

PUBLIC SECTOR

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



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In February 2009, the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law to address the economic crisis in the United States. Monies were allocated for a variety of areas, including clean, efficient energy; 21st Century education; healthcare modernization; science and technology; roads, bridges, transit and waterways; and more.

Goals of the bill were threefold:

- 1) Create/save jobs
- 2) Spur economic activity and invest in long-term economic growth
- 3) Foster accountability and transparency for government spending

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS

The ARRA requires fund recipients to report quarterly on the dollars spent, the status of projects, jobs created/saved, and a host of other details, so results are transparent and can be made available to the American public on the Recovery.gov Web site.

This means adherence to strict reporting guidelines for governmental agencies and organizations that receive funds from federal and state agencies. Reporting requirements for program funding are potentially more onerous, depending upon the program and the specific agency/governmental body.

EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

With the potential for erosion of public confidence, loss of business, penalties and prosecution resulting from noncompliance or reporting errors, public sector experience and expertise in delivering high-value project management, fiscal monitoring and accounting and auditing services is critical.

Jefferson Wells has an extensive history working with high-profile, public sector clients. That experience ensures our professionals will make an immediate impact on projects and reduce the overall project risk.

ARRA CASE STUDIES

HITECH Act Funds

In June 2009, our professionals were engaged to provide a nonprofit, health information exchange with a comprehensive solution for monitoring and reporting on ARRA Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act) funds.

We evaluated and assessed the current Office of Management and Budget reporting guidance requirements. Our professionals documented the organization's financial reporting system's current functionality to determine its ability to accumulate and store ARRA financial data, perform the necessary ARRA calculations and function as a sustainable reporting tool. We developed a reporting process based on our assessments and evaluation.

Jefferson Wells delivers professional services in the areas of risk advisory, tax, and finance and accounting. We serve clients, including Fortune 500 and Global 1000 companies, through highly experienced professionals working from offices worldwide.

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Our client received a written summary of all applicable reporting guidance, a written system assessment and a documented reporting process, enabling it to more easily comply with the reporting requirements.

Department of a State Government

In July 2009, we were engaged by a state government's Department of Administration to provide tools to assess sub-recipients qualifications as good stewards for future grants and the ability to comply with ARRA and other federal requirements. First, we performed a risk assessment of the assigned state agencies/organizations to ensure they had proper processes and procedures in place to handle the ARRA requirements and properly manage Recovery Act funding. After the risks were identified and shared with the Department of Administration, we examined the grant compliance monitoring process to ensure the agencies/organizations were

in compliance with the key grant, OMB, and ARRA requirements and guidelines. This phase ensured the funds were properly received, recorded, disbursed and recorded.

Our client was provided with a set of deliverables for each assigned agency/organization, which included the final risk assessment and audit report, fraud questionnaire, and documented control evidence, consisting of supporting documents from the walkthrough and testing process.

State of Wisconsin

In a press release issued by the State of Wisconsin, Jefferson Wells was named to help track the recovery funds dispersed to a number of state agencies and local governments for various purposes, including infrastructure and energy projects and individual and business tax reductions, as a few examples.