

ARRA “Stimulus” Weekly Update, April 3, 2009

I. Reporting

Weekly Submissions. Information on ARRA-related proposals, preliminary notices of award or actual awards should be submitted to Sarah Smith, with a copy to Courtney Thornton, on a weekly basis by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday. The submission time coincides with the time frame for submitting materials to be discussed at the UNC-GA Council meeting on Monday mornings.

North Carolina ARRA Directive #1. The State Budget Director, State Controller and Economic Recovery & Investment Office Director issued NC/ARRA Directive #1 on March 30, 2009. The directive was sent to all agency heads, chancellors of the universities and agency and university chief financial officers. More information on state reporting requirements will be provided in the near future.

NC OpenBook. Governor Perdue has launched the NC OpenBook site in an effort to bring greater accountability and transparency to state government. Data is currently limited to direct grants to non-state entities. Future enhancements include adding information for grants to local governments, other state agencies and higher education systems. It is anticipated ARRA funded projects would also be listed at this site as well. <http://www.ncopenbook.gov/>

II. Stimulus Resources

Resource Guide. Senator Kay Hagan’s office has published the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009, Resource Guide* for North Carolina. Following is the URL: http://research.unc.edu/recovery/docs/Hagan_ARRA_Resource_Guide_for_NC.pdf

ECU Efforts. ECU has created stimulus site that features an updated list of funding opportunities and other important notices. Following is the URL: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/rgs/Stimulus-Act-Funding-Information.cfm>

Huron Consulting. Huron Consulting has compiled ARRA information under a dedicated site “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Research Operations.” Several briefing documents are available under the “News, Press and Resources” section in the lower right hand portion of the page. Following is the URL: <http://www.huronconsultinggroup.com/category.aspx?categoryId=1663>

III. Agency Activity

HHS has established the Office of Recovery Act Coordination. This office will ensure the Act's requirements and OMB's guidance are followed. Responsibilities include: 1) making sure that reporting due dates are met, 2) maintaining a repository of official HHS ARRA information, 3) establishing and tracking performance outcomes and mitigating risks, and 4) keeping the public constantly informed through the web and other means of communication. Following is the URL: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/contacts/>

The National Science Foundation has published a set of ARRA Frequently asked questions. Following is the URL: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09038/nsf09038.jsp>

The Office of Management and Budget is due to post more detailed and summary guidance for ARRA funds. The guidance is to be produced no later than April 16, 2009. Following is the URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) has been tasked with a range of responsibilities to help promote accountability and transparency and ensure the ARRA funds are used as specified. Responsibilities include conducting bimonthly reviews of how funds are used by selected states and localities (North Carolina has been selected for additional monitoring) and commenting on reports filed by fund recipients. The GAO will review quarterly reports filed by fund recipients, and in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office, comment on the reports' estimates of the number of jobs created and retained by projects or activities support by ARRA funds. GAO comments are due 45 days after the recipient report due date (10 days after the end of each calendar quarter). The first comments are due on August 25, 2009. The agency's oversight activities will be posted to the following website: <http://www.gao.gov/recovery/index.html>

The launch date for the updated Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance website has been pushed back to April 21, 2009. Once re-launched, the site will provide a searchable database for all CFDA numbers, including ARRA-specific numbers. Following is the URL: <http://www.cfda.gov/>