

To Directors of Special Education,

ARRA IDEA Construction and Renovation Projects Approval Process Webinar Announcement

Since the infusion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) ISBE has received a significant number of requests for approval to use ARRA IDEA funds to pay for building construction and renovation projects. This message is sent to inform you of recent developments regarding the approval of construction requests. While all expenditures under ARRA must be reported, the use of ARRA funds for construction is subject to extensive compliance measures.

Section 1511 of the ARRA requires the Governor or other chief executive to vet all construction requests and certify that the infrastructure investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. ARRA also requires that all construction projects supported with ARRA funds must be reviewed and when approved and certified, the LEA name, description of the proposed project and cost must be posted on the federal ARRA website at <http://www.recovery.gov>

All procedures are now in place for ISBE to comply with the ARRA requirements for construction approval. For your reference please see the attachment which describes the *ISBE Review Procedures for Construction Applications*. **A webinar on Construction with ARRA/IDEA funds will be held on Friday, November 20 from 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.** at which time the construction approval process will be described and participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions. Registration for the webinar is required and may be completed by using the link that follows: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/515389785> or by visiting the home page of the ISBE website where this link is posted.

A construction application will be posted at <http://www.isbe.net/arra/default.htm> and also at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/idea_part-b.htm on the morning of November 20, 2009. All grant applicants seeking ARRA / IDEA funds for construction must complete the construction application. Even if you have already sent in a request, you must complete the attached form and mail the signed original and one copy to ISBE as indicated on the form. Fax or electronic copies cannot be accepted as original signatures are required. This construction application is to be used for all construction requests using ARRA IDEA funds or “regular” IDEA funds. It is necessary to have applicants complete this form to collect data which will meet the requirements of ARRA regulations.