

From the report *Show Us the Stimulus (Again)*, online at <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/stimulusweb.cfm>.

STATE: Texas <http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/>

CATEGORY	SCORING SYSTEM (* shows component of actual score)	MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE	ACTUAL TOTAL SCORE
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) BY PROGRAM AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad categories only: 5 - Narrow categories only: 5 - Both broad and narrow categories: 10* - No breakdown by program areas: 0 	10	10
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) BY COUNTY OR OTHER RELEVANT GEOGRAPHIC UNIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County/geographic unit overall totals only: 10 - County/unit totals for individual programs only: 10 - County/unit totals for both individual programs and overall spending: 15 - No county/geographic unit breakdowns: 0 	15	0
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) COMPARED TO ECONOMIC DISTRESS (unemployment, home foreclosure, poverty, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County or other relevant geographic unit distribution compared to two or more variables: 15 - Compared to one variable: 10 - No comparisons to economic needs: 0 EXTRA CREDIT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -percentage of contracts given to disadvantaged business enterprises: 5 	15 (plus 5 potential extra credit)	0
CONTRACT/GRANT DETAILS (via maps or lists)	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Descriptions of individual contract/ grant projects: 3 - Dollar amount: 3 - Name of recipient entity: 3 - Text of contract or grant document: 3 - Status of project/portion completed: 3 	15	0
RECIPIENT JOBS DATA	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actual job data for individual contract and grants: 7 - Job totals for program areas: 5 * - Job totals for the entire state: 3 * EXTRA CREDIT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data on job quality (wage rates): 5 - demographics of workers: 5 	15 (plus 10 potential extra credit)	8
MAPPING OF CONTRACT AND GRANT PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive map with significant details on projects: 15 - Interactive map with limited details on projects: 10 - Static map: 5 - No mapping: 0 	15	0
USER AIDS	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - search box (including coverage of data): 5 - data downloadability: 5 - machine-readable data feed: 5 	15	0
TOTALS		100 (plus 15 potential extra credit)	18

Notes: Texas' Recovery Act website, despite the aesthetically pleasing graphics, doesn't measure up. Navigation is unclear and links to the Comptroller's website are slow to load. To improve the website, Texas should, for example, provide data on spending by county and post contract and grant details on all Recovery Act projects, including contract award documents. It is surprising that a state as large as Texas does not bother to map ARRA projects.

Broad categories of spending are at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/transparency/tracking.php> ;
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/transparency/docs/AwardedByCategory.pdf>

Narrow categories of spending are at
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/transparency/docs/EstimatedStimulusImpactonTexas.pdf>

Jobs data are posted at http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/transparency/docs/ARRA_Section1512_Summary.pdf

The state posts information about minority contracting for transportation projects on a linked DOT website; we do not award extra credit since this feature is limited in scope and located on a separate website.

The state posts information on separate agency websites with descriptions of individual ARRA contracts, dollar amounts, and recipient names. We do not award points because this is limited in scope and not clearly linked from the main Recovery Act site.

The state indirectly discloses average wage rates on ARRA transportation projects by posting hours worked and total payroll. We award no points because actual wage rates are not reported and the feature is limited in scope.

Texas allows the user to download broad and narrow categories of spending into a spreadsheet. One must begin at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/transparency/tracking.php> and then click on Summary of Funds Received. This leads one to the Texas Comptroller's site. On the top left-hand side, click the Document box, which allows you to save as a spreadsheet. We do not award points for downloadability, since it is not possible to download project-specific data directly into a spreadsheet.