



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Wayne Turnage
Chief of Staff

February 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Executive Branch Agencies

FROM: Wayne M. Turnage
Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Emphasis on Transparency and Accountability for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds

The purpose of this memorandum is to emphasize the critical work that needs to be undertaken immediately across government to implement the economy recovery bill in a manner that is transparent, effective, and efficient.

As you know, the Governor is committed to spending recovery dollars with an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability so Virginians know where economic recovery dollars are going and how they are being spent. Meeting these commitments will require a sustained focus by managers throughout State government, particularly in planning, receiving, awarding, managing, and overseeing contracts and grants. Agencies should immediately begin developing plans to meet recovery-related responsibilities and for mitigating potential implementation risks.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is coordinating the development of government-wide implementing guidance to provide clarity and consistency in Federal agency actions. This guidance will cover, at a minimum, requirements and guidelines for:

- Providing spending and performance data that will be posted on the www.recovery.gov web site to give Americans detailed and timely information on how and where recovery dollars are spent;
- Establishing rigorous internal controls, oversight mechanisms, and other approaches to meet the accountability objectives of the bill; and

- Enhancing, as necessary, standard processes for awarding and overseeing funds to meet accelerated timeframes and other unique challenges posed by the recovery bill's transparency and accountability framework.

As currently understood, the federal government's guidance will be issued in two phases: (i) initial guidance will be issued soon after the enactment of the recovery bill and cover items critical to early implementation; and (ii) more detailed guidance covering a fuller range of items that will be issued 30-60 days after enactment.

To meet these timeframes, staff from the Department of Accounts has begun reaching out to agency fiscal officers to begin to collaboratively address federal reporting requirements. We appreciate in advance your agency's willingness to support these efforts. We also are asking each agency receiving significant funding from the recovery bill to name, no later than February 20, 2009, a senior official responsible for coordinating recovery-related efforts across your agency and report this name to the State's Comptroller David Von Mull who will also answer any questions about this memorandum or the guidance document.

Thank you for your cooperation