



**For Immediate Release**

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## **KENTUCKY RANKS POORLY ON TRACKING OF FEDERAL STIMULUS DOLLARS**

**Louisville, KY** - A [Good Jobs First](#) report released today finds that Kentucky ranks poorly in comparison with other states in how well it tracks federal stimulus spending and promotes government accountability. On a scale from zero to 100, the state's website for general stimulus spending information, [Kentucky at Work](#), tied for 47<sup>th</sup> and the Department of Transportation's public information specific to highway project spending tied with Illinois for 50<sup>th</sup>, (neither state has a website for such purposes).

"The information Kentucky provides on federal stimulus spending is narrow and contains very few, if any, specifics, while its information on highway project spending is nonexistent," says Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. "This results in limited transparency and a lack of government accountability on how the money is being spent."

The report, entitled [Show Us the Stimulus: An Evaluation Of State Government Recovery Act Websites](#), considers how well state websites track information about the categories of stimulus spending, how spending is distributed in different parts of the state, and specific projects being carried out by private contractors, including the number of jobs they create. While the average score for fiscal stimulus transparency was only 28.2, Kentucky's even lower score of 10 out of 100 indicates a need for greater state accountability.

Kentucky can improve transparency and accountability in fiscal stimulus spending by taking the following steps on its website:

- display the federal stimulus allocations by geography, showing which regions of the state receive how much money;
- provide information about allocations based on economic need in areas of the state such as unemployment, foreclosures, and poverty;

- include project-specific data telling citizens what projects are funded, who received the money to carry out the projects, and the status of the projects; and
- display information about the number of jobs created with the stimulus money.

“There’s an important debate going on regarding the effectiveness of the federal stimulus dollars, and when it comes to Kentucky it’s hard to get a clear picture one way or the other,” says Brooks. “When we are talking about infusing \$7 billion into Kentucky’s economy, the public has the right to know where the money is going and how it is helping the Commonwealth.”

Kentucky’s website for tracking federal stimulus dollars, “Kentucky at Work” can be found at <http://kentuckyatwork.ky.gov>. The report by Good Jobs First can be found at: <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/pdf/ARRAwebreport.pdf>.

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[Kentucky Youth Advocates](#) is the home of Kentucky’s Tax and Budget Initiative, a member of the nationwide State Fiscal Analysis Initiative