

# ARRA Logo



Recovery Act Provisions

09-06, Contracting with Recovery Act Funds

<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/regs/pic09-06.html>

## Whistleblower Protection under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, P.L. 111-5)

- The recent stimulus act provides protection for state and local government employees and contractor employees who disclose information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of ...
  - A gross mismanagement of an agency contract or grant relating to covered funds,
  - A gross waste of covered funds,
  - A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety related to the implementation or use of covered funds,
  - An abuse of authority related to the implementation or use of covered funds, or
  - A violation of law, rule, or regulation related to an agency contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant, awarded or issued relating to covered funds

# Agency Response

- Not later than 30 days after receiving the IG report, the head of the agency shall conclude whether the non-Federal employer subjected the complainant to a prohibited reprisal or not and shall issue an order denying relief in whole or in part or shall take one of the listed actions.



# Possible Agency Ordered Remedial Actions

- Order the employer to take affirmative action to abate the reprisal.
- Order the employer to reinstate the person to the position that the person held before the reprisal, together with the compensation (including back pay), compensatory damages, employment benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment that would apply to the person if the reprisal had not been taken.
- Order the employer to pay the complainant an amount equal to the aggregate amount of all costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) that were reasonably incurred by the complainant for, or in connection with bringing the complaint regarding the reprisal.

# Civil Actions

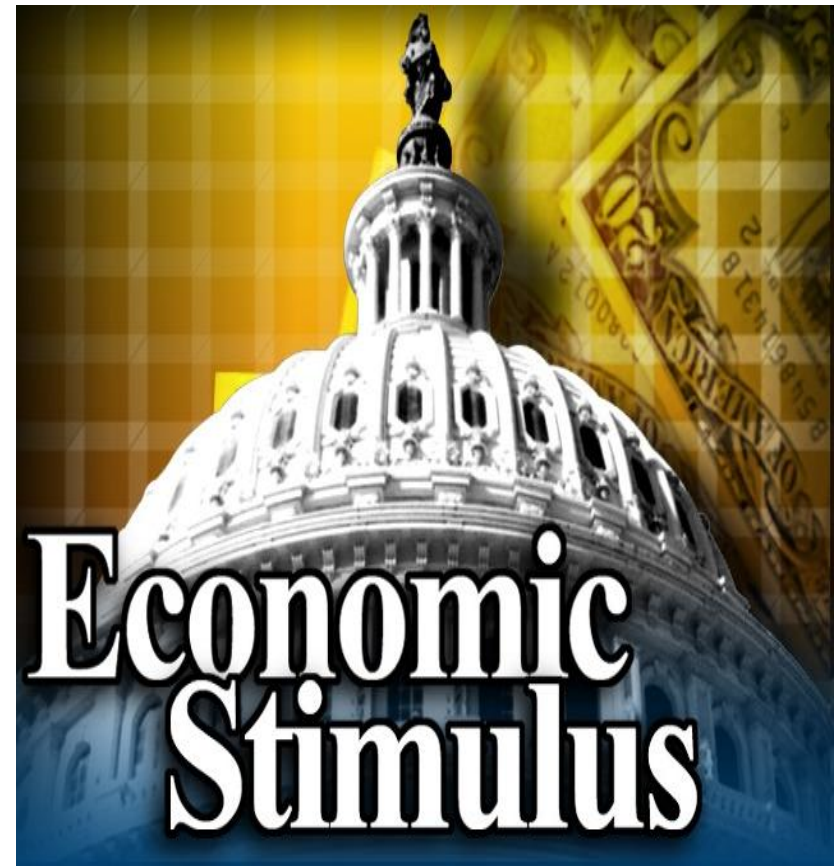
- The complainant may bring a de novo action at law or equity against the employer to seek compensatory damages and other relief available under this section in the appropriate United States district court when all administrative remedies are exhausted.

# Additional OIG Provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- Inspector General Reviews – The IG is required to review, as appropriate, any concerns raised by the public about specific investments using funds made available in this Act.
- OIG Access to Records and Employees – Any representative of an OIG is authorized to examine records or interview any officer or employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee related to a contract or grant awarded using covered funds.

# Creation of the Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency (RAT) Board

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) created the Board.
- The Board is appropriated \$84,000,000 to carry out the provisions of the Act.
- The Board was created to coordinate and conduct oversight of covered funds to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.



# Composition of the Board

- Chairperson of the Board – Earl Devaney (former Inspector General of the Department of the Interior)
- Members of the Board – The Inspectors General of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Justice, Transportation, Treasury, and TIGTA



# Board Interaction with the OIG

- The Board is directed to conduct audits and reviews of spending of covered funds and coordinate on such activities with the IGs of the relevant agency to avoid duplication and overlap of work.
- The Board can request that an IG conduct or refrain from conducting an audit or investigation. The IG can reject the request in whole or in part, but must submit a report within 30 days to the Board, the head of the agency, and the congressional committees of jurisdiction stating the reasons why the IG rejected the request.

# Board Website

- The Act required the Board to establish and maintain a user-friendly, public-facing website to foster greater accountability and transparency in the use of covered funds.
- Website currently exists at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)

# Recovery.gov

THURSDAY, MARCH 05, 2009



RECOVERY.GOV

Sign up for updates:

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ZIP

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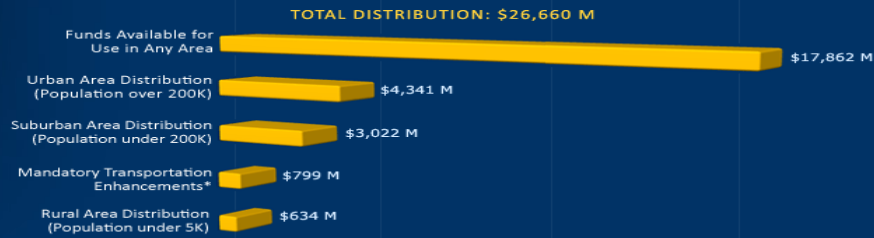
SEARCH

## REBUILDING AMERICA

On Tuesday, March 3, 2009, President Obama and Transportation Secretary LaHood announced the release of \$27 billion in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help states create a 21st century infrastructure. Learn more about where your taxpayer dollars are going.

MORE INFO >

### Estimated Distribution of Highway Infrastructure Funds



\* 'Enhancement' is a legally defined term for projects such as sidewalk repairs, bicycle paths, and beautification projects. Enhancements do not involve vehicle or mass transit related items.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

### Welcome to Recovery.gov



[privacy policy](#) | [download .mp4](#) | [also available here](#)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be carried out with full transparency and accountability -- and Recovery.gov is the centerpiece of that effort. In a short video, President Obama describes the site and talks about how you'll be able to track the Recovery Act's progress every step of the way.

### On Our Way: Read the Bill

The President recently signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law. [Read the full bill here.](#)

### Timeline - Milestones at a Glance

### Featured News

Monday, March 2, 2009

[President Obama Announces the Release of \\$155 million of ARRA Funds for Health Centers Across America](#)

Friday, February 27, 2009

[Secretaries Donovan and Chu Announce Partnership to Help Working Families Weatherize Their Homes](#)

Thursday, February 26, 2009

[U.S. Department of Labor announces boost in weekly unemployment benefit amounts](#)

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

[HUD Allocates More Than \\$10 Billion of Recovery Act Funding One Week After Bill Signing](#)

Monday, February 23, 2009

[President Obama Announces \\$15 Billion in Medicaid Relief from ARRA Headed To States](#)

[More News >](#)

### Accountability and Transparency

This is your money. You have a right to know where it's going and how it's being spent. Learn what steps we're taking to ensure you can track our progress every step of the way.

### Share your Recovery Story

Tell us how the Recovery Act is affecting you. What's working? What isn't? We want to hear from you.

### State Progress and Resources

Curious about the recovery progress in your state? Learn more about statewide recovery efforts here.

### Agency Recovery Sites

We're bringing transparency and accountability to all areas of government. Learn about Recovery investments and grant programs at government agencies and departments.