



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

KEVIN J. UPCHURCH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To: State Agency Directors
State Agency Accounting and Finance Directors
State Agency Procurement Contacts
State Agency Human Resource Directors

From: Cille Litchfield, Deputy Executive Director

Date: February 13, 2009

Re: Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act Reminders

All agencies should be in compliance with the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 (MATA), enacted with HB101 during the 2008 Regular Legislative Session. The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), deployed Phases I and II MATA support on Tuesday, September 2, 2008. Work is now underway to pull summaries of the legal contracts from SPAHRS (Phase V) into the Transparency database and agencies have been instructed that this is in process and to not enter these agreements. **Otherwise, no agencies are exempt from providing the information required under Phase I for MATA.** Phase I included the following components:

- Creation of a user-friendly, web-based database for manual entry of agency independent contract data. This database permits authorized agency staff to enter and modify agency independent contract data. See [#5051 MATA Agency Contracts Web Interface](#) training instructions for entry of manual data into the web-based database.
- Creation of a downloadable Excel spreadsheet and instructions for batch submission of agency independent contract data by authorized agency staff. See [#2010 MATA Spreadsheet Agency Contract Load and Instructions](#) for entry of spreadsheet data into the web-based database.
- Creation of appropriate security forms and instructions for agencies to properly authorize staff to populate agency independent contract data. See [#2008 MATA Agency Contracts Web Interface Security Maintenance Form](#) and [#2009 MATA Agency Contracts Web Interface Security Maintenance Form Procedures](#) on the MMRS website. **State agency staff should complete and submit these authorization forms as soon as possible.**
- Creation of public access queries for agency independent contract data, available at <https://merlin.state.ms.us> under the Transparency link.

Phase II included public access queries of vendor expenditure data. Data for Phase II is derived from the Statewide Automated Accounting System (SAAS).

Phase III, the deployment of MATA and Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) grants data has been delayed until the implementation of GOALS. Proposals for GOALS are currently being evaluated with an award decision expected by April 1, 2009.

DFA has now also deployed Phase IV (January 2009). This latest release includes summaries of contract worker contracts and contract worker payments. Phase IV data is derived from the Statewide Payroll and Human Resource System (SPAHRS).

Phase V is planned for implementation on or before July 1, 2009. In Phase V, DFA will build the contract records for all legal contracts in SPAHRS executed on or after July 1, 2008

If you have any questions on how to capture your Phase I information, please contact the MMRS Call Center at 601-359-1343 or via email at mash@dfa.state.ms.us.