



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

KEVIN J. UPCHURCH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: State Agency Executive Directors
State Agency Accounting Directors
Stimulus Group

FROM: J.J. Dunn,
DFA/MMRS, Chief Systems Information Officer

DATE: July 9, 2010

SUBJECT: US Department of Education SFSF Job Guidance Memo

To all SFSF Reporting leads,

The OMB job guidance released December 18, 2009 defines a funded job as one in which the wages or salaries are either paid for or will be reimbursed with Recovery Act funding. Based on this guidance, a job that is paid initially with non-Recovery Act dollars may be reported as created or retained as long as such dollars eventually will be reimbursed with Recovery Act funds for the jobs being reported.

Over the past few months, the US Department of Education has received questions on how this guidance applies to the anticipated release of Phase II SFSF funds. In response, Education states that until Phase II SFSF funds are officially awarded, States cannot report on the job impact even, if they planned to use Phase II SFSF funds to retroactively cover jobs in that quarter. This is because until the funds are officially awarded, there is technically nothing to report on because the State has not received the funds.

As States receive their Phase II SFSF funds, many have asked questions regarding the calculation of FTEs for jobs that were saved in previous quarters in anticipation of Phase II SFSF funds, but paid for this quarter when the Phase II SFSF funds were received. Over the past few months Education has issued guidance on this issue. The guidance was developed within Education and confirmed by OMB.

Recently, Education was notified by the Recovery, Accountability, and Transparency Board of a change in the interpretation of the guidance. Based on this new interpretation, jobs that were created or saved in prior quarters and paid for with funds this quarter should not be reported this quarter. Only jobs funded (see definition of funded in first sentence of the opening paragraph) during the current quarter should be reported.

Consistent with the December 18, 2009 guidance released by OMB, OMB is working to establish a process for making changes and corrections to previous quarter reports. It is through this corrections process that you will update previous quarter reports with the jobs that were applied back to that quarter. The State and its sub-recipients should keep track of any changes that need to be made to the job numbers and any corrections that need to be made to any other areas of previous quarter reports. Once OMB has finalized the details of this process, the information will be passed along to you.



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On another note, we would like to remind all recipients that hours worked by vendors should be included in quarterly FTE calculations. The new job guidance released December 18, 2009 does not preclude vendors.

Please remember that the deadline to report for this quarter is Wednesday, July 14. We encourage you to allow for a few extra days before the 14th in case you experience any technical difficulties.

Thank you for your hard work. We truly appreciate your efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact the MMRS Call Center at 601-359-1343 or via email at mash@dfa.state.ms.us.