

Florida Department of Education

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Date: September 1, 2010

Department of Education Inspector General staff have worked closely with staff in the Division of Finance and Operations to provide quality assurance assistance during the implementation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Quality assurance tasks for the initial reporting period included:

- Attending various program meetings to discuss the implementation of ARRA funding.
- Meeting with program staff to assess their understanding of the required data elements and data quality requirements for 1512 reporting.
- Mapping data collection system in cooperation with ARRA reporting team and IT programmer to identify areas for confirmation.
- Sampling grant award notifications and compared with static ARRA reporting data regarding award amounts and dates and sub-recipient addresses.
- Validating sub-recipient DUNS numbers, addresses, and postal codes to the CCR (Central Contractor Registration) Web site.
- Validating congressional districts to the Congress.org Web site.
- Comparing grant award and disbursement data in DOE financial system to ARRA reporting.
- Consulting with the Division of Finance and Operations on developing a grant program monitoring plan.

We subsequently issued reports on our comparison of sub-recipient jobs and expenditure data reported to the state website with the DOE data collection system, survey of sub-recipients to determine methodology for and documentation supporting computation of jobs created and retained, and visits to sub-recipients to review supporting documentation for reported data.

Reports issued:

(These reports may be viewed on the DOE-OIG website: [Office of Inspector General Internal Audit](#))

1. Preliminary Assessment of Departmental Readiness for Recovery Act Funding, issued November 2009. The objective of the review was to provide a preliminary assessment of the Department's internal controls which address accountability and transparency requirements of the Recovery Act. Findings:

- The Department has internal controls and practices in place or planned to ensure the accountability of grants and contracts and adherence to state and federal laws and regulations.
- Management action is needed to develop or strengthen controls involving Recovery Act reporting activities.
 - Create a Web based system to facilitate sub recipient reporting

- Establish access controls over reporting systems
- Prepare a protocol(s) for systematic review of submitted information
- Develop a process to resolve or correct errors discovered in reported data
- Prepare written procedures for reporting system processes
- Department monitoring of large federal grant programs has improved recently; additional efforts are underway to further strengthen these practices.
- Some sub recipients of state fiscal stabilization funds lack experience in managing federally funded programs; e.g. private non-profits.
- Program management needs to develop more comprehensive risk profiles for sub recipients in accordance with OMB Memorandum M-09-15 issued April 3, 2009.

2. ARRA Data Quality Review, issued December 2009. We reviewed methodologies used by ARRA grant sub recipients to calculate the number of full-time equivalent jobs saved, created and continued. Findings:

- Questionable entries were noted in jobs data reported by a sample of sub recipients.
- Sub recipients may need additional guidance and training in computing and reporting jobs data to ensure this data is accurate.
- In our sample of sub recipients, a good audit trail for ARRA reported data is not present.

3. Sub-Recipient Reporting of ARRA Data, issued July 2010. The objective of the review was to determine whether sub-recipients are accurately reporting ARRA expenditures and jobs data.

In a sample of school districts reviewed, we found minor errors in the number of jobs reported; and lack of supporting documentation for immaterial amounts of expenditures.

Current Work

We have visited additional sub-recipients to validate reported data and will issue a report when our review is complete.