

PIH Q&A - - Part I (September 14, 2009)

General - Both

1. Q: Why do I have to report?

A: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides two reporting requirements, one is in Section 1512 and one is in Section 1609. Section 1512 requires that all recipients of ARRA funds report funding-related activities, job creation and job retention. Section 1609 requires reporting related to environmental compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews.

2. Q: Where do I report?

A: For Section 1512 reporting requirements (as discussed above) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) developed the [Federalreporting.gov](http://federalreporting.gov) system which all ARRA recipients will be using to report. For Section 1609 reporting requirements HUD developed the Recovery Act Management Performance System (RAMPS) which will be used by HUD grantees to report on environmental compliance. It is important to note that only PHA's that have responsible entities perform their environmental reviews will be required to report into RAMPS. HUD staff will input data related to part 50 environmental reviews.

RAMPS Q & A

1. Q: How do I report?

A: You will need to go to (insert website link) in order to logon to RAMPS. If you are an existing HUD user for either WASS or EIV, you should have a User ID that begins with "M". You will need to enter your HUD user ID as well as the password you use in order to log on to WASS or EIV. HUD is working to make sure that every PHA has an existing user registered in the RAMPS system. If you are having trouble accessing RAMPS please refer to the HUD reporting help page located at

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/RECOVERY/Reporting/Reporting_Support

2. Q: What if I am not an existing user or don't have an "M" ID?

A: Every PHA should have an existing user and that user should be responsible for inputting the data into RAMPS for the October reporting. If you have a new employee or new user who does not have an "M" ID, and you would like them to report in subsequent reporting cycles, they can request one through the following web page:

https://hudapps.hud.gov/public/wass/public/pha/phareg_page.jsp. Once you receive your "M" ID, you will need to request that it be registered in the RAMPS system which can be done via an email request to Robert.H.Harmon@hud.gov of the Headquarters Capital Fund staff and copy PIHOCl@hud.gov.

3. Q: When do I have to report?

A: All PHAs that have responsible entities that conduct their part 58 environmental reviews must report into the NEPA Reporting module in the RAMPS system by October 10, 2009. Reporting will be required quarterly thereafter and will require updated information only if necessary. Once the environmental reviews have been completed for each activity that is being funded with Recovery Act funds and all information has been inputted into the NEPA reporting module, the PHA will not need to provide any additional information in the NEPA reporting module related to environmental compliance to satisfy the Recovery Act requirements.

4. Q: Once I report in RAMPS, does that mean I have approval and release of grant funds?

A: No, the NEPA reporting module in RAMPS will serve as a reporting vehicle only. It does not supplant the existing processes that are in place for approval and release of grants. Remember that PHAs are prohibited from committing HUD assistance on an activity or project until HUD has completed the environmental assessment.

5. Q: My responsible entity determined the ARRA activities to be exempt. Why do I have to report in RAMPS?

A: Although HUD Regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 do not require responsible entities to undertake an environmental review and submit a request for release of funds to HUD, RAMPS has been designed to capture all categories of the environmental review process. This includes activities that have been determined to be exempt or categorically excluded not subject to 24 CFR 58.5.

6. Q: What do I have to report for the Section 1609 requirements if HUD conducts my reviews according to 24 CFR 50?

A: If your responsible entities do not conduct the reviews and HUD does; you do not need to report into the NEPA reporting module of RAMPS. HUD Field Offices will report any information that is required related to environmental compliance for activities funded with Recovery Act funds.

7. Q: What do I have to report in the different data fields in the NEPA Reporting Module?

A: Please refer to the Guidance for PHAs on Part 58 reviews document for more detailed information and a data dictionary.

*Program specific information will be forwarded later this week as we are finalizing guidance similar to what was developed for RAMPS. In the meantime, the FAQs on the FederalReporting.gov website are helpful for general reporting questions on registration, access and data input <https://www.federalreporting.gov/federalreporting/faq.do>