



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

MAR 18 2009

Dear Governor:


The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (P.L. 111-5) responds to our Nation's economic crisis by providing unprecedented new funding to States, Territories and the District of Columbia through many Federal programs, including those of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Within HHS, the ARRA provides for an estimated additional total funding of \$135 billion for States, local governments, community organizations, and their residents.

Please be assured that we are committed to getting these funds out as quickly as possible to help your communities and citizens. At the same time, we share your deep commitment to ensuring that these funds are spent efficiently and effectively. As President Obama has made clear, every taxpayer dollar spent on our economic recovery will be subject to unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability. To that end, I am writing today to inform you of the HHS ARRA funding available to States, a brief description of which is enclosed, as well as the certification requirements associated with accessing these funds.

Finally, the ARRA requires that Governors certify that: 1) the State will request and use funds provided by the Act; and 2) the funds will be used to create jobs and promote economic growth. Certification letters should be sent to the President or the Director of OMB no later than Monday, March 30, 2009. If you have not done so already, please send your certification letters to recovery@omb.eop.gov and to recoveryupdates@gsa.gov. The statute requires only one certification letter per State for all ARRA funds. You do not need to send multiple letters to HHS or other Federal agencies. Also, please remember that all program funding must be expended in accordance with all applicable Federal statutes, rules and regulations.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nikki Bratcher-Bowman, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, on 202-690-6060.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Johnson
Acting Secretary

Enclosure