

### **Recovery Section Questions**

**Q: You mentioned twice that recipients are required to actively ask for information and data to report back to the Federal Government through the 1512 reporting. Going forward, to ease the reporting burdens on the information that you have, will you be able to transmit that information proactively so that recipients do not have to request it from you in order to report it back?**

A: Yes we have been talking about that and OMB has requested that the Agencies supply the basic data to the Recipients, like the TAS codes, the funding agency codes, the awarding agency codes, data that is not clear on their award documents. I think, probably not for this time period, but we are looking forward to some way that that can be presented to the Recipients so that they don't have to ask for it.

**Q: If a recipient has received an award, but has not received any funding, do they still have to report?**

A: Yes, they still need to report. If they have the award document, they can enter the federal amount of the award.

**Q: States have concerns about how to validate the information in the CCR. Is there a way that CCR can provide a report to States containing all State related data, such as contact information, DUNS numbers, Agencies titles, etc.? There seems to continue to be a problem when we have new recipients reporting, or attempting to register in the system.**

A: This question has been submitted to the General Services Administration (GSA), Office of Acquisition Systems to ascertain if some type of report or download would be available for the States to verify data in the CCR. An answer will be posted as soon as one is received.

New recipients should get a DUNS number first from Dunn and Bradstreet. The easiest is to apply for one at [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com). On the D&B website, registrants should select in blue area in the upper part of the screen "D&B D-U-N-S Number." This will take registrants to the next screen that has information about the DUNS Number. Select the area: "For US contractors, Vendors and Grant Recipients. Follow the instructions.

For CCR registration, registrants will need their DUNS Number to complete the CCR registration. If there are questions, the CCR has a User's Guide on its website.

Tip: Verify the DUNS number is associated with the organization's right address and what will be used in the CCR registration.

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Prior to registering in CCR, registrants can review the User's Guide that is found on the CCR website: [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov).

**Q: Since our award was received later than anticipated (09/16/2009), is there any possibility to allow us to push back the original start and end dates of the project?**

A: This is a policy questions that should be answered by the agency contact that is on the award document or the grants officer of the agency. Contact the agency for advice.

**Q: Is there any central repository of data for all of the information on these grants so that some of these forms can be auto populated, either by the agency or your organization, with information that stakeholders have already submitted?**

A: We are looking into a process called 'copy forward'. Using this process, the data that the person has already entered into the system will be displayed to them so that they only have to change new data, such as the expended amounts, amount received, etc.

**Q: One of the problems with the federalreporting.gov website is when it 'times out' after 30-45 seconds, could they increase the amount of time that people have to input the data so we don't run into that kind of problem?**

A: It is my understanding that FederalReporting.gov has lengthened the time available to input data and it should be available for data input for at least a half an hour before timing out. To reduce chances of timing out, gather all the pertinent documents and data needed for reporting prior to logging on to FederalReporting.gov. Also, try to input data before the last reporting day. The number of users trying to log onto the system may cause delays.

**Q: Fed Connect has not been notifying grantees when they receive awards, and it has become a problem for the pay system at DOE. For example, one month after an award was given to our city, I accidentally discovered that we had been awarded a grant. Is there a way to modify the processes and procedures of Fed Connect and the other entities that are informing us so that this is no longer a problem?**

A: Recipients that are having problems with notification of awards should contact the agency to which they submitted a proposal and check agency websites for award postings. Federal funding opportunities have closing dates and recipients should maintain some contact with the awarding agency to determine when an award notification would be made.

**Q: At what point do we report the overtime earned by our deputies? We pay our overtime a month after it is earned and have all the payroll reports in the month it is paid and I would not be able to report it in the month it is earned because I would not have the reports. Is that acceptable to report it a month after it is earned?**

A: This question should be submitted or asked of the awarding agency.

**Q: You mentioned new reporting guidelines and other tools that will help grantees get through some of the improvements that are being made, do you have a date set when the reporting documents will be made available for grantees and other interested parties?**

A: My understanding is that the revised guidance, for jobs in particular, will be out this week. This document will highlight the process for recipients to calculate how many jobs have been created or saved at their organization. Grantees can go to Federal Reporting right now to view the data that they will have to report. It is encouraged that recipients visit the site, especially new recipients and recipients that are going to be modifying their reports this reporting period.

**Q: Did agencies have problems with search option? Staff at my agency would like to see the search be simplified so we can search by region of our multi-region agency or even by State so we don't have to weed through all of the projects under our agency code.**

A: Agencies receive extracts of their data and each agency is responsible for how they look at their data.

**Q: With the condensed five day time period because of the holiday, will RATB offer the late grace period like the October reporting period? When will the decision be made?**

A: We are aware of that and will take it into consideration. We don't have a timeline on when the decision would be made whether there will be a late grace period or not.

### **GAO Section Questions**

**Q: I know that you have the bi-monthly reviews as far the recipient reporting report, but what is your specific timeline looking ahead? I know in that first report you were kind of**

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**condensed in the amount of time you had to turn it around based on that first reporting period.**

A: We have to report every quarter and the reporting timeframe for the forthcoming report will be more constrained than the previous because of the amount of time the recipients need to complete their reports. Our timeframe is constrained by the recipient's timeframe because we do not like to ask questions while they are reporting. But what may happen over time is that, even though we report every two months, there is flexibility about when we can start that effort. As time goes on, we will try to start earlier and give our State teams a little bit more time to spend with recipients in the States. We do plan to extend our program coverage.

**Q: One of the problems with Fed Reporting is when it 'times out' after 30 -45 seconds, could they increase the amount of time that people can input the data so we don't run into that kind of problem?**

A: We have heard about this problem, and are addressing it. The IT specialists at RATB will work on increasing that time allotted.

### **OMB Questions**

**Q: ARRA has put many burdens on agencies to provide OMB more data and to respond and develop new reporting systems. To what extent is OMB finding staff limitations on their own part, hindering their ability to respond? To what extent have they delegated all the work out to GPC and what effect does that have on OMB oversight of the process? Do you have a sense of whether the OMB ARRA guidance policies are being held up because they are being 'farmed out'?**

A: There is a strong commitment in OMB towards implementing the Recovery Act. There is a Recovery branch of OMB that is focused on reporting issues. There have been more resources added to this effort to work with Agencies. In addition, each Agency has a Senior Accountability Official. There are other mechanisms that have allowed OMB to partner with Agencies and the Recovery Board. We see it more as a partnership because it is an unprecedented effort. In terms of resources, everyone always wants more resources. We are getting more accustomed to the way everything is progressing and we are making improvements.

### **End Section**

**Q: The GPC Implementation Plan dated November 13, 2008 states that this plan will be revisited annually. Has the progress been updated or are there any new initiatives planned by the GPC?**

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A: The departure of the GPC chair is most likely going to slow down this review process. We will try to release a more detailed timeline and further information as soon as possible.