comment was because the Iowa highway projects were "batched" as sub-recipients into one "prime" award. While this methodology was appropriate according to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, FHWA's Recovery Act Data System (RADS) was unable to identify the awards for verification. This issue also prohibited the State from reconciling the final number of jobs created and saved between the two systems. This issue will be resolved with FHWA so that the agency can verify the projects and remove the comment on the Iowa report. In the meantime, all highway projects

submitted from Iowa for this award can be found at <https://reporting.iowa.gov/default.aspx?cmd=default>. The individual projects can found by searching with award N4510.705 and clicking on sub-awards.

In addition to highway capital projects, all awards submitted to www.federalreporting.gov in the Iowa 1512 report can be searched in this manner.

“Late” Reporting Status

Many of Iowa’s reports to www.federalreporting.gov may be flagged as late. This is not an entirely accurate depiction of the timeliness of Iowa’s reports. Approximately 82% of Iowa’s “top level” reports were accepted by www.federalreporting.gov by the October 10 deadline. Others were rejected for submission for technical reasons, mostly due to inaccurate DUNS numbers (see detail below). A “grace” period was provided for recipients to submit awards until October 20. This additional time was used to submit those reports that were late, as well as to update information in other reports that had already been accepted. Unfortunately, updates were sometimes treated as new submissions and flagged as “late”.

Awards Not Available at www.recovery.gov

There were a small number of individual ARRA funding awards that www.federalreporting.gov would not accept due to inaccurate Dun and Bradstreet numbers (DUNS numbers). In some cases, these individual awards were submitted several times but were repeatedly rejected by www.federalreporting.gov and are listed as “Awards not Available”. This is a not a reflection on the validity of the award itself, but simply a reflection that the award recipient did not have a valid DUNS number at the time of submittal. The awards that could not be submitted to www.federalreporting.gov are available in a spreadsheet on www.recovery.iowa.gov.

The Iowa ARRA Coordinating Team will work with these recipients to ensure they have a valid DUNS number for the next 1512 report, due on January 10, 2010. In many cases, the Coordinating Team has already received a valid DUNS number. The delay in reporting these awards does not impair the overall data that will be available in the future at www.recovery.gov as all data is aggregated for each reporting period.

Future Reporting

Iowa has been working with our federal partners to reconcile the reporting of ARRA data. The process has been instructive and there are improvements that can be made at all levels. The State will utilize the time before the next report to provide additional training to ARRA sub-recipients in order to assure all data can be uploaded at both the state and federal level in a timely manner.

It is also expected that the federal government will scrutinize reporting requirements and guidelines in order to bring more consistency to reporting prior to the next report. To

assure data quality, the federal government will likely require several new data elements to be included in the next report. The State welcomes the opportunity to provide more data that will better reflect the impact of ARRA funding in the State. During this initial data collection and reporting process, the State required more data elements than will be reported to www.federalreporting.gov . Going forward, the State will utilize this data to provide a more in-depth view of the types of jobs created and saved and in what timeframe those jobs were “paid for” by ARRA funding.