

Transparency of Agency Programs, Goals, and Results

Requirements

Not later than October 1, 2012, the Office of Management and Budget (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 federal program and agency performance requirements. For more information about the website and governmentwide performance requirements, see section below, Federal Government Performance Website.

Federal Programs □ The agency is to share with OMB, for publication on the governmentwide performance website, information about each of its programs, including

- how the agency defines the program, including the program activities that are aggregated, disaggregated, or consolidated to be considered a program by the agency;
- a description of the purposes of each program;
- how each program contributes to the agency's mission and goals; and
- funding for the current fiscal year and previous 2 fiscal years.

31 U.S.C. § 1122(a)(2).

Agency Goals and Results □ The agency is to produce its strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reporting updates in searchable, machine-readable formats and make them available on the governmentwide performance website. Pub. L. No. 111-352, § 10, 124 Stat. 3866, 3880-3881 (2011).

In addition, the agency is to make information about the agency priority goals and quarterly priority progress reviews available to OMB for publication on the governmentwide performance website. This consolidated information about each priority goal is to include:

- a description of how the agency incorporated input from congressional consultations;
- an identification of key external factors that could significantly affect the achievement of the agency priority goal;
- the strategies and resources required to achieve the goal;
- clearly defined milestones;
- the contributing organizations, programs, and activities;
- a description of interagency collaboration;
- an identification of the goal leader;
- performance indicators;
- a description of how the agency ensures data accuracy and reliability;
- the results achieved during the most recent quarter and overall trend data compared to the planned level of performance;
- an assessment of whether relevant organizations, programs, and activities are contributing as planned;
- an identification of the priority goals at risk of not being achieved; and
- any strategies for performance improvement.

31 U.S.C. § 1122(b).

OMB is to issue guidance to ensure that the information is provided in a way that presents a coherent picture of all federal programs, and the performance of the federal government as well as individual agencies. 31 U.S.C. § 1122(d).

Select Legislative History

This legislation 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).