

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

STATE: Maryland <http://recovery.maryland.gov>

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	15
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)	15
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	12
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)	15
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	15
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	5
TOTALS		100 (plus 15 potential extra credit)	87

Notes: In our last study, Maryland's Recovery Act website ranked first, and it retains the top spot. It has since been improved with additional information such as Need metrics. Two features Maryland lacks are access to contract award documents and the ability to download comprehensive project data. It would also help if the state displayed wage information and demographic data about workers whose paychecks are supported by stimulus money.

Spending by broad and narrow categories appears in the Expenditure box at the bottom left on the map available at <http://mdimap.towson.edu/statestat/>. By clicking on a specific category of spending on the top, the Expenditure box on the bottom right changes and shows program-specific spending. Data on each county or the state as a whole is available in this form by clicking on a county. Various comparisons of economic need change across categories of spending and are displayed at the bottom left by clicking the Need tab.

Contract and grant details are also available through the map by clicking "Show Individual Projects on the Map." Some pushpins highlight the percentage of the contract given to Minority or Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MBE or DBE). Extra credit points are not awarded since that feature is limited to transportation projects and does not summarize for all Recovery contracts. Job data about specific projects are available through the project summary on the map.

The state could improve maps by allowing the user to choose between displaying differently sized symbols and graduated colors. It would be helpful if the state broke the data up according to natural breaks. This would avoid some misleading interpretations: Baltimore City was allocated \$485 million while neighboring Howard County was allocated \$62 million yet both symbols are the same size. A legend describing the range of spending for the symbols or graduated colors would also assist the user.

Jobs data, including indirect and induced jobs, are posted at <http://www.statestat.maryland.gov/recoveryjobs.asp>

A helpful new feature of the site at <http://statestat.maryland.gov/overview.asp#> uses a map to detail the county-specific impact of ARRA relating to programs such as food stamps, health insurance subsidies, unemployment compensation, and Recovery Act tax relief.