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**ANALYSIS: MORE THAN \$10 BILLION IN STIMULUS FUNDING MISREPORTED**

**TALLAHASSEE** – More than \$10 billion in stimulus spending across the country is misreported on the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act website, according to an examination of the reporting system by Florida’s former stimulus czar, Don Winstead.

Errors made while recording the \$276 billion worth of Recovery Act grants, contracts and loans are often behind the misreporting. For instance, a single award of stimulus funding for a project is sometimes counted multiple times, inflating the total amount awarded to a particular project or state.

It is important to note that this amount of money is not actually being misspent. However, the totals shown on the maps and reports on the Recovery.gov website are potentially overstated. Identifying these flaws in the reporting system is important to improving future efforts.

“The Recovery Act reporting system is considered a model for future reporting by the federal government,” Winstead said. “It is critical that we understand these reporting errors to improve accountability and transparency in letting people see how their money is being spent.”

This policy brief is part of the Florida Transparency Project, a program of the Collins Center for Public Policy that tracks stimulus spending. Winstead, the former head of the state Office of Economic Recovery, is compiling quarterly reports and providing analysis for the Collins Center.

Among the findings in the policy brief:

- An estimated 7 percent of all awards recorded on the federal website contain errors.
- Those errors amount to between \$10.5 billion and \$11.6 billion of stimulus funding being misreported.
- Florida ranks 14<sup>th</sup> overall among states in percentage of errors in awards.
- Florida ranks 11<sup>th</sup> among states in dollar amount of awards misreported.

Most of the errors in Florida were made by federal contractors or by local agencies rather than by state agencies.

The Collins Center began analyzing stimulus spending in 2010, producing reports on stimulus spending on the state’s investment in infrastructure and on health care. Earlier this year, the Collins Center began producing quarterly reports that update the overall stimulus spending in Florida. These reports, along with

the policy brief by Winstead, are available at [collinscenter.org](http://collinscenter.org). They are provided with a belief that the best decisions made by government are those made in the presence of an informed public.

The nonprofit Collins Center for Public Policy was established in 1988 by Gov. LeRoy Collins (served 1955-1961) to seek out creative, nonpartisan solutions to Florida's toughest issues. Our work exemplifies Governor Collins' desire for objective analysis and his vision for a better Florida.

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