



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Health Professions Programs

**Residency Training in Dental Public Health Program
Questions and Answers**

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

What is The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA or Recovery Act), was signed into law February 17, 2009.

The Recovery Act was enacted to:

- preserve and create jobs;
- promote economic recovery;
- help people most impacted by the recession;
- increase economic efficiency by investing in technological advances in science and health;
- promote long-term economic benefits by investing in transportation, environmental protection and other infrastructure; and
- preserve essential services of States and local governments.

Why is the Residency Training in Dental Public Health Grant Program DPH funded under the ARRA?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides \$500 million to address health professions workforce shortages.

The objective of the Health Professions Programs as supported through ARRA is to address health professions workforce shortages. Programs funded promote training in primary care, nursing and public health, help educational institutions, and increase the diversity of the health professions workforce. These programs will also help disadvantaged individuals who might otherwise have to delay their entry into, or drop out of, training programs or teaching.

Several types of activities will be funded with ARRA dollars, including direct resident support, loan repayment, training program infrastructure, and equipment purchases for health professions training programs. The grant programs funded under ARRA will help increase the diversity of residents entering health professions programs, support the training of disadvantaged residents, provide training in primary care disciplines, and improve training programs by providing better access to equipment.

The purpose of the Training in Dental Public Health Residency program is to promote postgraduate education of dentists in dental public health. DPH program has been developed in order to address identified needs in public health to improve the oral health of residents of the United States. These specific purposes are in the areas of: 1) training program content and 2) training program infrastructure development.

ARRA-DPH funding will provide additional funding support for programs to train dental public health professionals.

The DPH program is receiving approximately \$811,000 in ARRA funding for FY 2009 - FY 2011.

Where can I learn more about the ARRA?

Additional information on the Recovery Act can be found at <http://www.recovery.gov>. Information on activities related to the Recovery Act at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can be accessed at <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery>.

Purpose

What is the purpose of the ARRA- DPH funding opportunity?

The purpose of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act or ARRA) Residency Training in Dental Public Health funding is to augment the existing DPH grant funding to provide additional training funds to assist postgraduate education of dentists in dental public health. The purpose of the Residency Training in Dental Public Health Grant Program is to promote postgraduate education of dentists in dental public health. Grant funding assists eligible entities to: 1) plan and develop new training programs and maintain or improve existing residency training programs, and 2) provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs.

Summary of Funding

How do entities apply for ARRA-DPH?

In FY 2009 DPH announced a competitive funding opportunity, HRSA-09-200. The ARRA-DPH awards were selected utilizing that competitive review cycle. Based on that competition, additional applicants will be awarded from the rank order listing of approved but unfunded applications.

If an entity did not receive ARRA-DPH funding in 2009, will they have an opportunity to compete for ARRA-DPH in 2010?

No, this is a one time award. ARRA-DPH funds are being awarded for a three-year project period.

When will the grant be awarded?

ARRA-DPH funds will be awarded in the next few weeks.

Can ARRA-DPH funding be used to cover costs incurred prior to the award date?

In general, these grants are intended to support costs incurred after the ARRA-DPH project start date. ARRA-DPH funds cannot be used to support any costs incurred prior to February 17, 2009 (the date the Recovery Act was signed). Any costs incurred before receipt of the Notice of Grant Award (NGA) are at the recipient's risk.

Is there any formal notification of an ARRA-DPH award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)?

Yes. HRSA will electronically transmit a formal notification in the form of a Notice of Grant Award (NGA) that will be provided to the ARRA-DPH applicant organization/institution.

What is the timeline for grantees to use the ARRA-DPH funds?

The grantee is expected to use the ARRA-DPH funds within the three-year project period.

Are entities permitted to carry over unused ARRA-DPH funds?

No. ARRA-DPH funds must be used within the specified project period, we do not expect entities to have unused funds. Any unexpended ARRA-DPH funds may be offset at the conclusion of the project period.

Resident Support

Are entities permitted to make ARRA-DPH support to residents for more than one year?

Yes. Schools may make support available to residents for 1-3 years. Schools are encouraged to make ARRA-DPH support to students for 2 years beginning in the 2009 project period and for the following 2010 project period if the student did not graduate and requests additional ARRA-DPH support.

Are entities permitted to use ARRA-DPH funds to train new DPH residents?

Yes. Schools can make ARRA-DPH support to any new residents who are expected to graduate within one-to-three years.

Eligible Use of Funds

Are there certain eligibility requirements for use of these funds?

ARRA-DPH funds cannot be used to support residents who are already participating in the DPH and receiving support from the appropriated DPH funds.

Costs incurred prior to February 17, 2009 are unallowable costs under ARRA-DPH funding.

How can I track and separate ARRA-DPH versus non-ARRA-DPH funds?

To facilitate monitoring and tracking of ARRA-DPH funds from regular DPH funds, ARRA-DPH grants will be provided under a unique grant number and Payment Management System (PMS) sub-account.

How will ARRA-DPH funding be delivered to grantees?

Grantees will receive ARRA-DPH funds much in the same way they may get other HRSA funding via the PMS; a NGA will be issued under a different grant number.

For information regarding the drawdown of your awarded funds, contact your account representative at 1-877-614-5533 or <http://www.dpm.psc.gov/>. Grantees should drawdown funds based on the needs of the ARRA-DPH project.

How are ARRA applications submitted?

Applications were submitted as a result of the competitive funding opportunity HRSA-09-200. This opportunity closed on December 1, 2008. No further applications are being accepted for 2009 ARRA-DPH funding opportunities. Applicants will be asked, however, to report on the number of residents these funds will support.

Can I decline receiving ARRA-funds?

Yes, an applicant may decline receiving any ARRA-DPH funds.

Reporting

What are the reporting requirements for Recovery Act funding?

Grantees must continue to comply with the usual and customary reporting requirements of the DPH Program, in addition to specific Recovery Act reporting. Recipients of Recovery Act funding will be required to provide periodic reports to ensure that funds are used for authorized purposes and instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse are mitigated. Recovery Act funds can be used

in conjunction with other funding as necessary to complete projects, but tracking and reporting must be separate to meet the reporting requirements of the Recovery Act. Additional information is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/.

Generally, as required by the Recovery Act, recipients are required to report the following information to www.FederalReporting.gov 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter; submission dates will be July 10, October 10, January 10, and April 10.

These reports will include the following data elements, as prescribed by the Recovery Act:

1. The total amount of Recovery Act funds.
2. The amount of Recovery Act funds received that were obligated and expended to projects or activities. This reporting will also include unobligated allotment balances to facilitate reconciliations.
3. A detailed list of all projects or activities for which Recovery Act funds were obligated and expended, including
 - a. The name of the project or activity;
 - b. A description of the project or activity;
 - c. An evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;
 - d. An estimate of the number of jobs created and the number of jobs retained by the project or activity.
4. Detailed information on any subcontracts or subgrants awarded by the recipient to include the data elements required to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-282), allowing aggregate reporting on awards below \$25,000 or to individuals, as prescribed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Where can I find out more information about the ARRA reporting requirements?

The OMB Section 1512 guidance for recipient reporting can be found at:

<http://www.recovery.gov/?q=node/579>.

In addition, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) prepared a series of webinars to train Federal Agencies and recipients of ARRA funding on how to comply with their reporting responsibilities. Links to the recorded webinars can be found at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/Recovery/WebinarTrainingMaterials/>.

What if a school has not been able to disburse DPH funds by October 10, 2009 (first quarterly report due date)? Would it still have to submit a quarterly report?

Yes; this is a government-wide requirement. Schools are required to submit quarterly reports regardless of whether or not they have disbursed any funds. If no funds were disbursed prior to the first report, they would report zeroes.

Why is the ARRA-DPH program required reporting scheduled quarterly rather than annually?

Quarterly reporting is stipulated for timely measure and transparency of the use and impact of ARRA-DPH funds.

Will the ARRA-DPH quarterly report be completed and submitted through the HRSA EHBS?

No. ARRA-DPH reports will be completed and submitted via a centralized system on www.FederalReporting.gov by no later than 10 days from the end of each quarter. This

information will then be migrated for public access to the Recovery.gov website upon data quality review by the funding agency.

Are entities expected to create new jobs as a result of receiving ARRA- DPH funds?

ARRA-DPH funds are intended to increase the number of dental public health specialists that commence employment upon completion of the education program as a result of ARRA-DPH support.

Entities are also encouraged to report on indirect job creation/retention as a result of ARRA-DPH funding. For example, if the additional ARRA-DPH funds compelled the entity to hire additional staff to support the additional ARRA-DPH resident activity, or an entity to retain staff due to funding through ARRA-DPH.