

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

The following FAQs were compiled by the Colorado Office of the State Controller (OSC) to provide guidance to state agencies and institutions of higher education (IHEs) regarding the ARRR reporting requirements. The FAQs provide answers to questions that are not already specifically addressed in other information provided on our website, instructions, or statewide ARRA training material, or email communication provided to the ARRA Point of Contacts. If you have a question that is not addressed by these FAQs, please consult the ARRA guidance on the OSC ARRA website. **Please note, the OSC does not establish federal program requirements or policy.**

- Q1. Should I change financial data in CMS?
- A1. For **state agencies**, financial data are automatically uploaded from COFRS into CMS. The data are cumulative as of the most recent quarter close. Therefore, in general, **agencies should not** change the financial data in CMS unless specifically requested by a federal reviewer. For **IHEs only**, financial data should be manually updated by the IHEs each quarter. Financial data should be cumulative as of quarter close and updated by the dates established in the OSC's reporting timeline. The timeline changes slightly each quarter and can be found on OSC's ARRA website.
- Q2. When can I begin making changes in CMS for the next quarter's reporting?
- A2. The months following each quarter close (i.e., Jan, Apr, Jul, and Oct) are considered the reporting periods. Once the reporting period ends, agencies can begin making change related to the next quarter's reporting.
- Q3. How do I know when COFRS data has been uploaded into my CMS records?
- A3. A new field has been added to the CMS ARRA - 1 Prime Recipient (PR) record called, "Date of Latest COFRS Import." A date will populate once COFRS data are uploaded.
- Q4. How do I know when records from the database submission schools (i.e., University of Colorado, Colorado State University, and Colorado School of Mines) have been uploaded into CMS?
- A4. Open your PR record and click on "view history" which is one of the selections in the blue box to the right of your record. Beginning July 2010, the history will show when records were uploaded for the database submission schools. The history can also be a useful resource to identify changes made to your CMS records.

- Q5. If I award a subrecipient \$75,000 but make three payments to my subrecipient and each payment is less than \$25,000, do I need to create a separate subrecipient record?
- A5. Yes. If the **award amount** is greater than \$25,000 you need to create a separate subrecipient record. According to guidance issued by the US Office of State Management and Budget (OMB), M-09-21, dated June 22, 2009, section 2.4, prime recipients are allowed to aggregate reporting on subawards less than \$25,000, subawards to individuals, and payments to vendors less than \$25,000. As part of OSC's centralized reporting method we chose to implement this option. That is, we aggregate for awards less than \$25,000 and separately report for all others.
- Q6. Do I need to create a separate subrecipient vendor record if my subrecipient pays their vendor less than \$25,000 of ARRA funds?
- A6. It depends. The trigger is the **amount awarded** to the subrecipient. If the subrecipient award is more than \$25,000, you must create a separate subrecipient vendor record for all vendors that your subrecipient paid using ARRA funds. If the subrecipient award is less than \$25,000, you do not need to create any subrecipient vendor records.
- Q7. The "Quick Search Contracts" screen in CMS displays start and end dates. What are these and will they affect my ARRA record?
- A7. These dates are automatically populated by CMS and are actually a carry-over from the regular CMS and will not affect your record, even if the end date is fast approaching or has already passed.