



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: State Agency Executive Directors
State Agency Accounting and Finance Directors
SAAS Security Contacts

FROM: **Jenny Bearss**
DFA/MMRS- Chief Systems Information Officer

DATE: **June 8, 2011**

SUBJECT: Transparency Revisions in Support of:

- Senate Bill 2554, 2011 Regular Session, Mississippi Legislature
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
- Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 (MATA)
- Senate Bill 2923, 2009 Regular Session, Mississippi Legislature

The Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 (MATA), SB2923 (2009 Regular Legislative Session), and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) mandate specific reporting on contracts and grants at both the State and Federal levels, and they require that all grant and contract information be available for public access. SB2554 charges the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to increase transparency and accountability by revising the State of Mississippi Transparency's website www.Transparency.Mississippi.gov established in June 2010. To comply with and meet the requirements imposed, the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) is planning significant revisions to the current Transparency website.

The following outlines the Transparency revisions to be implemented by June 30, 2011:

Grants Web Interface

- **Creation of a user-friendly, web-based application, <https://www.grants.mississippi.gov/>, for the manual entry of agency Grant documents beginning with fiscal year (FY) 2012 and forward.** This application permits authorized agency staff to enter and modify specific grant awards and other related information about federal grants that agencies receive, not to include sub-grants. Agency grant award information will be loaded into the statewide data warehouse, Mississippi Executive Resource Library and Information Network (MERLIN). For information regarding entry of manual data into the web-based database, please refer to the training document, “5053 – Grant Award Interface,” located on the MMRS website under TRANSPARENCY > Training Materials.
- **Creation of appropriate security forms and instructions for agencies to properly authorize staff to populate agency grant award information.** Please refer to the following documents on the MMRS website under Security > TRANSPARENCY > Grants Web Interface Security
 - *2042-Grants Web Interface Security Maintenance Form and*
 - *2043-Grants Web Interface Security Maintenance Form Procedures* on the MMRS website.

Note: State agency staff should complete and submit these authorization forms as soon as possible.

- **Creation of public access queries for grant data, available at www.Transparency.Mississippi.gov under the Grants link.**

Searchable Website

- The searchable website will include an electronic summary of each grant that features, whenever possible, a hyperlink to the actual document in a format that is searchable.
- The searchable website will be updated no later than fourteen (14) days after the receipt of grant data from an agency, and each agency will be required to provide to the Department of Finance and Administration access to all data that is required to be accessible from the searchable website no later than fourteen (14) days after the data becomes available to the agency. Data includes new grant awards, including amendments executed by the agency for new and existing grants.

- The searchable website will include grant data for all fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2012, and all data on the searchable website must remain accessible to the public for a minimum of ten (10) years.

Reports

- The following reports will be found on the Additional Reports toolbar tab on the www.Transparency.Mississippi.gov website:
 - 1512 Reporting
 - Stimulus
- Two new reports for public access have been created:
 - **Expenditure Report**
State Expenditures – Expenditures for the state of MS for a complete FY with options to break down and view by Vendor, Agency, Expense Type and Fund.
 - **Stimulus Report**
Education – Stimulus \$\$ spent for educational purposes only.

Please contact the MMRS Call Center at 601-359-1343 or via email at mash@dfa.state.ms.us if you have any questions about the information in this memo.