ARRA "Stimulus" Weekly Update, March 20, 2009

Updates on State Reporting

Jim Newlin has been appointed Deputy Director of the North Carolina Office of Economic Recovery and Investment. Mr. Newlin has reviewed the UNC System plan for weekly communication of the ARRA-funded grant activity and believes the plan will meet their reporting needs with one exception. His office is developing a mechanism so UNC can also submit the quarterly agency-specific progress reports required under ARRA to the NC Recovery office. His office will not duplicate the submission to the agency, but will consolidate all ARRA-related projects for reporting to the Governor and the public through the NC Recovery website. UNC-GA will collect all weekly and quarterly reports for the System and submit them to the NC Recovery office. More information will be shared as soon as it is available.

The SPARC database has been updated to specifically identify any proposals or awards associated with ARRA-stimulus funds. On the first screen for proposal entry a stimulus check box has been added as well as a drop down menu for the UNC Tomorrow categories. For the purposes of internal reporting here at UNC-GA we've been asked to identify ARRA-funded proposals and awards with the corresponding UNC Tomorrow category. The RAMSeS system is to be updated with a stimulus flag as well. Ideally, the necessary reports of proposal and award activity can be created centrally using data extracts from SPARC and RAMSeS.

Update on Resources

UNC Chapel Hill has developed a good website with daily reports from various sources.

Go to: http://research.unc.edu/recovery/

Updates on Agency Activity

NSF issued Important Notice #131 on March 18^{th.} http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in131.pdf

Sign up for HHS Recovery email updates https://service.govdelivery.com/service/multi_subscribe.html?code=USHHS&custom_id=1301

NIH issued the following notices about Recovery Act supplements on Wednesday:

- 1) NIH Announces the Availability of Recovery Act Funds for Administrative Supplements http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-056.html
- 2) NIH Announces the Availability of Recovery Act Funds for Competitive Revision Applications http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-058.html>
- 3) NIH Announces the Availability of Recovery Act Funds for Administrative Supplements Providing Summer Research Experiences for Students and Science Educators http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-060.html>

Also, with the enactment of the final fiscal year 2009 appropriations bill, NIH on Wednesday issued its fiscal policy for FY 2009 awards.

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-066.html

Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board Announces Membership

The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to coordinate and conduct oversight of funds distributed under this law in order to prevent fraud, waste and abuse. The Board includes a Chairman, Earl E. Devaney, appointed by the President, and ten Inspectors General specified by the Act. The Board has a series of functions and powers to assist it in the mission of providing oversight and promoting transparency regarding expenditure of funds at all levels of government. Quarterly and annual reports on the use of Recovery Act funds and any oversight matters will be issued as part of the Board's work. The Board may also make recommendations to agencies on measures to avoid problems and prevent fraud, waste and abuse. To address issues quickly, the Board may send Flash reports to the President and Congress on potential management and funding problems that require immediate attention. The Board is also charged under the Act with establishing and maintaining a user friendly website, Recovery.gov, to foster greater accountability and transparency in the use of covered funds.

Go to the following URL to see the full Board membership: http://www.recovery.gov/?q=node/258