Federal Government Performance Website

Requirements

Not later than October 1, 2012, OMB is to ensure the effective operation of a single website that presents a cohesive picture of all federal programs, individual agency performance, and governmentwide performance. 31 U.S.C. § 1122.

This section focuses on the website and governmentwide performance requirements. For more information about related agency program and performance requirements, see section above on Transparency of Agency Programs, Goals, and Results.

OMB is to make information about each federal government priority goal available on the website, including:

- a brief description of the goal;
- any input from congressional consultations on the goal;
- the federal government performance goals and common crosscutting performance indicators associated with the goal;
- the lead government official;
- the results achieved during the most recent quarter and overall trend data compared to the planned level of performance;
- the relevant federal agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies, and other activities that contribute to the goal;
- an assessment of whether the relevant federal agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies, and other activities are contributing as planned;
- if the goal is at risk of not being achieved; and
- any strategies for performance improvement.


At a minimum, the website is to be updated on a quarterly basis. 31 U.S.C. § 1122(a)(1)(B).

The information made available on the website is to be readily available and easily found by the public and Congress, and presented in a searchable, machine-readable format. 31 U.S.C. § 1122(d).

Select Legislative History

The Act requires OMB to develop a single governmentwide performance website by 2012 that will feature performance information outlined in the Act and provided by the agency. The Act further requires that OMB issue guidance to agencies on providing performance information for publication on this website. In addition, agencies are required to produce all strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports in searchable, machine-readable formats beginning in fiscal year 2012. S. Rep. No. 111-372, at 12 (2010).

The Act also attempts to reduce unnecessary and duplicative printed reports by prohibiting the printing of strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports for external release, except when being provided to Congress. The public will be able to access these plans and reports on the government-wide performance website established in this Act. S. Rep. No. 111-372, at 12 (2010).

Related GAO Work

GAO has elaborated on and suggested several practices that support this requirement, including:

- being clear about purposes, audiences, and uses of the website (GAO-13-517, pp. 13-19); and
- communicating performance information frequently and effectively (GAO-05-927, pp. 27-32).