

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

STATE: Montana <http://www.recovery.mt.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"> <li>- Broad categories only: 5</li> <li>- Narrow categories only: 5</li> <li>- Both broad and narrow categories: 10*</li> <li>- No breakdown by program areas: 0</li> </ul>	10	10
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) BY COUNTY OR OTHER RELEVANT GEOGRAPHIC UNIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- County/geographic unit overall totals only: 10</li> <li>- County/unit totals for individual programs only: 10</li> <li>- County/unit totals for both individual programs and overall spending: 15*</li> <li>- No county/geographic unit breakdowns: 0</li> </ul>	15	15
SPENDING (ALLOCATIONS OR ACTUAL) COMPARED TO ECONOMIC DISTRESS (unemployment, home foreclosure, poverty, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- County or other relevant geographic unit distribution compared to two or more variables: 15</li> <li>- Compared to one variable: 10</li> <li>- No comparisons to economic needs: 0</li> </ul> EXTRA CREDIT: -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"> <li>- Descriptions of individual contract/ grant projects: 3*</li> <li>- Dollar amount: 3*</li> <li>- Name of recipient entity: 3*</li> <li>- Text of contract or grant document: 3</li> <li>- Status of project/portion completed: 3</li> </ul>	15	9
RECIPIENT JOBS DATA	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Actual job data for individual contract and grants: 7*</li> <li>- Job totals for program areas: 5</li> <li>- Job totals for entire state: 3</li> </ul> EXTRA CREDIT: - data on job quality (wage rates): 5 - demographics of workers: 5	15 (plus 10 potential extra credit)	7
MAPPING OF CONTRACT AND GRANT PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interactive map with significant details on projects: 15*</li> <li>- Interactive map with limited details on projects: 10</li> <li>- Static map: 5</li> <li>- No mapping: 0</li> </ul>	15	15
USER AIDS	ADD SCORES TO GET TOTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- search box (including coverage of data): 5*</li> <li>- data downloadability: 5</li> <li>- machine-readable data feed: 5</li> </ul>	15	5
TOTALS		100 (plus 15 potential extra credit)	61

Notes:

Montana does a very good job of providing general information about the stimulus. The site could be improved by mapping actual project locations, rather than linking project descriptions to counties on the map provided. Job creation/retention reporting could be strengthened by centralizing jobs reports into single, downloadable documents rather than posting agency reports.

Data on narrow categories of ARRA spending can be found on departmental pages on the site as well as via the map on the home page.

The ESRI map on the home page starts with links to counties and allows the user to drill down to the project level.

At the bottom of the home page the state provides a map of county unemployment rates, but the rates are not compared to county spending data.

Contract and grant details can be accessed by clicking on the county allocations map on the home page.

Complete information about job creation and retention is not available, but monthly reports on DOT and DEQ programs that contain limited jobs data are available at <http://www.recovery.mt.gov/agencyreports.mcp>.

The site's search box is capable of searching PDFs of ARRA awards in locations external to the state ARRA website.