

## What is Known Today

The intent of the bill is to get the funds working in the economy as quickly as possible therefore in many cases ARRA funds are to be obligated by September 30, 2010. Agencies have not yet provided guidance on allowability of cost extensions. Some agencies have limited extensions on slowing down the spending deadline requirements.

- Agencies are required to have their Agency Recovery Plan in place no later than May 1, 2009.
- Reporting requirements, both fiscal and programmatic, will be at an unprecedented level. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) document on the main page provides guidance to the agencies on reporting. Agencies have not yet flowed requirements down to recipients. Both PIs and universities will have additional reporting requirements, and we can expect mandatory quarterly reports for progress, job creating, and spending
- Some agencies recommend that researchers call their program contacts at the agencies if they have a proposal that was not funded, had a relatively high score and fits within the purpose of ARRA, or if they think a supplement is possible.
- Job creation and contribution to economic recovery are critical components for determining if a research program is appropriate for funding. We can expect that the Principle Investigators will need to report on both aspects.
- Agencies must provide weekly updates to the ARRA Commission established to oversee implementation, which is led by Vice President Joe Biden.
- Extensive audit requirements are built in to the OMB guidance.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act identifies very specific research areas for funding, which will also be outlined on the agency web sites.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and perhaps other agencies, will fund all monies up front and allow 5 years to build/renovate buildings. They intend to pull proposals from the previous submission for infrastructure and have one additional round of submissions.
- NIH has advised potential Stimulus funds awardees that a previously submitted RO1 with a modular budget, will require a full and complete budget prior to awarding.
- Funds will be distributed through contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, and loans and loan guarantees.
- Many researchers at Universities have already been contacted by sponsoring agencies about getting a proposal updated for consideration.
- There is no language in the Act or the OMB guidance regarding use for international collaboration or spending internationally or on hiring individual here on a visa from a foreign country. Future clarification on this issue is expected. NIH Program and Grants Officers have indicated that limited funds can be used for foreign collaborations. If funds over \$25,000 or 10% of the budget are requested for travel or collaboration with a foreign researcher, a specific request for a variance must be requested. The rationale was that the funds are to stimulate jobs creation and economic enhancement in the US. See [NIH News Release](#)