

# **STRENGTHENING FEDERAL SPENDING TRANSPARENCY**

## **A Working Conference to Develop a Plan of Action**

**Economic Policy Institute  
1333 H Street, NW  
Suite 300, East Tower  
Washington, DC 20005-4707**

**May 20, 2010  
9:00 am – 5:45 pm**

**Hosted by:**  
***Center for American Progress, Economic Policy Institute, Good Jobs First, OMB Watch,  
OpenTheGovernment.org, Progressive States Network, Project on Government  
Oversight, Sunlight Foundation, and Taxpayers for Common Sense***

## **AGENDA**

- 8:30 am **Breakfast & Check-In**
- 9:00 am **Welcome**  
*John Irons, Economic Policy Institute*
- 9:15 am **Federal Spending Transparency: Developing a Vision**  
*Jeffrey Zients, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management & Budget*
- 9:45 am **Federal Spending Transparency: What We Can Achieve Today**  
*Gary Bass, OMB Watch*
- 10:10 am **Panel on Challenges & Opportunities in Pursuing Spending Transparency**  
*Tracking Spending Throughout the Budget Life Cycle – Dan Chenok, Pragmatics  
Linking Spending and Performance – Paul Posner, George Mason University  
Reporting & Transparency – Craig Jennings, OMB Watch  
Challenges to the Vision – Burt Barnow, Johns Hopkins University*  
  
*Facilitator: John Irons, Economic Policy Institute*
- 11:00 am **Transition to Work Groups**
- 11:15 am **Work Groups: The Scope of the Problem**  
**Work Group 1: The Budget Life Cycle**  
*What aspects of the budget process need improved disclosure?  
How do we define spending?  
What are the tracking hurdles?*  
*Facilitator: Daniel Schuman, Sunlight Foundation*

## **Work Group 2: Performance**

*How do we define performance?*

*What are the limitations to disclosing performance information, particularly in the context of spending data?*

*Are there performance indicators that cut across large segments of the government?*

*Facilitator: Gary Bass, OMB Watch*

## **Work Group 3: Reporting & Transparency**

*What are the limitations of existing disclosure systems on federal spending?*

*What are existing recipient reporting problems under Recovery.gov?*

*What is the extent of data quality problems?*

*Facilitator: Greg LeRoy, Good Jobs First*

12:30 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm **Summary from Work Groups**

*Moderator: Gabriela Schneider, Sunlight Foundation*

1:30 pm **Transition to Work Groups**

1:45 pm **Work Groups: Solutions**

**Work Group 1: The Budget Life Cycle: How to Track Spending**

*Facilitator: Jim Harper, CATO Institute*

**Work Group 2: Linking Performance and Spending Data**

*Facilitator: Katherine McFate, Ford Foundation*

**Work Group 3: Making Spending Data Available to the Public**

*Facilitator: Patrice McDermott, OpenTheGovernment.org*

3:15 pm **Break**

3:30 pm **Summary from Work Groups**

*Moderator: Scott Amey, Project on Government Oversight*

4:15 pm **Building a Vision for Federal Spending Transparency**

*Adam Hughes, Senate Budget Committee*

*Eric Kansa, School of Information, UC Berkeley*

*Vivek Kundra, Federal Chief Information Officer, Office of Management and Budget*

*Danny Werfel, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget*

*Gary Bass, OMB Watch*

5:15 pm **Wine & Cheese**