



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

KEVIN J. UPCHURCH  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**To:** State Agency Directors  
State Agency Accounting and Finance Directors  
State Agency Procurement Contacts  
State Agency Human Resource Directors

**From:** Cille Litchfield, Deputy Executive Director

**Date:** May 4, 2009

**Re:** Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act Update

---

The Department of Finance and Administration is continuing to implement planned phases of the plan to assist state agencies in complying with the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 (MATA), §27-104-151, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. In addition to data published under Phases I, II, and IV outlined below, DFA implemented Phase V on April 23, 2009, to build contract records for all legal contracts in SPAHRS executed on or after July 1, 2008. Agencies are no longer required to manually enter legal contracts into the Transparency database. **No agencies are exempt from providing information required for posting to the established public website for the data contained in Phases I, II, IV, and V.** DFA is working now to complete the missing pieces of MATA, (e.g., posting of contract documents in PDF format) over the next 6 – 9 months.

DFA made the decision to “no bid” the procurement for the Grants Operation And Lifecycle Solution (GOALS) project (Phase III) after bid evaluation revealed that none of the solutions offered would meet the State’s needs. The bulk of the GOALS requirements will be included in the MAGIC software RFP that is scheduled for release later in 2009. Other requirements will be incorporated as a part of the development now underway to capture and report data for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA Stimulus).

Below are the completed phases for MATA:

Phase I

- Creation of a user-friendly, web-based database for manual entry of agency independent contract data. This database permits authorized agency staff to enter and modify agency independent contract data. See [#5051 MATA Agency Contracts Web Interface](#) training instructions for entry of manual data into the web-based database.
- Creation of a downloadable Excel spreadsheet and instructions for batch submission of agency independent contract data by authorized agency staff. See

May 1, 2009  
MATA Update

- [#2010 MATA Spreadsheet Agency Contract Load and Instructions](#) for entry of spreadsheet data into the web-based database.
- Creation of appropriate security forms and instructions for agencies to properly authorize staff to populate agency independent contract data. See [#2008 MATA Agency Contracts Web Interface Security Maintenance Form](#) and [#2009 MATA Agency Contracts Web Interface Security Maintenance Form Procedures](#) on the MMRS website. **State agency staff should complete and submit these authorization forms as soon as possible.**
- Creation of public access queries for agency independent contract data, available at <https://merlin.state.ms.us> under the Transparency link.

#### Phase II

- Creation of public access queries of vendor expenditure data. Data for Phase II is derived from the Statewide Automated Accounting System (SAAS).

#### Phase IV

- Summaries of contract worker contracts and contract worker payments. Phase IV data is derived from the Statewide Payroll and Human Resource System (SPAHRs).

#### Phase V

- Summaries of contract records for legal contracts in SPAHRs executed on or after July 1, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact the MMRS Call Center at 601-359-1343 or via email at [mash@dfa.state.ms.us](mailto:mash@dfa.state.ms.us).