...*USA Today* reports today that the federal government plans on sending "more than $300 million in stimulus funds to **61 housing agencies** that have been repeatedly faulted by auditors for mishandling government aid."

The stimulus package more than doubled the $2.5 billion the federal government typically spends to maintain public housing each year. Housing agencies have a year to spend it. To speed work, the law lets them bypass some state and local purchasing rules, such as competitive bidding, says James Armstrong, an analyst with the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association.

USA TODAY reviewed OMB data summarizing thousands of audits completed since 2004 with help from Boston College business professor Elizabeth Keating, who studies audits. The review identified authorities receiving stimulus aid despite having been cited at least three times for problems managing federal money.

Read it **HERE** .