

COGR is closely monitoring all ARRA-related announcements and information from all Federal entities. As appropriate, we are in direct communication with Federal officials to get first-hand updates. The following is worth noting:

1. OMB ARRA Website. The OMB site can be accessed at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/

The most up-to-date guidance is OMB Memorandum M-09-21, released on June 22nd. COGR has raised questions related to this document in a letter we sent to OMB on July 17th. See: <http://cogr.edu/docs/ARRAReports.doc>

In light of the many outstanding questions on Reporting requirements, the June 22 OMB Guidance leaves a number of unanswered questions. Our understanding is that OMB will release an FAQ anytime within the next one to two weeks.

2. OMB Webinars, July 20-23. The PPT and audio files for the ARRA Webinars are available at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/recovery/webinartrainingmaterials/>

There are several useful discussions from the Webinars, though clearly not all questions were answered. We expect that the OMB FAQ referenced above will address many of the unanswered questions.

3. AUGUST 17; Registration Date for FederalReporting.gov. This new registration date was announced during the OMB Webinars. The previous registration date was August 26. OMB advised that institutions should not delay in registering. On a related note, COGR previously extended an offer to OMB (on behalf of the COGR membership) to be involved with FederalReporting.gov pilot testing. Many of you have approached us indicating your institution would be interested in participating in the testing. We are still in contact with OMB to see if participation is feasible, and will keep you posted.

4. Funding Opportunities Webinars and Links on Grants.gov. HHS will host on behalf of Grants.gov a Webinar series on August 12, 13, 18 and 20. The Webinar sessions are targeted towards potential grant applicants and the topics will include: Introduction to Grants.gov and the Recovery Act, Finding Recovery Act Opportunities and Registration to Submit Recovery Act Opportunities. Each Webinar session will include time for questions and answers. All Webinars will be recorded and made available to view on Grants.gov after each series is completed. More details for registration can be found Grants.gov in the new Recovery Act feature on the homepage.

5. A-133 Compliance Supplement Addendum; ARRA and A-133 Audit Plan Updates. We are in contact with OMB on the status of this anticipated Addendum and understand it will be available soon.

6. NIH ARRA Website. This site has been recently updated and is a useful resource. The NIH site can be accessed at:

http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/recipient_reporting.html

It includes links to NIH notices and FAQs specific to ARRA. Note, however, many of the Reporting questions that you are asking are not answered. Ultimately, these questions should be answered by OMB in the OMB FAQ.

7. NSF ARRA Website. The NSF site can be accessed at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09038/nsf09038.jsp#watqrr>

Once again, many of the core Reporting questions are not answered; these questions should be answered by OMB in the OMB FAQ.

8. COGR - FDP FAQ. We are working with the FDP to make available a comprehensive FAQ resource that will address many of the Reporting and other issues related to ARRA. The FAQ will be a "living document" and we hope to make available an initial version sometime in the next one to two weeks. We are paying close attention to the anticipated release of the OMB FAQ; the timing of the OMB FAQ may impact when we release the COGR - FDP FAQ.

This is a fluid environment and we will continue to provide the most up-to-date information and insights to the

COGR membership.
David Kennedy
Director, Costing Policy
Council on Governmental Relations, COGR
1200 New York Ave. NW, #750
Washington, DC 20005
202.289.6655, Ext. 12
dkennedy@cogr.edu