

Updated ARRA Guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and
the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

On March 22, 2010, both the OMB and HRSA issued updated ARRA guidance on their respective websites. HRSA issued the 4th edition of the Health Center Quarterly Report (HCQR) Reporting Manual, which replaces the previous edition issued in December 2009. The Reporting Manual describes the reporting requirements for the quarter ending March 31, 2010 and includes separate tables for the submission of program-specific information on activities carried out under each of the four ARRA funding opportunities awarded in 2009 - Increased Demand for Services (IDS), New Access Point (NAP), Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Facility Investment Program (FIP). The Electronic Handbook (EHB) will aggregate the award specific information into a summary report covering all ARRA-funded activities. The updated Reporting Manual incorporates the revisions from the December 2009 edition to the calculation of jobs created/retained, including a quarterly (rather than cumulative) report of ARRA-supported staffing. Similar to the prior reports, all non-FTE related data will be cumulative - data that was reported previously will be included and updated in this report. HRSA cautions, however, that "[C]are should be taken in reviewing definitions as they are not necessarily the same as may be used in other BPHC activities or in earlier versions of this manual." The reports are due April 10, 2010 - according to HRSA, there will not be any extensions to this deadline regardless of the fact that April 10 is a Saturday. Health centers can access the updated Reporting Manual, as well as an updated power point presentation explaining the reporting process, at <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/recovery/hcqr/>.

Unlike the Reporting Manual, the OMB guidance focuses primarily on actions to be taken by the federal awarding agencies (*i.e.*, HRSA), including requirements for conducting data quality reviews of information corrected by ARRA recipients after submission of their reports (recipients are allowed to correct reported data prior to the close of the reporting quarter and, for the immediately preceding quarter, after the reporting quarter has closed and reports have been posted), acting upon Single Audit findings, and submitting information to OMB and the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. For ARRA grant recipients, the OMB guidance describes the new process by which the recipients can indicate that a specific report is "final" (*i.e.*, the award period has ended, all funds have been received and the project status is complete). Health centers can download the guidance from the OMB website at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/.