

May 5, 2009

**NACo to work with OMB to discuss guidelines regarding disbursement of ARRA money**

The National Association of Counties announced that it will be part of a group working on data reporting scheduled to meet with representatives from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The two organizations will discuss guidelines regarding disbursement and spending of ARRA money.

Under data reporting the group will discuss and determine roles and responsibilities of state and local officials for reporting. OMB will seek state and local input on the reporting solution.

OMB presented a set of schedules and some general guidelines that will be used during the implementation and reporting of activities as funds are disbursed and spent. OMB reported that currently \$75 billion has been obligated under ARRA, \$14 billion disbursed under Federal Medical Assistance percentage (FMAP) and 70 percent of funds are on schedule to be disbursed by the summer of 2010.

A recovery schedule of important dates and timelines was released and includes a goal to set guidelines for Administrative Cost Recovery and a Job Counting Guidance by May 11, a Single Audit Compliance Supplement by May 15, Data Reporting Guidance by June 6 and an Addendum to Compliance Supplement by June 30. A preliminary reporting deadline on how funds have spent is proposed for July 31 with a Live Reporting Date set for Oct. 10.

The issue of administrative cost recovery is currently being debated with legislation introduced by Rep. Ed Towns (D-NY) and the General Accounting office (GAO) reporting a need to provide assistance to state and local governments to assist in reporting.

There are many questions coming from all sectors about implementing ARRA. The topics mentioned above and the subsequent federal guidelines will likely produce more queries. The schedules and timelines identified demonstrate the urgency of federal officials in getting the funds out quickly while ensuring that spending is appropriate and reported.