

The Office of Management and Budget has just released updated ARRA guidance concerning jobs counting and data quality. The guidance can be accessed at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-08.pdf

The guidance makes two very important changes concerning jobs calculation:

1. Simplification of jobs calculation: Total (Quarter 2) hours worked in jobs funded by ARRA divided by total (Quarter 2) hours in a full-time schedule (520) for the quarter.
2. Quarterly not cumulative - Jobs are to be reported on a quarterly basis not cumulative. (Keep in mind other 1512 reporting such as for expenditure data will still be done on a cumulative basis.)

Additionally, the guidance provides more detailed information for federal agencies in the area of data quality reviews. While this information is directed at federal agencies, you may wish to carefully review this information and incorporate some of the recommendations/requirements into your own data quality review plans.

3. Please note that the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (RATB) is allowing an additional 5 days for reporting due to the shortened reporting period as a result of the holidays and weekend. So... while the hard deadline for reporting is still January 10th, recipients will be allowed to report until January 15th without having their reports flagged as late. Reports made after the 15th will be considered late and flagged as late. www.federalreporting.gov < <http://www.federalreporting.gov> > Also note that the batch reporting option is available however only to one department/office in the state. In centralized state, that is generally the Recovery lead designated by the Governor.

Finally, RATB has announced several enhancements to Federalreporting.gov. They include:

1. COPY FORWARD

* Returning Reporters have the option to copy a draft or submitted report from the previous quarter using the "Copy Forward" button. Copy report from the previous quarter to the current quarter or copy report within current quarter.

* Recipients have the option to copy an existing draft or submitted report within the current quarter using the "Copy" button.

2. FRPIN The FederalReporting PIN will be emailed to the recipient's inbox as well as the recipient's email address.

3. EDIT CHECKS

* Certain fields will generate an Error Message when incorrect information is input and unless corrected the recipient will not be able to continue reporting.

For Example: The recipient's Congressional District must match the zip code + 4.

The Project Status cannot be noted as fully completed if the total Recovery funds received/invoiced equals Zero.

* Certain fields will generate an Alert Message if questionable information is input.

For Example: The amount of award and total Recovery funds received/invoiced is \$500,000 or more, but the number of jobs created is less than 1.