



**WISCONSIN  
BUDGET  
PROJECT**

An Initiative of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

**For immediate release**

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## **Wisconsin Among Top States for Economic Recovery Act Website**

Wisconsin's state Recovery Act website ranked 4<sup>th</sup> best in the country in a new report card evaluating state stimulus websites. The report, “**Show Us the Stimulus (Again)**,” was released today by Good Jobs First, a non-profit research center based in Washington, DC.

The Good Jobs First study examines the quality and quantity of disclosure by official state websites on the many different ways more than \$200 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is flowing through state governments to communities, organizations and individuals.

The states with the highest scores in the new report are: Maryland (87 out of 100), Kentucky (85), and Connecticut (80), followed by Wisconsin, Colorado and Minnesota, which all tied for 4<sup>th</sup> with 72 points. Wisconsin moved up from 8<sup>th</sup> place in the previous report card, issued in July 2009.

Jon Peacock, director of the Wisconsin Budget Project (an initiative of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families) applauded the state for making improvements in the Recovery Act website. “The federal government has made a huge investment in reducing the severity of the recession, and it is vitally important for the public to be able to see and understand how those dollars are being used within each state and in their area.”

The full text of the report, as well as state-specific appendices, can be found on the Good Jobs First website at [www.goodjobsfirst.org/stimulusweb.cfm](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/stimulusweb.cfm).

The report notes that Wisconsin is one of just three states with a website that uses maps to compare the geographic distribution of spending with patterns of economic distress or need within the state.

Other aspects of the Wisconsin website that earned high marks include: detailing allocations in broad and narrow program categories; showing award amounts on a county-by-county basis; mapping the locale of individual projects; describing the projects undertaken; publishing contractor names and award amounts; and projecting the number of jobs created by each project.

The report makes a number of recommendations for ways Wisconsin and other states can improve their Recovery Act websites:

(more)

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- Providing comprehensive data on wage or benefit levels in ARRA jobs or on the demographics of the workers in those jobs.
- Putting a summary of key information about ARRA spending at the top of the home page of the site.
- Reporting the share of ARRA contracts going to minority, women-owned or other disadvantaged business enterprises.
- Providing the full texts of at least some ARRA contract awards.

“At a time of intense public concern about the effectiveness of government spending designed to mitigate the economic crisis, states should be maximizing their use of online tools,” said Philip Mattera, research director of Good Jobs First and principal author of the report.

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