“There is a strong prejudice that the money should be out the door quickly.”

Director Jack Lew, Oct. 25, 2011
Working together works better
ARRA Big City Network
Acceleration Memo Survey

40 Respondents

18 Jurisdictions

11 Subrecipient Awards

1066 Prime Recipient Awards
How Did You First Learn of the Acceleration Memo?

- 30%: Your Federal Oversight Agency
- 23%: Federal OMB
- 37%: Central Recovery Office
- 10%: Other
Who Initiated Communication about the Memo?

- 48%: Your Federal Oversight Agency
- 45%: Your Agency
- 7%: Nobody
How Often Has Your Federal Agency Discussed the Memo?

- Never: 15%
- Rarely: 35%
- Sometimes: 38%
- Often: 12%
How Would You Rate Federal Communication?

- Unresponsive:
  - 1: 10%
  - 2: 13%
  - 3: 13%
  - 4: 17%
  - 5: 15%
  - 6: 13%

- Proactive:
  - 7: 17%
  - N/A: 2%
How Concerned Are You About the Memo?

1. Not At All: 12%
2. Not At All: 5%
3. Not At All: 12%
4. Concerned: 10%
5. Concerned: 20%
6. Concerned: 18%
7. Very Concerned: 23%
### Sample of Deadlines Beyond 9/30/2013

#### Transportation
- Highway Planning and Construction
- Transit Capital Grants
- High Speed Rail

#### Technology
- Broadband Tech. Opportunities Pgm.
- Health Information Technology

#### Energy & Environment
- Smart Grid
- Habitat Conservation
- Clean Water and Drinking Water

#### Education
- Race to the Top
- School Improvement Grants
- Investing in Innovation
- Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems

#### Safety
- TSA Checked Baggage Inspection Pgm.
- Public Safety and Community Policing
- Justice Assistance Grant Program

#### Research & Development
- National Science Foundation
- Renewable Energy
What are the Flexibilities to Accelerate?

- **20%** Change timeline specified in contracts
- **15%** Redefine spending plan to make purchases now
- **13%** Identify eligible expenses which can be spent sooner
- **10%** Reduce programmatic scope
- **8%** Expedite contracting process with vendors
- **8%** Streamline oversight reqs within jurisdiction
- **58%** N/A - We cannot accelerate
What are the Practical Challenges to Accelerate?

- **Compromise long-term programmatic goals**: 68%
- **Incur new costs**: 18%
- **Cause contract breach**: 15%
- **Cannot complete EHP reviews within timeframe**: 12%
- **Need congressional approval**: 7%
- **N/A - We can accelerate**: 27%
How Has Your Oversight Agency Responded?

18% No information has been provided
22% We will submit a waiver for your agency
5% We will not submit a waiver for your agency
7% It is too early to discuss waivers
18% Do not worry about waivers; Go about your business as usual
30% Other
Top Recommendations to Streamline Process?

- Ensure consistent, ongoing messaging from fed OMB to fed agencies: 65%
- Publish timeline for fed OMB assessment of waiver requests: 58%
- Clearly explain reqs for waiver requests in writing: 50%
- Confirm that fed agencies have contacted recipients re: memo: 40%
- Require written monthly updates to recipients until final waiver decisions: 40%
- Set deadline to renegotiate signed award agreements if waiver is denied: 30%
Hitting the target,
Missing the point
nycarra.tumblr.com
# Making a Deadline

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**Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEP:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solar PV Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3.7 million Award</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 buildings</td>
<td>Installation projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Construction completed</td>
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Making a Difference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services</th>
<th>330 kilowatts Renewable energy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tripled</strong></td>
<td>Solar installed On city bldgs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>167 metric tons</strong> CO2 emissions reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$51,000</strong> Annual cost savings</td>
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Acceleration Memo: A Recipient Perspective