

Agency Quarterly Priority Progress Reviews

Requirements

At least quarterly for agencies selected to develop agency priority goals the agency head and (COO), with the support of the agency performance improvement officer (PIO), are to review with the goal leader for each agency priority goal

- the progress made toward achieving the goal during the most recent quarter;
- overall trend data; and
- the likelihood of meeting the planned level of performance.

31 U.S.C. § 1121(b)(1).

The reviews are to include coordination with officials from federal organizations, programs, and activities that contribute to achieving each agency priority goal, both within and from outside the agency. 31 U.S.C. § 1121(b)(2).

At these reviews, the agency head and COO are to

- assess whether relevant federal organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, and other activities are contributing as planned to the agency priority goals;
- categorize agency priority goals by their risk of not being achieved; and
- identify strategies to improve performance for those agency priority goals at greatest risk of not being met, including any needed changes to agency program activities, regulations, policies, or other activities.

31 U.S.C. § 1121(b)(3), (4), (5).

Select Legislative History

For each agency priority goal, the head of the agency and the COO, with the support of the agency PIO, reviews the progress achieved during the most recent quarter and the likelihood of meeting the performance target. The reviews should include the designated leader for each agency priority goal, and relevant personnel within and external to the agency. The reviews should also highlight and strategize regarding high risk areas in other word, where there is the greatest risk of not meeting a priority goal. Further, the head of the agency, COO, and PIO must assess whether the relevant organizations, program activities, regulations, policies and other activities are contributing as planned to each agency priority. S. Rep. No. 111-372, at 11 (2010).

This approach is aimed at increasing the use of performance information to improve performance and results. Through government-wide surveys of federal managers between 1997 and 2007, GAO found that although federal managers reported they had more performance measures in 2007 than in 1997, their reported use of the performance information collected by those measures had not changed significantly during that ten year period. Agencies are collecting a significant amount of information, but are not consistently using that information to improve their management and results. S. Rep. No. 111-372, at 11-12 (2010).

Related GAO Work

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

- identifying leading practices to promote successful data-driven reviews ([GAO-13-228](#));
- using performance information to manage for results ([GAO-05-927](#), pp. 7-17);
- practices to enhance or facilitate the use of performance information for management decision making ([GAO-05-927](#), pp. 18- 32); and
- using evaluation to explain and identify ways to improve program performance ([GAO/GGD-00-204](#)).