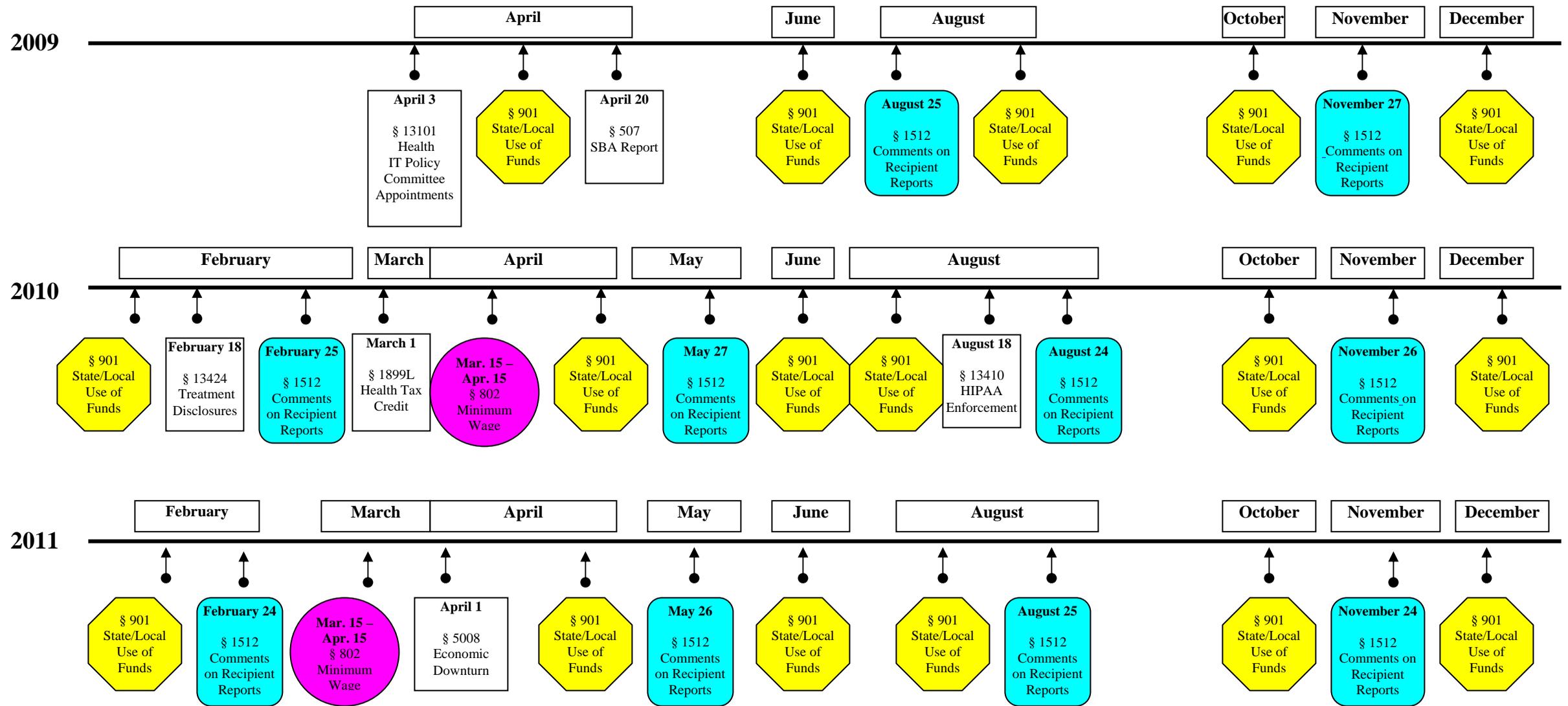


Timeline of GAO Mandates Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Through 2014¹



¹ Each recurring mandate is represented here by a different shape and color. In all but a few cases, the Act sets GAO’s mandate deadlines in terms of “X days after enactment,” which was February 17, 2009. The Act does not define the word “day”; using standard principles of statutory construction, “day” means a calendar day excluding the first day of the period and including the last day unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, in which case the last day falls on the next business day. The Act also does not set a sunset date for GAO’s recurring reports; this timeline extends through 2014 because that is the date of the last non-recurring mandate. Finally, two GAO mandates do not have specific deadlines. Section 901 requires “bimonthly” reports, which we interpret to mean that the first report is due two full months after enactment. Section 14009 requires GAO to report on certain education programs but sets no deadline. The lead team (EWIS) estimates that because certain events must occur before GAO’s analysis, this mandate will take until at least 3 years after enactment (February 2012).

