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BREAKING NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Recovery Board Chairman Devaney Discusses New Features Included on Recovery.gov With Recipient Report Data Release

WASHINGTON – The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board today will release 121,000 new recipient reports on federal grants and loans awarded as part of the $787 billion program on its website, Recovery.gov. Along with the new data, there will be expanded search capabilities and other features that will make the site more user-friendly and accessible to the public and the media tracking federal Recovery dollars.

Four of the new features are highlighted in a “Chairman’s Corner” column by Recovery Board Chairman Earl E. Devaney that also will be posted on the website when the expanded data is made available.

The following is the text of the Chairman’s Corner column:

CHAIRMAN’S CORNER

Do you want to know how much money under the Recovery program has been spent thus far in your community or in your state? What contractors are benefitting, and where they are located? How many jobs have been created nationally or in your state? Well, you have come to the right place. Today, Oct. 30, marks a landmark in accountability and transparency in the federal government. On this website, the Recovery Board and its professional staff and contractors have created new features that will allow you to answer those questions and many others about spending in the Recovery program.

I’ve often said that Recovery.gov is a work in progress and will only get better as we continue pressing to develop a premier government website. Quite frankly, we are listening to our users, and are making changes and adding new features as fast as we can.

First, a little background: In mid-October, we posted data from companies and other recipients that received direct contracts from the federal government. But those award reports represented less than 7 percent of the reports ultimately submitted by recipients of Recovery funds. Today, we are updating Recovery.gov with another 121,000 reports—almost all covering grants to prime and sub-recipients, such as states, non-profits and universities. The next quarterly reporting period for recipients begins Jan. 1, 2010.
The new features:

- A dynamic search capability. Put in the name of a recipient in the search engine, click on “go,” and every report that contains that recipient’s name (prime contract or subcontract) will be listed for review, as well as other information about the recipient on the website. Or, just type in the name of a federal agency and get a list of all of its recipients. That's just two of the many new search capabilities.

- State and territory summary pages. With this feature, you will be able to locate precisely how many contract, grant, and loan recipient awards have been made in your state. You can view the jobs created and the total value of the awards. Your state search will yield information on jobs created in congressional districts, the top recipients of Recovery funds, the top infrastructure recipients and so on. All told, there are more than 500 new charts and tables for jobs and award data.

- For those who want flexibility in accessing data, we’ve created two new formats in our Download Center. Up to now, we have provided only the CSV format. Now, you can access files containing recipient contracts, grants and loan data in XML and XLS formats.

- As part of our commitment to greater accountability, we are providing a new feature allowing users to download a list of recipients that failed to submit reports on time, as required by the Recovery Act. In addition, users can download files containing the history of any changes made by recipients in their reports after Oct. 10.

I could go on, but you get the picture. Let us know what you think. We need, and value, your feedback.

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