

SECTION 200 – OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Table of Contents

- 200.1 To which agencies does Part 6 of OMB Circular No. A–11 apply?
- 200.2 What other laws or policies are relevant to Part 6 of OMB Circular No. A–11?
- 200.3 Our agency is subject to special laws or other governing regulations related to our agency's performance planning, reporting, or management reviews. How does this guidance relate?
- 200.4 Overview of the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010
- 200.5 What are agencies, their managers and their employees accountable for with regard to their performance goals and measurement of organizational performance?
- 200.6 How does OMB Memorandum M-23-15 and its requirements to establish and assess Organizational Health and Organizational Performance Frameworks relate to the GPRA Modernization Act, and affect the roles and responsibilities of leadership at the agency?
- 200.7 How does the GPRA Modernization Act affect the roles and responsibilities of leadership at the agency?
- 200.8 How does the agency designate the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Performance Improvement Officer (PIO), and notify OMB of the designations?
- 200.9 Does an agency have to name an acting COO or acting PIO if the position is vacant?
- 200.10 Are the PIO designations available to the public?
- 200.11 What is the role of the COO?
- 200.12 Why is COO leadership engagement important to performance management?
- 200.13 What is the role of the PIO?
- 200.14 Who supports the work of the PIO?
- 200.15 What is the role of the Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO)?
- 200.16 What is the role of a goal leader?
- 200.17 Do all agencies need to assign a goal leader for every goal?
- 200.18 What is a Deputy Goal Leader?
- 200.19 What is the relationship between the individual performance plans of Goal Leaders and Deputy Goal Leaders and the organizational performance goals they lead?
- 200.20 What is the role of the agency-identified Major Operating Unit lead(s) responsible for developing and assessing frameworks for organizational health and organizational performance?
- 200.21 What is the role of the Performance Improvement Council (PIC)?
- 200.22 Who makes up the PIC?
- 200.23 What is the PIC's relationship with agencies?
- 200.24 Definitions
- 200.25 Example Illustration of Goal Relationships
- 200.26 Performance Timeline and Management Calendar

Summary of Changes

Updates the organizational performance planning and reporting timeline for agency strategic plans, performance plans and reports, priority goals, CX activities, learning agendas, and evaluation plans through publication of the FYs 2026-2030 Agency Strategic Plan. Clarifies applicability and existing exemption authority in accordance with Section 1117 of 31 U.S.C.

200.1 To which agencies does Part 6 of OMB Circular No. A-11 apply?

In Part 6 of this Circular, agency is defined by section 306(f) of title 5, which includes executive departments, government corporations, and independent establishments but does not include the Central Intelligence Agency, the Government Accountability Office, the United States Postal Service, and the Postal Regulatory Commission. The Legislative Branch and the Judiciary are not subject to these requirements. In cases where sections of Part 6 guidance are applicable only to a subset of executive departments, government corporations, and independent establishments, the section will specify to which subset of agencies the guidance applies.

Except for statutory exemption, all agencies are required to submit Strategic Plans, Agency Performance Plans, Agency Performance Reports, and Annual Evaluation Plans to the President, the Congress and OMB in accordance with these instructions. Section 1117 of 31 U.S.C. provides the OMB Director with the authority to exempt agencies with \$20 million or less in annual outlays from the requirements for a Strategic Plan (section 306 of title 5), Agency Performance Plan, and Agency Performance Report (sections 1115 and 1116 of title 31).

Organizational components of agencies are not considered independent establishments or separate from executive departments, rather are a part of them. Therefore, agency components are not defined as an agency in the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRMA) Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRAMA; Public Law 111-352) or in this guidance.

Agencies subject to this guidance should work with their components to implement GPRAMA in a manner that is most useful to the whole organization. Agencies are expected to work with their components to identify priorities, goals, performance indicators, and other indicators relative to the mission and strategic objectives of the agency.

Other sections of this guidance address specific agency applicability as it relates to those individual sections.

200.2 What other laws or policies are relevant to Part 6 of OMB Circular No. A-11?

Aside from the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62; GPRMA) and the GPRMA Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRAMA), several other laws and policies affect the agency requirements and organizational performance management and improvement efforts addressed in Part 6 of OMB Circular No. A-11. The Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-576) requires the head of each of the 24 executive agencies (31 U.S.C. 901) to prepare and submit to the Director of OMB audited financial statements. 31 U.S.C. 902(a)(6). And the list of agencies in the CFO Act is used to identify agencies that must develop Agency Priority Goals (APGs) under the GPRAMA or as otherwise determined by the Director of OMB. 31 U.S.C. 1120(b). A discussion of other related laws and policies is provided below.

[OMB Memorandum M-23-15](#) outlined steps for executive departments and agencies (agencies) to take to ensure that agency decisions regarding work environments continue to improve organizational health and organizational performance. The memorandum directs agencies and the major operating units of agencies to establish organizational health and organizational performance frameworks and approaches that support delivery of the agency's statutory missions; and routines to assess, monitor progress on, and diagnose issues related to their organizational health and organizational performance frameworks on an ongoing basis. Effective organizational health and organizational performance frameworks can inform agency decisions regarding a variety of factors, including empowering agency leaders and managers to make, monitor, and assess changes in the organization's work environment.

[2 C.F.R. 200.202](#) *Program Planning and Design* requires Federal agencies to design programs and create Assistance Listings before announcing a Notice of Funding Opportunity. It directs that programs must be designed with clear goals and objectives that facilitate the delivery of meaningful results and be aligned with the strategic goals and objectives within the Federal agency's strategic and performance plans in order to support the Federal agency's performance measurement, management, and reporting activities. This Section of the C.F.R. also states that Federal agencies should develop programs in consultation with communities benefiting from or impacted by the program and coordinate with other Federal agencies during program development. Federal agencies should consider available data, evidence, and evaluation results from past programs and make every effort to extend eligibility requirements to all potential applicants of funding opportunities.

The [Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018](#) (Public Law 115-435; "Evidence Act") was enacted in January 2019. Recognizing that data and evidence are key inputs to prioritizing agency efforts to support civic engagement, deliver on mission, service, and mission-support focused objectives, and to support decision-making, the Evidence Act emphasizes collaboration and coordination to make better use of existing Federal data by statutorily mandating federal evidence-building activities, open government data, and confidential information protection and statistical efficiency. Importantly, section [290](#) was established to discuss the relationship of evaluation and evidence-building activities required by the Evidence Act to the performance improvement efforts advanced by the Federal Performance Framework.

Specific to the area of foreign assistance, the [Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016](#) ([Public Law 114-191; FATAA](#)) and subsequent guidance in [OMB Memorandum M-18-04](#) created guidelines related to monitoring and evaluation for departments and agencies that invest foreign-assistance resources. FATAA further strengthens the existing requirement for them to publish quarterly financial and descriptive data on their programs, to create transparency on where they are directing funds and if programs are meeting their goals.

Enacted in December 2016, the [Program Management Improvement Accountability Act \(Public Law 114-264; PMIAA\)](#) further strengthened the performance of the Federal Government through improved program and project management that is based on data-driven decision-making. Specifically, the law required the development of practices and standards for effective program management. It also established an interagency council to provide an interagency forum for improving agency practices related to program management while overseeing implementation efforts. The Act required agency heads to designate a senior executive to serve as the Program Management Improvement Officer (PMIO), with responsibility for implementing program management policies and developing strategies for enhancing the role of program and project managers at agencies. Additionally, agencies must conduct annual portfolio reviews of programs in coordination with OMB to ensure programs are being managed effectively and efficiently. Section [270](#) of this Circular provides information and guidance for agencies on implementing this legislation as a complement to the Federal performance framework.

In July 2016, OMB released an update to [OMB Circular No. A-123](#), Management's Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and Internal Control. The update strengthened Federal agency management by ensuring all agencies implement an ERM capability coordinated with the strategic planning and strategic review process established by the GPRAMA, and the internal control processes required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) (Public Law 97-255) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s [Green Book](#). This integrated governance structure improved mission delivery, reduced costs, and focused corrective actions towards key risks. While OMB Circular No. A-123 is traditionally owned by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) community, effective implementation of the current policy will engage all agency management and require leadership from the agency Chief Operating Officer (COO), Chief Risk Officer (CRO) or equivalent, and Performance Improvement Officer (PIO)

working in close collaboration across all agency mission and mission-support functions when considering the full spectrum of risks to the successful execution of an agency's strategic goals and objectives. Section [260](#) of this Circular describes the relationship between key parts of the ERM framework in OMB Circular No. A-123 and its integration with the federal performance framework established by the GPRAMA, including the consideration of enterprise risks during the development of agency Strategic Plans and strategies to mitigate risks as part of the annual strategic review assessments.

The Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002 tasked each Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO) with "aligning the agency's human resources policies and programs with organization mission, strategic goals, and performance outcomes." See section [200.15](#) for the role of the CHCO. The GPRAMA reinforced the CHCOs' role in agency performance planning. As one means of implementing these expectations, the Senior Executive Service (SES) [performance appraisal policy](#) requires that every SES clearly identify the goals and objectives in the Agency Strategic Plan, Agency Performance Plan, or other organizational planning documents for which the SES has full or partial leadership responsibility. Agency strategic objectives must have designated individuals clearly responsible for their implementation, at SES or other levels of manager or team leader. See section [200.16](#) for guidance on the role of a goal leader. Additionally, Office of Personnel Management regulations (5 C.F.R. 250 Subpart B) require agencies to align their strategic human capital management practices with agency performance and strategic planning processes under the GPRAMA.

As a part of the capital planning process, pursuant to the Clinger-Cohen Act (Public Law 104-106), agency heads under the direction of OMB must "analyze the missions of the executive agency and, based on the analysis, revise the executive agency's mission-related processes and administrative processes, as appropriate, before making significant investments in information technology to be used in support of those missions." Additionally, agency plans for capital acquisitions, including plans for information technology supported by OMB's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OFCIO), should align with and support advancement of the goals identified in agency strategic information resource management plans per the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA; Public Law 113-291), and following guidance provided in OMB Circular No. A-130. Such planning requires coordination across documents to ensure agency strategic information resources management plans support with and align to goals and outcomes identified in Agency Strategic and Annual Performance Plans, including Agency Priority Goals.

The Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-531) allows smaller, non-CFO-Act-designated agencies, at the discretion of the Director of OMB, to consolidate the publication of their financial (Agency Financial Report) and performance (Agency Performance Report) information as a Performance and Accountability Report (PAR). See [OMB Circular No. A-136](#). A few small agencies use this option and may continue use it for meeting the performance reporting requirements of the Agency Performance Report. Pursuant to the GPRAMA, the annual Agency Performance Report (APR) is the primary document for comprehensive organizational performance reporting, and in light of the GPRAMA's performance reporting to a central website, CFO-Act agencies must provide their Agency Performance Report with the Agency Performance Plan. See section [240](#) on Agency Performance Reporting.

200.3 Our agency is subject to special laws or other governing regulations related to our agency's performance planning, reporting, or management reviews. How does this guidance relate?

The guidance related to the GPRAMA requirements complement an agency's existing requirements established by other government laws or policies. For example, where agencies are authorized to keep information secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, pursuant to applicable policies and laws, agencies should continue to follow those existing laws or policies in their performance planning and reporting. Further, in cases where it is appropriate and feasible, agencies can meet the requirements of the GPRAMA and other statutory requirements in a single report or management review, such as National

Defense Authorization Act requirements placed on the Department of Defense's National Defense Strategy, which could serve as the agency's Strategic Plan provided it meets the appropriate goal-setting and review requirements of associated laws. If agencies find that GPRAMA requirements conflict with other requirements, the agency Chief Operating Officer (COO) or Performance Improvement Officer (PIO) should consult OMB to discuss how related and overlapping requirements from separate statutes can be integrated in order to resolve the issue.

200.4 Overview of the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010

The [GPRA Modernization Act of 2010](#) (GPRAMA) was enacted in January 2011. The Act modernized the Federal Government's performance management framework, retaining and amplifying some aspects of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA 1993) while also addressing some of its weaknesses. GPRA 1993 established strategic planning, performance planning and performance reporting for agencies to communicate progress in achieving their missions. The GPRAMA established some important changes to existing requirements. Building on lessons agencies have learned in setting goals and reporting performance, a heightened emphasis is placed on priority-setting, cross-organizational collaboration to achieve shared goals, and the use and analysis of goals and measurement to improve outcomes. The GPRAMA serves as a foundation for engaging leaders in performance improvement and creating a culture where data and empirical evidence play a greater role in policy, budget and management decisions.

The purposes of the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 are to:

- Improve the confidence of the American people in the capability of the Federal Government, by systematically holding Federal agencies accountable for achieving program results;
- Improve program performance by requiring agencies to set goals, measure performance against those goals and report publicly on progress;
- Improve Federal program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a focus on results, service quality and customer satisfaction;
- Help Federal managers improve service delivery, by requiring that they plan for meeting program goals and by providing them with information about program results and service quality;
- Improve congressional decision-making by providing information on achieving statutory objectives and on the relative effectiveness and efficiency of Federal programs and spending;
- Improve internal management of the Federal Government; and
- Improve usefulness of performance and program information by modernizing public reporting.

Progress continues to be made in implementing the GPRAMA,¹ and the framework has proven effective at establishing management process and routines at agencies that reinforce data-driven decision-making.²

¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). (2021). *Evidence-Based Policy Making: Survey Results Suggest Increased Use of Performance Information across the Federal Government*. [GAO-22-103910](#).

² Moynihan, Donald, & Kroll, Alexander. (2016). "[Performance Management Routines that Work? An Early Assessment of the GPRA Modernization Act](#)," *Public Administration Review*, 76(2), pp. 314-323.

200.5 What are agencies, their managers, and their employees accountable for with regard to their performance goals and measurement of organizational performance?

The GPRAMA requires agencies to set long-term goals and objectives as well as specific, near-term performance goals. Agency leaders at all levels of the organization are accountable for choosing goals and indicators wisely and for setting ambitious, yet realistic targets. Wise selection of goals and indicators should reflect careful analysis of the characteristics of the problems and opportunities an agency seeks to influence to advance its mission, factors affecting those outcomes, agency capacity and priorities. Agency leaders are expected to consider the best available evidence, including any available evaluation results, when conducting this analysis. As appropriate, such analysis should consider whether the goals and indicators have been validated through research to be well correlated with ultimate outcomes, implications of available research on the appropriateness of the measure, and whether the available research indicates that the use of the measure may encourage negative unintended consequences. To successfully deliver services to the public in a cost-effective way, agencies strive to maintain a performance culture where both leaders and staff constantly ask and try to answer, using the most rigorous methods feasible and appropriate, questions that help them find, sustain, and spread proven or promising practices and policies.

Agencies are expected to set ambitious goals in a limited number of areas that push them to achieve significant performance improvements beyond current levels. In pursuing these ambitious goals, agencies are encouraged to expand the adoption of strategies that are based on rigorous evidence of effectiveness, where feasible and appropriate, to innovate strategies that show promise to be more effective, efficient, or cost-effective than current practice, and to evaluate their results. OMB generally expects agencies to make progress on all of their ambitious goals and achieve most of them, but at the same time will work with an agency that consistently meets a very high percentage of its ambitious goals to assure it is setting sufficiently ambitious goals. It will also work with agencies to develop performance improvement plans to support progress on the more challenging goals and objectives. Agencies are accountable for constantly striving to achieve meaningful progress and find lower-cost ways to achieve positive results.

200.6 How does OMB Memorandum M-23-15 and its requirements to establish and assess Organizational Health and Organizational Performance Frameworks relate to the GPRA Modernization Act and affect the roles and responsibilities of leadership at the agency?

[OMB Memorandum M-23-15](#), *Measuring, Monitoring, and Improving Organizational Health and Organizational Performance in the Context of Evolving Agency Work Environments*, provides guidance to help ensure that agency decisions regarding their work environments are aimed to continually improve their organization's health and organizational performance. The guidance establishes a common and consistent approach for heads of departments and agencies to regularly take stock of the organizational health and organizational performance (with particular focus at the component-level) of operating units, and use those insights to make decisions on agency work environments. The policies and guidance outlined in M-23-15 reinforce that organizational health and organizational performance should be the foundation for agency operational decisions, ensuring managers give close attention to strong, sustainable organizational health and culture over time while applying learning and evidence to sustain high-performing organizations. Agencies' and their major operating units' organizational health and organizational performance frameworks and approaches must support delivery of the agency's statutory missions.

While the historic Federal Performance Framework, outlined in Part 6 of this Circular and guided by GPRAMA, establishes routines of organizational goal setting, progress review, and reporting policies for agencies, it did not necessarily establish mechanisms and routines to develop and monitor an organization's

Moynihan, Donald, & Kroll, Alexander. (2021). "[Tools of Control? Comparing Congressional and Presidential Performance Management Reforms](#)." *Public Administration Review*, 81(4): 599-609.

capacity to perform or resiliency to respond to evolving missions, priorities, and external factors, including within dynamic working environments. Moreover, the Federal Performance Framework only required these routines at the agency level as the primary organizational unit of analysis. OMB's guidance in Memorandum M-23-15 requires the Major Operating Units to establish frameworks for measuring, monitoring, and improving the organizational health and organizational performance of such units. It builds routines to assess those frameworks, diagnosing issues and making course corrections to strengthen mission delivery at a more granular level than the historic routines at the agency level.

Agency Deputy Secretaries or equivalents (supported by the PIO) are accountable for ensuring that senior Federal Government leaders and managers monitor and assess the organizational health and organizational performance frameworks developed by the individual major operating units within an agency. This action includes creating new or applying existing routines for engaging managers and staff within each such operating unit to pursue improved performance in concert with increased organizational health. Agencies' approaches to implementing memorandum M-23-15, and frameworks for organizational health and organizational performance, should align to and integrate with existing agency-level and component-level strategic-planning, performance-management, and risk-management processes outlined in the applicable sections to Part 6 of this Circular, including the agency's annual strategic review, human capital planning, Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) action planning, and enterprise risk management efforts. Such routines and frameworks should also build on existing indicators and data collection efforts, while considering the development of new metrics where needed.

200.7 How does the GPRA Modernization Act affect the roles and responsibilities of leadership at the agency?

The GPRAMA builds upon a performance management leadership structure that begins with the agency head, the Chief Operating Officer (COO), the Performance Improvement Officer (PIO), and the goal leaders. The Act's performance framework must translate across and cascade down the organization to all agency managers and team leaders throughout the Department and its component bureaus. The three primary responsibilities of agency performance leaders are:

- 1. Goal-setting.** Leaders at all levels of the organization, starting with the agency head, are responsible for choosing and communicating near-term and long-term goals, distinguishing those that are the highest priority and for driving progress on those priorities.
- 2. Assuring timely, actionable performance information is available to decision-makers at all levels of the organization.** COOs, PIOs, Evaluation Officers, and senior program managers, along with agency CXOs (e.g., CIO, CFO, CHCO, CAO, PMIO, CDO, CRO, etc.), should make sure that the agency gathers and analyzes performance and other evidence, including evaluations and other research as needed, to better understand the problems they are trying to tackle, the effectiveness of past efforts to address problems, factors affecting change, and the costs of delivery.
- 3. Conducting frequent data-driven reviews that guide decisions and actions to improve organizational health and organizational performance outcomes, manage risk, and reduce costs.** Each agency head and/or COO, with the support of the PIO, must run data-driven progress reviews that include key personnel and management officials from headquarters offices, other components, programs, or agencies, which contribute to the accomplishment of the goals reviewed. At a minimum, these reviews must include Agency Priority Goals, which take into account strategic workforce planning and human capital data analysis to ensure core mission and program delivery. However, the agency head or COO may choose to expand these reviews to encompass other performance goals and objectives as appropriate.

Increased use of performance information should spread throughout the organization and to program delivery partners in concert with GPRAMA implementation. The emphasis by GPRAMA and the Federal Performance Framework on data-driven and evidence-based decision-making by agencies is complemented by the Evidence Act, and its focus on the data and evidence-building functions and activities of Federal agencies.

200.8 How does the agency designate the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Performance Improvement Officer (PIO), and notify OMB of the designations?

- **COO and PIO Designations.** The GPRAMA requires all agency heads to designate a COO, who is the deputy head of the agency or equivalent. Agency heads, in consultation with the COO, will designate a senior executive as the agency PIO. The PIO must report directly to the COO or agency head. Agencies naming a political appointee senior executive or other individual with a limited-term appointment as PIO should name a career senior executive as the Deputy PIO. For the purposes of assigning a PIO, agencies have flexibility to name a senior executive, depending on the organizational needs and structure of the agency. For agencies with 500 or more full-time-equivalent employees (FTEs), a senior executive should be at the Executive Schedule, Senior Executive Service or equivalent level. For agencies with less than 500 FTEs, a senior executive should be a senior-level manager or leader within the organization. If necessary, and within available resources, agencies subject to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 may submit to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) a request for consideration of an SES allocation adjustment for the PIO position.
- **How to Notify OMB of COO Designations.** The head of each agency with more than 500 FTEs must notify OMB of the name of the agency COO. This should be done by emailing the OMB Deputy Director for Management/Chief Performance Officer and the OMB Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management the name of the COO, copying performance@omb.eop.gov and PICStaff@gsa.gov.
- **How to Notify OMB of PIO / Deputy PIO Designations.** The COO must notify OMB of the name of the PIO (and Deputy PIO) by emailing the Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management and copying performance@omb.eop.gov and PICStaff@gsa.gov. Agencies that have fewer than 500 FTEs are encouraged, but not required, to notify OMB of the name of the agency COO and PIO (and Deputy PIO if named). The agency head or COO, as appropriate, must update the designations as they change. It is critical agencies notify OMB of changes to COO, PIO, and Deputy PIO designations as they occur. Doing so ensures OMB, in collaboration with GSA, is able to maintain the accuracy of email Listservs that are used to facilitate the communication of key performance and management information, policies, guidance and initiatives to agencies.

200.9 Does an agency have to name an acting COO or acting PIO if the position is vacant?

Yes. If the COO or PIO position is likely to remain vacant for more than one month, the agency head or the COO should notify OMB of the name of the acting COO or acting PIO by emailing notifications to the Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management, copying performance@omb.eop.gov. The Deputy PIO will be presumed to serve as the acting PIO unless the COO names another person to serve as the acting PIO.

200.10 Are the PIO designations available to the public?

Yes. The names of PIOs are available to the public on the [Performance Improvement Council's](#) page on the Performance.gov website for the 24 CFO Act agencies.

200.11 What is the role of the COO?

Critical to the success of agency efforts to improve results and reduce costs is leadership engagement at all levels – led by the COO. The GPRAMA states that the COO "shall provide overall organization management to improve agency performance and achieve the mission and goals of the agency through the use of strategic and performance planning, measurement, analysis, regular assessment of progress, and use of performance information to improve the results achieved." The law charges the COO with advising and assisting the head of the agency in these efforts, with support from the PIO. COOs, assisted by PIOs, are expected to assume the following roles and responsibilities for delivering an efficient, effective, and accountable government:

- 1. Set clear and ambitious goals to improve results and reduce costs.** COOs will advise and assist the agency heads in selecting and communicating near- and long-term goals for their agencies that accelerate performance on Administration priorities and agency missions, save money, and enhance agency responsiveness to customers and citizens.
- 2. Assign and empower senior accountable officials to lead.** Agency heads or COOs will designate a goal leader responsible for driving progress for each strategic objective and Agency Priority Goal, and at the agency-identified major operating unit level, a lead(s) responsible for the development and assessment of Frameworks for Organizational Health and Organizational Performance. COOs will ensure these senior accountable officials have the tools and authority needed to manage both within and across organization boundaries to deliver better results in the most cost-effective way.
- 3. Conduct frequent reviews to accelerate progress.** At least every quarter, the COOs will conduct data-driven reviews to speed performance and efficiency improvements on priority and other goals, including savings and management goals, coordinating with agencies that contribute to shared goals. Quarterly performance reviews on APGs are required both by [Executive Order 13576](#) and the GPRAMA. COOs are responsible for ensuring these reviews are implemented in a way that is useful to the organization and for strengthening the agency's analytic capacity to support data-driven progress reviews.
- 4. Identify and implement actions that improve results, enhance efficiency, manage risk and reduce waste.** The COOs, working with component managers, program managers, risk managers, research and evaluation offices, PIOs, Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), Chief Acquisition Officers (CAOs), Chief Information Officers (CIOs), Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCO), Program Management Improvement Officers (PMIOs), Chief Data Officers (CDOs), Chief Risk Officers (CROs) or equivalent, Evaluation Officers, and other management function leaders, will actively engage in delivering results on agency goals in more effective and efficient ways, including re-directing budget and staffing resources and expanding the use of strategies that have been shown to be effective based on rigorous evidence. In general, these types of decisions should take into consideration the portfolio of available evidence on the topic, and high-stakes decisions should, in particular and when available, be based on a preponderance of evidence developed using rigorous methods. The COOs will also work with the CFOs and other agency leaders to ensure that managers and employees continually look for and act on opportunities to cut waste and increase productivity. As part of this effort, COOs will ensure that other leaders within the agency such as program managers, information technology managers and acquisition leaders are working closely with the CFOs to meet goals for reducing unnecessary spending and to increase agency participation in Government-wide savings initiatives, such as strategic sourcing. COOs will also ensure that an agency's leadership team reviews the program improvement and cost saving recommendations identified in the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) annual report on

program duplication, overlap, and fragmentation, as well as areas GAO has identified as high-risk, and that the agency has a plan in place that addresses the recommendations.

5. **Ensure transparency of performance information that increases accountability, results, and cost-effectiveness.** COOs are responsible for making sure that performance information is regularly updated to inform agency and OMB performance reviews. In addition, COOs, with assistance from the PIO and PMIO, will make sure that program managers regularly communicate actionable performance metrics and analyses to those in the field, other parts of the Federal Government and delivery partners so they can improve performance and reduce costs. Also, on an annual basis, COOs are responsible for assuring that each agency identifies opportunities for eliminating or modifying duplicative or outdated congressionally-required plans and reports.
6. **Instill a performance and efficiency culture that inspires continuous improvement, strengthening organizational health and organizational performance.** COOs, supported by PIOs, CHCOs, PMIOs, in addition to research and evaluation offices, Evaluation Officers, and officials leading other management-focused offices, are responsible for establishing a performance, program management, and evidence culture within the agency that sets priorities and challenges for managers and employees at all levels of the organization to focus on better outcomes and lower-cost ways to operate. They should work to establish a culture of continual learning where staff identify critical questions and search for, test, and expand the use of effective practices, as well as one of risk awareness where the proactive identification and management of risk to agency objectives or programs is incentivized and embraced. They are also responsible for using the annual Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey to identify areas of personnel strength and areas of weakness needing attention. Further, COOs are responsible for assuring that SES performance expectations support progress on agency strategic objectives, performance goals, and indicators.

200.12 Why is COO leadership engagement important to performance management?

Engagement of agency leadership in organizational performance management is critical for several purposes. COOs need to:

- Provide organizational leadership to improve performance relative to mission and management functions. Importantly, this requires careful consideration be given to the agency's organizational structure and management processes when designating officials to serve in key agency management positions such as the CXOs (PIO, PMIO, CIO, CFO, CHCO, CRO, etc.). Agency heads and COOs must balance statutory provisions that govern the designation and reporting of these officials along with agency-specific organizational structures, processes, and lines of accountability or authority that will enable officials to effectively perform their roles and responsibilities throughout the agency.
- Bring together other leaders and staff within the agency, including component managers, program managers, research and evaluation experts, and other leaders of key management functions such as the CIO, CFO, CHCO, CAO, CDO, PMIO, Evaluation Officer, in addition to the PIO, to solve problems and pursue opportunities that help the agency operate more effectively and efficiently. This collaboration includes identification of critical questions that, when answered, will help the agency operate more effectively or efficiently, and the development of a plan to answer those questions in the most rigorous method feasible and appropriate.
- Make timely and consequential decisions, including program, budget, and staffing decisions, to drive performance results in more effective and cost-effective ways.

- Maintain or shift focus of other leaders and staff to the priorities that advance Administration and agency mission.
- Convene and chair data-driven performance reviews with appropriate representatives from components, key management functions, other offices, and other agencies, if needed, challenging those involved in the review to identify opportunities for improvement and decide next steps.
- Promote adoption of performance improvement practices across the whole organization, fostering a high-performance culture that empowers and engages managers and employees at all levels. Examples include creating demand for useful performance information and other evidence during data-driven reviews, holding managers accountable for knowing what works that is worth continuing, knowing what does not and that needs to be fixed, and following up on actions assigned during the performance reviews.

200.13 What is the role of the PIO?

The GPRAMA requires agency heads, in consultation with the COO, to name a PIO who is a senior executive reporting directly to the COO. Agency PIOs are expected to advise and assist the agency leadership to ensure that the mission and goals of the agency are achieved through strategic and performance planning, measurement, analysis, regular assessment of progress, and use of high-quality performance information and other evidence to improve results. This includes driving performance improvement efforts across the organization by using goal-setting, measurement, analysis, evaluation and other research, data-driven performance reviews on progress, cross-agency collaboration, and personnel performance appraisals aligned with organizational priorities.

The PIOs are expected to support the head of the agency and COO functions by playing the following roles within their agencies:

1. Support the agency head and COO in leading agency efforts to set goals, make results transparent, review progress and make course corrections by:
 - advising and assisting all organizational components in strategic and performance planning to advance the agency's mission, and development of Organizational Health and Organizational Performance Frameworks that strengthen mission delivery by agency-designated major operating units;
 - supporting frequent data-driven reviews, at least quarterly, to learn from experience, descriptive research, descriptive and predictive analyses, evaluations, and work in coordination with agency managers to decide next steps to improve program performance; and
 - communicating goals, progress, problems, and improvement plans, including quarterly reporting of progress on agency priorities and annual Performance Reports, to those who need the information to make better decisions.
2. Reach out to other offices to improve operational effectiveness and efficiency by:
 - assisting other agency managers, including component and program office managers, CFO, CHCO, CAO/Sr. Procurement Executive, CIO, PMIO, CDO, Statistical Official, CRO or equivalent, risk managers, research and evaluation offices and Evaluation Officer, and legislative and communication offices, in efforts to improve and communicate organizational performance;

- working with the CHCO and other agency managers to effectively align strategic human capital management planning and practices (see 5 C.F.R. 250 Subpart B), including personnel performance objectives, feedback, appraisals, recognition, and incentive structures to advance agency goals and priorities;
 - working with CIOs and CAOs to ensure agency capital investments advance organizational goals set forth in strategic and annual plans; and
 - assisting the COO, in collaboration with the CFO, in evaluating the efficient stewardship of resources across all agency activities, incorporating the use of performance information and other evidence, particularly high-quality evidence identified in partnership with research and evaluation offices, in budget preparation and execution;
 - working with PMIOs to ensure program and project management practices are strengthened across the agency and applied to achieve improved program performance as well as strengthened agency capabilities, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing for managing programs more effectively and efficiently;
 - working with the Evaluation Officer to strengthen the integration of evaluation and evidence-building activities with performance management to advance progress towards the agency's goals and outcome objectives;
 - working with the agency's Data Governance Body to help ensure that priorities for managing data assets support the agency's mission, including its strategic plan and other high-level priorities;
 - working with CDOs in identifying and using data to carry out various functions delegated to PIOs;
 - promoting the application of enterprise risk management practices in strategic planning, strategic reviews as well as other budget and performance activities;
 - supporting the application of clear program design principles before Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) are developed;
 - regularly coordinating and convening with agency leadership, operating unit lead, and other officials (including but not limited to CHCO, CDO, Evaluation Officer, CFO, CIO, CAO, Chief Experience Officer, Chief Technology Officer, the Statistical Official, and High Impact Service Provider leads) to continually review progress of and improve the agency's organizational health and organizational performance processes and frameworks.
3. Help components, program office leaders, goal leaders, and CXOs to identify and promote adoption of effective practices to improve impact of program outcomes, responsiveness, and efficiency by supporting them in:
- selecting meaningful and appropriate goals and indicators, designating goal leaders, collecting and analyzing data in ways that inform targeting, identifying and promoting adoption of increasingly effective practices, and securing evaluations and other research as needed;
 - preparing for data-driven reviews;

- communicating performance goals, indicators and related analyses;
- managing risks to performance goals and objectives;
- running effective data-driven performance reviews and triggering focused follow-up questions that inform future action and research; and
- creating a network for learning and knowledge sharing about successful outcome-focused, data-driven performance improvement methods across all levels of the organization and with delivery partners.

200.14 Who supports the work of the PIO?

Agencies may create a dedicated PIO staff and/or identify a cross-agency team that supports the PIO to assist the COO in strengthening the performance improvement culture and practices that improve outcomes and cost-effectiveness. COOs should identify organizational resources, staff or units with analytic and evaluation capacity to work with the PIOs to support the data-driven reviews. Close collaboration between the performance improvement and measurement functions overseen by the PIO and the evaluation functions overseen by the agency Evaluation Officer is critical to ensuring an evidence-based decision-making approach is exercised by agency management officials. Finally, close coordination between the PIO and Chief Data Officer is also needed to ensure that the agency identifies and uses the appropriate data necessary—to include human capital analysis from the CHCO—to achieve the agency's broader goals, objectives, and outcomes.

200.15 What is the role of the Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO)?

The agency CHCO plays an important role in supporting agency strategic planning and performance improvement efforts, including specific responsibilities identified by statute in the GPRA Modernization Act, and further detailed in the Federal regulations for Strategic Human Capital Management, 5 C.F.R. 250 Subpart B (refer to section [250.201, Coverage and Purpose](#) for agency applicability). The CHCO supports the agency head, COO, and PIO by ensuring human capital plans, strategies, and investments advance organizational goals set forth in the agency's strategic and annual plans by:

- working with agency leaders to identify and establish the human capital goals and strategies needed to achieve the strategic goals and objectives in the Agency Strategic Plan;
- partnering with the PIO to include relevant human capital performance goals and indicators in the agency Annual Performance Plan;
- establishing the agency Human Capital Operating Plan (HCOP), and updating it annually, as an implementing document that describes how an agency will execute the human capital elements stated within the Agency Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan;
- updating the agency HCOP on the same annual cycle as the agency Annual Performance Plan in order to identify and focus on the human capital goals and measures that need to be implemented each year to achieve the strategic goals set forth in the Agency Strategic Plan; and
- conducting quarterly data-driven HRStat reviews, in collaboration with the PIO, to monitor the progress of HCOP implementation.

To further support agency strategic and annual performance planning, the CHCO is responsible for identifying and promoting relevant human capital programs and policies by providing information about:

- future workforce challenges that will affect the organization's ability to meet its mission objectives (e.g., pipeline challenges) and continuously conducting environmental scans to identify future human capital issues;
- workforce analysis profiles, to include information about current and future staffing and competency requirements;
- human capital programs and initiatives established to support the agency's mission, such as the agency's plan to maintain an agile and well-equipped workforce;
- human capital policies, programs, initiatives and training solutions that can mitigate risks identified; and
- requests for positions, training and programs, especially to support the Chief Financial Officer and agency budget decisions.

To align agency human capital management practices with the Human Capital Framework (HCF), pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 250 (B), and to identify and achieve agency-specific and government-wide strategic human capital goals and priorities, the CHCO should:

- oversee forward-thinking workforce planning and analysis within fiscal restraints, including identifying and continuously working to close skill gaps in mission critical occupations and managerial and executive positions using effective hiring and workforce development strategies;
- collaborate with the PIO and other senior leaders to emphasize and develop plans to improve and sustain meaningful employee engagement efforts;
- in collaboration with the COO and PIO, use their HRStat quarterly review sessions to measure progress and identify actions to enhance organizational culture and employee engagement, including tracking employee engagement metrics and targets;
- work with the PIO and senior leaders and managers across agency components and programs in developing aggressive, results-based individual performance plans that are aligned to and support agency goals and priorities, and in providing effective employee feedback, appraisals, recognition, and incentive structures to recognize excellence;
- recommend effective human capital solutions that can mitigate identified risks; and
- collaborate with other executive department CHCOs through the CHCO Council to share best practices and develop and support cross-cutting HC initiatives.

For more information about the CHCO role in agency performance management see the [April 26, 2013 memorandum](#) from OPM to CHCOs.

200.16 What is the role of a goal leader?

A goal leader is an official named by the agency head or COO who will be held accountable for leading implementation efforts to achieve a goal. A goal leader will lay out strategies to achieve the goal, manage execution, regularly review performance, engage others as needed and make course corrections as appropriate. Agency goal leaders will be individual(s) authorized to coordinate across an agency or program to achieve progress on a goal. Certain goals may require two goal leaders or co-goal leaders who share accountability for progress.

200.17 Do all agencies need to assign a goal leader for every goal?

Agencies responsible for Priority Goals must identify to OMB the goal leader for each Agency Priority Goal, and goal lead(s) or lead office(s) for each strategic objective that was included in the agency's Strategic Plan or updated in the most recent annual Agency Performance Plan. Unless otherwise noted, the goal leader or lead office(s) for each strategic objective also has responsibility for driving progress on the individual performance goals supporting that strategic objective and managing associated risks. OMB will work across the Administration to identify goal leaders for Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals. OMB expects that Chief Human Capital Officers and PIOs to work together to ensure that every Agency Priority Goal and strategic objective has an official clearly responsible for it.

200.18 What is a Deputy Goal Leader?

Where a goal leader is assigned, agencies should identify a deputy goal leader to support the goal leader. If the goal leader identified is a political appointee, then the deputy goal leader designated to assist the goal leader should be a career Federal employee.

200.19 What is the relationship between the individual performance plans of Goal Leaders and Deputy Goal Leaders and the organizational performance goals they lead?

Agencies are required to establish performance management systems that hold senior executives accountable for individual and organizational performance. Individual performance plans of goal and deputy goal leaders should be aligned with the results and outcome oriented organizational performance goals required by the GPRAMA or other agency or Administration performance and management initiatives. Additional information can be found on OPM's [Performance Management](#) website outlining individual performance management system requirements and their relationship to organizational performance goals and objectives.

200.20 What is the role of the agency-identified Major Operating Unit lead(s) responsible for developing and assessing frameworks for organizational health and organizational performance?

Agencies are required to identify the major operating units within their agencies in which OMB Memorandum M-23-15's requirements for frameworks for organizational health and organizational performance will be applied. For each major operating unit identified by agencies, a lead(s) will be designated for overseeing the development and assessment of those frameworks. The lead should serve in a senior position that has the ability to direct and coordinate implementation of performance and workforce policies throughout the organization. Major operating unit lead(s) will be responsible for reviewing and analyzing their organizational health and organizational performance data and processes, identifying areas where existing indicators are not available and identifying gaps (e.g., areas where new data streams or inclusion in the learning agenda would be helpful) to ensure the best-available organizational health and organizational performance indicators will be available for future reviews.

200.21 What is the role of the Performance Improvement Council (PIC)?

The GPRAMA establishes the Performance Improvement Council (PIC) in statute. The PIC assists agencies, the Director of OMB, and the Deputy Director for Management of OMB in improving the performance of the Federal Government. The PIC's primary focus is to help make performance management and improvement policies and principles operational in an applied, experiential setting at agencies.

The Deputy Director for Management of OMB, or designee, shall act as chairperson of the PIC and preside at the meetings of the PIC, determine its agenda, direct its work, and establish and direct subgroups of the PIC, as appropriate, to deal with particular subject matters or topics as well as ad hoc priority issues as determined by the PIC.

The PIC shall:

- Assist the Director of OMB in improving the performance of the Federal Government and achieving the Federal Government Cross-Agency Priority Goals and in implementing the planning, reporting and use of performance information requirements related to the CAP Goals;
- Analyze and advise how to resolve specific Government-wide or cross-cutting issues;
- Facilitate the exchange of useful practices within specific programs or across agencies;
- Coordinate with other interagency management councils;
- Consider the performance management and improvement experience of others (private sector, other governments and other levels of government, nonprofit sector, public sector unions, customers of government services, etc.);
- Receive assistance, information, and advice from agencies;
- Develop and submit recommendations to streamline and improve performance management policies and requirements and, when appropriate, leads implementation of them; and
- Develop tips, tools, training, and other capacity-building mechanisms to strengthen agency performance management and facilitate cross-agency learning and cooperation, especially by considering the performance improvement experiences of entities both within and outside the Federal Government.

200.22 Who makes up the PIC?

The Performance Improvement Council is chaired by the Deputy Director for Management (DDM) of OMB and is supported by a number of full-time staff from the General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Shared Solutions and Performance Improvement (OSSPI). The membership of the PIC includes PIOs, Deputy PIOs, and associated/supporting staff from Federal agencies as determined by the chair. The PIC may create working groups, task forces, and subcommittees made up of other agency officials to carry out the work of the Council and support efforts to improve the performance of the Federal Government.

200.23 What is the PIC's relationship with agencies?

The PIC is made up of agency representatives and serves agencies on matters of organizational performance management and improvement and other related disciplines. Agency staff, managers, and executives can engage PIC resources, such as dedicated staff and detailees reporting to the PIC, working groups, and online collaboration opportunities provided by the PIC, to solicit solutions to matters that impact mission activity, management functions and performance management. As provided by law, the heads of agencies with Performance Improvement Officers serving on the PIC shall provide, at the request of the chairperson of the PIC, up to 2 personnel authorizations to serve at the direction of the chairperson.

Additionally, the PIC sponsors the PERFORMANCE@LISTSERV.GSA.GOV in order to promote and facilitate learning across the performance management community. Managed by GSA's Office of Shared Solutions and Performance Improvement (OSSPI) in collaboration with OMB, the PERFORMANCE listserv is open to Federal employees or contractors with a valid .gov email address and provides for a private, semi-moderated discussion list for federal employees regarding organizational performance management and related issues and disciplines. Members may post messages by sending an email to performance@listserv.gsa.gov. Messages typically range from learning and development opportunities, to performance-related events, to USAjobs vacancy announcements. In order to subscribe to the PERFORMANCE Listserv, Federal employees or eligible contractors must send their office address and contact information to GSA's OSSPI at picstaff@gsa.gov.

200.24 Definitions

Administrative Data. Data collected by government entities for program administration, regulatory, or law enforcement purposes. Examples include: data on employment and earnings collected through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, data on medical conditions and payments collected through Medicare and Medicaid, data on local pollution levels collected to administer the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and criminal histories maintained as part of police records or arrests. Such data are usually collected on the universe of individuals, businesses, or communities affected by a particular program, in contrast to survey data that are collected for samples of broader populations, typically for research evaluation, or other statistical purposes.

Actionable Information/ Data of Significant Value. Data or other evidence that is sufficiently accurate, timely and relevant to affect a decision, behavior, or outcome by those who have authority to take action. For information to be actionable, it must be prepared in a format appropriate for the user. (See section [240](#).)

Agency. OMB Circular No. A-11 Part 6 uses the same definition of agency as the GPRA Modernization Act in section 306(f) of title 5. This definition of agency includes executive departments, government corporations and independent establishments but does not include the Central Intelligence Agency, the Government Accountability Office, the United States Postal Service, and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Agency Financial Report (AFR). A report on the agency end of fiscal year financial position that includes, but is not limited to, financial statements, notes on the financial statements and a report of the independent auditors. The report also includes a performance summary. (See section [240](#) on Annual Performance Reporting).

Annual Agency Performance Plan (APP). Under the GPRA Modernization Act, an Agency's Annual Performance Plan defines the level of performance to be achieved during the fiscal year in which the plan is submitted and the next fiscal year. The APP may be used to structure the agency's budget submission or be a separate document that accompanies the agency's budget submission. An Annual Agency Performance

Plan must cover each program activity of the agency set forth in the budget. (See section [240](#) on Annual Performance Planning).

Annual Agency Performance Report (APR). A report on the agency performance that provides information on the agency's progress achieving the goals and objectives described in the agency's Strategic Plan and Annual Agency Performance Plan, including progress on the Agency Priority Goals. The report is delivered to the Congress every February with an agency's Congressional Budget Justification or, alternatively, the APR may be delivered as a performance section of the Performance and Accountability Report that is published by agencies in November. (See section [240](#) on Annual Performance Reporting).

Component (of an agency). Used to describe major organizational units, such as a bureau, administration, or office, within a department or agency. See [20.3](#) of this Circular.

Crosscutting. Across organizational boundaries within an agency or across multiple agencies.

Customer Experience (CX). As defined by Executive Order 14058, the term Customer Experience (CX) means the public's perceptions of and overall satisfaction with interactions with an agency, product, or service. Building on this definition and applied in the broader context of this guidance, Federal Government CX refers to a combination of factors that result from touchpoints between an individual, business, or organization and the Federal Government over the duration of an interaction and relationship. These factors can include ease/simplicity, efficiency/speed, equity/transparency of the process, effectiveness/perceived value of the service itself, and the interaction with any employees. Perceived responsiveness to individual needs and feedback is also important. Similar to their application in the private sector, these factors can drive the overall satisfaction and confidence or trust with the program, agency, and the government at large. A customer's experience interacting with the Federal government directly contributes to their trust in government itself. (See section [280](#) on Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery.)

Data-Driven Review. Routine and periodic assessments led by agency leaders that incorporate a broad range of qualitative and quantitative inputs and indicators to review the organization's performance. Data-Driven Reviews bring together the people, resources, and analyses needed to drive progress and performance improvement on agency priorities, both mission-focused and mission-support/management-focused goals. While performance management often leverages data-driven reviews to track results on the implementation of agency goals, evaluations are carried out periodically and use rigorous designs and methodologies, particularly to estimate impacts and determine causality. (See section [260](#) on Performance and Strategic Reviews.)

Delivery Partner. Organizations or entities outside a Federal agency that provide support or assistance in helping a Federal agency accomplish its objectives (e.g., state and local governments, grantees, non-profits, associations, other agencies, contractors).

Efficiency. For the purposes of A-11 Part 6, efficiency gains may be described as maintaining a level of performance at a lower cost, improving performance levels at a lower cost, improving performance levels at the same cost, or improving performance levels to a greater degree than costs are increased. Efficiency may be applied to the management of programs and their supporting activities as well as performance goals and objectives.

Effectiveness. For the purposes of A-11 Part 6, effectiveness can be described as an empirical approach to assess whether a goal, program, or policy is achieving its intended, desired results. Measuring effectiveness requires systematic analysis and takes into account considerations such as timeliness, quality, and the intended outcomes.

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). A discipline that deals with identifying, assessing, and managing an organization's risks to achieving its goals and objectives. Agencies should coordinate the implementation of their ERM capability that assesses and manages risks as part of their strategic planning and review process (section [260](#)). For a complete description of management's responsibilities for Enterprise Risk Management and internal control within the Federal Government see [OMB Circular No. A-123](#).

Evaluation. As defined by [5 U.S.C. 311\(3\)](#), "evaluation" means an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency. Evaluations can provide critical information to inform decisions about current and future programming, policies, and organizational operations. Evaluation can look beyond the program, policy, or organizational level to include assessment of particular projects or interventions within a program, for example, or particular aspects of a policy of functions or units within an organization. Evaluations may address questions related to the implementation of a program, policy, or organization; the effectiveness of specific strategies related to or used by a program, policy, or organization; and/or factors that relate to variability in the effectiveness of a program, policy, or organization or strategies of these. Evaluations can also examine questions related to understanding the contextual factors surrounding a program, as well as how to effectively target specific populations or groups for a particular intervention. Evaluations can and should be used for learning and improvement purposes, as well as accountability purposes. See [OMB Memorandum M-20-12](#).

While evaluation can provide information on a program's performance (i.e., its activities, outputs, and outcomes), its overall goals and approach are different from performance measurement. A principal focus of performance measurement is assessing progress toward organizational goals and established targets in helping determine whether an implementation strategy is achieving its stated output or outcome objectives. In contrast, evaluation, as defined above, is a systematic effort to understand effectiveness. However, both evaluation and performance measurement generate information that falls along the continuum of evidence, serve as methods for systematic assessment, and aim to facilitate learning about and improve results of government activities. Evaluation and performance measurement should be aligned and complementary, where appropriate.

Evaluation Activities include the planning, implementation, management, and reporting of activities overseen or coordinated by evaluators and related staff within a Federal agency. This includes, but is not limited to: developing and coordinating multi-year Learning Agendas, establishing Annual Evaluation Plans, planning and managing or conducting specific evaluations, summarizing evaluation findings for particular programs or policies, supporting other offices within an agency to interpret evaluation findings, and bringing evaluation-related evidence to bear in decision-making. See [OMB Memorandum M-20-12](#).

Importantly, there are different types of evaluation, each of which addresses different questions, including:

- **Impact Evaluation:** This type of evaluation assesses the causal impact of a program, policy, or organization, or aspect of them on outcomes, relative to a counterfactual. In other words, this type of evaluation estimates and compares outcomes with and without the program, policy, or organization, or aspect thereof. Impact evaluations include both experimental (i.e., randomized controlled trials) and quasi-experimental designs. An impact evaluation can help answer the question, "does it work," or "did the intervention lead to the observed outcomes?"
- **Outcome Evaluation:** This type of evaluation measures the extent to which a program, policy, or organization has achieved its intended outcome(s), and focuses on outputs and outcomes to assess effectiveness. Unlike impact evaluation above, it cannot discern causal attribution but is complementary to performance measurement, as noted above. An outcome evaluation can help

answer the question, "were the intended outcomes of the program, policy, or organization achieved?"

- *Process or Implementation Evaluation:* This type of evaluation assesses how the program or service is delivered relative to its intended theory of change, and often includes information on content, quantity, quality, and structure of services provided. These evaluations can help answer the question, "was the program, policy, or organization implemented as intended?" or "how is the program, policy, or organization operating in practice?"
- *Formative Evaluation:* This type of evaluation is typically conducted to assess whether a program, policy, or organizational approach – or some aspect of these – is feasible, appropriate, and acceptable before it is fully implemented. It may include process and/or outcome measures. However, unlike outcome and impact evaluations, which seek to answer whether or not the program, policy, or organization met its intended goals or had the intended impacts, a formative evaluation focuses on learning and improvement and does not answer questions of overall effectiveness.
- *Descriptive Studies:* These studies can be quantitative or qualitative in nature, and seek to describe a program, policy, organization, or population without inferring causality or measuring effectiveness. While not all descriptive studies are evaluations, some may be used for various evaluation purposes, such as to understand relationships between program activities and participant outcomes, measure relationships between policies and particular outcomes, describe program participants or components, and identify trends or patterns in data.

As described in [OMB Memorandum M-20-12](#), all evaluations must adhere to program evaluation standards, and the questions to be answered must drive the research methods (and not vice versa). Federal evaluations must address questions of importance and serve the information needs of stakeholders in order to be useful resources (Relevance and Utility). All evaluations, regardless of method (i.e., qualitative, quantitative, or mixed) must adhere to widely accepted scientific principles and employ methods most appropriate for the evaluation's objectives, within constraints of timeline, feasibility, and available resources (Rigor). Evaluators should strive for objectivity in the planning and conduct of evaluations and in the interpretation and dissemination of findings, avoiding conflicts of interest, bias, and other partiality (Independence and Objectivity). Federal evaluation must be transparent in the planning, implementation, and reporting phases to enable accountability and help ensure that aspects of an evaluation are not tailored to generate specific findings (Transparency). Evaluations should be equitable, fair, and just, and should take into account cultural and contextual factors that could influence the findings or their use (Ethics). OMB Memorandum M-20-12 Appendix B includes a more detailed explanation of the standards and describes practices that can facilitate meeting the standards.

The Program Evaluation Standards, outlined in [OMB Memorandum M-20-12](#), are designed to improve the quality and use of evaluation across Federal agencies, while recognizing that agencies must build policies, evaluation offices, and infrastructure that meet their distinct evaluation needs and responsibilities. These standards inform both specific evaluations and the broader set of evaluation activities. As such, these standards and practices apply not just to Federal evaluation offices, but also have applicability to other Federal units that carry out or sponsor evaluation and to individual evaluators, including Federal evaluation staff, outside partners, and recipients of Federal awards that are performing work on behalf of the agency.

Evaluation.gov. Web-based system that includes information on the evidence and program evaluation initiatives of the Executive Branch designed to support evidence-based policymaking across the Federal Government. It is home to the required deliverables under Title I of the Evidence Act, including Learning Agendas, Annual Evaluation Plans, Capacity Assessments, and Evaluation Policies.

Evidence. As defined by [44 U.S.C. 3561\(6\)](#), "evidence" means information produced as a result of statistical activities for a statistical purpose. However, evidence, as applied in the context of the Federal Performance Framework for improving organizational and agency performance, is viewed more broadly as the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid. As such, evidence can be quantitative or qualitative and may come from a variety of sources, including foundational fact finding (e.g., aggregate indicators, exploratory studies, descriptive statistics, and other research), performance measurement, policy analysis, and program evaluation (see [OMB Memorandum M-19-23](#)). Evidence has varying degrees of credibility, and the strongest evidence generally comes from a portfolio of high-quality, credible sources rather than a single study.

The credible use of evidence in decision-making requires an understanding of what conclusions can be drawn from the information and, equally important, what conclusions cannot be drawn. For example, multiple impact and implementation evaluations may provide strong evidence that a particular intervention is effective in a particular setting or with a particular population. However, they may be less definitive on how effective that intervention would be in other settings or with different populations. Quasi-experimental evidence from large, diverse samples of administrative data may address concerns about generalizability, but could lack definitive evidence on causality or be silent on important outcomes not captured in the administrative data. Descriptive analyses from Federal statistical series provide context to examine societal, economic, and environmental trends over time but do not speak to program outcomes or impacts. Qualitative and quantitative implementation studies can complement other evidence on outcomes and impacts by providing insight into how programs and practices can be successfully implemented in particular settings and with particular populations. Similarly, high-quality performance metrics that are valid, reliable, and strongly correlated with outcomes can be valuable to understand agency progress toward achieving a desired outcome. In sum, using evidence credibly means being able to assess the quality and methodological rigor of the information and align the resulting insights with their appropriate use.

External Factors. Economic, demographic, social, environmental, or other influences that are not of the agency's own making but can affect the goals or outcomes an agency seeks to influence. Some external factors, such as safety practices, can be influenced by agency action, while others are more difficult to affect.

Foresight. In the context of a strategic planning best practice, foresight is generally characterized as insight into how and why the future might be different from the present. Foresight practices include environmental scanning, trend analysis, and scenario-based planning, and other methods to engage individuals in thinking about the long-range future. While foresight is often considered as the "act of looking forward" so as to plan for the future, in strategic planning it is not the same as forecasting, which seeks to make statements or assertions about future events based on quantitative and qualitative analysis and modeling. Through incorporating foresight into strategic planning, an agency can develop an appropriate strategic posture by analyzing and preparing for multiple possible futures.

Goal. A statement of the result or achievement toward which effort is directed. Goals can be long or short-term and may be expressed specifically or broadly. Progress against goals should be monitored using a suite of supporting indicators. For the purpose of this guidance, there are Cross-Agency Priority Goals, strategic goals, strategic objectives, Agency Priority Goals and performance goals, all of which have uniquely defined properties.

Goal, Cross-Agency Priority (CAP Goals) (referred to as Federal Priority Goal in GPRA Modernization Act). A statement of the long-term level of desired performance improvement for Government-wide goals set or revised at least every four years. These include outcome-oriented goals that cover a limited number of crosscutting policy areas and management goals addressing financial management, strategic human

capital management, information technology management, procurement and acquisition management, and real property management.

Goal, Strategic. A statement of aim or purpose that is included in a Strategic Plan. Strategic goals articulate clear statements of what the agency wants to achieve to advance its mission and address relevant national problems, needs, challenges and opportunities. These outcome-oriented strategic goals and supporting activities should further the agency's mission.

Objective, Strategic. Strategic objectives reflect the outcome or management impact the agency is trying to achieve and generally include the agency's role. Included in a Strategic Plan, each objective is tracked through a suite of performance goals and other indicators. Strategic objectives and performance goals should facilitate prioritization and assessment for planning, management, reporting, and evaluation purposes. Agencies should use strategic objectives to help decide which indicators are most valuable to provide leading and lagging information, monitor agency operations, show how employees contribute to the organization's mission, determine program evaluations needed, communicate agency progress, and consider the impact of external factors on the agency's progress. The set of all agency strategic objectives together should be comprehensive of all agency activity.

Objectives are usually outcome-oriented to reflect core mission and service related functions; however, mission-support/management-focused and other objectives may be established to communicate the breadth of agency efforts. Strategic objectives may be described in strategic plans and on Performance.gov as:

- **Mission / Service Focused.** A type of strategic objective that expresses more specifically the path an agency plans to follow to achieve or make progress on a single strategic goal. **Mission focused** strategic objectives typically reflect the core functions and activities of the agency based on statute or leadership priorities, and which serve to drive their efforts in addressing pressing relevant national problems, needs, and challenges. For programs which deliver direct services to customers, this may also include the objective of providing a good experience for customers, and is therefore **Service Focused**. Service Focused objectives should be considered as those activities that reflect the interaction(s) between individual citizens or businesses and Federal agencies in providing a direct service on behalf of the Federal Government, and which is core to the mission of the agency.
- **Mission / Service Focused (Crosscutting/Other).** A type of strategic objective that is not directly tied to a single strategic goal, but may be tied to several or none. In some circumstances agencies perform statutory or crosscutting activities which are not closely tied to a single strategic goal.
- **Mission Support / Management-Focused.** A type of strategic objective that communicates and reflects the agency's improvement priorities for management functions which support organizational health and organizational performance, such as strategic human capital management, acquisition, information technology, cybersecurity, or financial management. Agency activities and responsibilities around stewardship to provide appropriate safeguards in executing mission and service related activities effectively and efficiently, including minimizing instances of waste, fraud, and abuse, may also be conveyed. Management objectives often support more than one strategic goal.

Goal, Agency Priority (APG). A limited number of goals, usually 2–8, identified by CFO Act agencies or as directed by OMB. An APG advances progress toward longer-term, outcome-focused goals in the agency's Strategic Plan, near-term outcomes, improvements in customer responsiveness, or efficiencies. An APG is a near-term result or achievement that leadership wants to accomplish within approximately 24 months that relies predominantly on agency implementation (as opposed to budget or legislative

accomplishments). APGs reflect the top near-term performance improvement priorities of agency leadership, not the full scope of the agency mission. (See section [250](#) for Agency Priority Goals.)

Goal, Performance. A statement of the level of performance to be accomplished within a timeframe, expressed as a tangible, measurable objective or as a quantitative standard, value, or rate. For the purposes of this guidance and implementation of the GPRA Modernization Act, a performance goal includes a performance indicator, a target, and a time period. The GPRA Modernization Act requires performance goals to be expressed in an objective, quantifiable, and measurable form unless agencies in consultation with OMB determine that it is not feasible. In such cases an "alternative form" performance goal may be used. The requirement for OMB approval of an alternative form goal applies to performance goals only. Milestones are often used as the basis of an alternative form performance goal. Performance goals specified in alternative form must be described in a way that makes it possible to discern if progress is being made toward the goal.

Example Performance Goal: Reduce the number of homeless veterans on any given night to 35,000 by June 20XX.

- Performance Indicator: Number of homeless veterans on any given night.
- Target: 35,000.
- Time period: June 20XX.

Example "Alternative Form" Performance Goal: Obtain an unmodified audit opinion on the agency's financial statements at the by the end of FY 20XX.

- Performance Indicator: Audit opinion on the agency financial statements.
- Target: Unmodified.
- Time period: By the end of FY 20XX.

Goal Leader. The person designated by the agency head or COO to lead, oversee and be accountable for the implementation of an agency goal. A goal leader will lay out strategies to achieve the goal, manage execution, regularly review performance and make course corrections when needed. The agency's goal leaders should be empowered to coordinate across the agency to improve performance.

Government Corporation. A corporation owned or controlled by the Federal Government, as defined in section 103 of title 5, United States Code and by section 9101 of title 31, United States Code.

GPRA. Refers to the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993. Note that the GPRA Modernization Act refers to the update of the law in 2010.

Human Capital Evaluation Framework. Underlies the three human capital evaluation mechanisms (e.g., HRStat, Audits, and Human Capital Strategic Reviews) to create a central evaluation framework that integrates the outcomes from each to provide OPM and agencies with an understanding of how human capital policies and programs are supporting missions. More information can be found at OPM's website for [Human Capital Management](#).

Human Capital Operating Plan (HCOP). An agency's human capital implementation document, which describes how an agency will execute the human capital elements stated within the Agency Strategic Plan (SP) and Annual Performance Plan (APP). The Chief Human Capital Officer establishes the HCOP and updates it annually, in collaboration with the agency's senior management team. The HCOP operates on the same annual cycle as the agency APP in order to identify and focus on the human capital goals and measures that need to be implemented each year to achieve the strategic goals set forth over the course of the SP. Effective April 11, 2017, pursuant to revised Federal regulations (5 C.F.R. 250 Subpart B), each agency

must develop and update the HCOP in alignment with GPRAMA strategic and performance planning timelines.

Indicator. A measurable value that indicates the state or level of something.

Categories of Indicators: For the purposes of this guidance and the Performance.gov data standards, two categories of indicators are distinguished, performance indicators and other indicators.

1. **Performance Indicator.** The indicator for a performance goal or within an Agency Priority Goal statement that will be used to track progress toward a goal or target within a timeframe. By definition, the indicators for which agencies set targets with timeframes are performance indicators.
2. **Other Indicator.** Indicators not used in a performance goal or Agency Priority Goal statement but are used to interpret agency progress or identify external factors that might affect that progress. By definition, indicators that do not require targets and timeframes are other indicators.

Types of Indicators: Various types of indicators (e.g., outcome, output, customer service, process, efficiency) may be used as either performance indicators or other indicators. Agencies are encouraged to use outcome indicators as performance indicators where feasible and appropriate. Agencies also are encouraged to consider whether indicators have been validated through research conducted to be well correlated with what they are intended to measure. Some examples of types of indicators in alphabetical order include, but are not limited to:

- **Indicator, Contextual.** Data that provides situational information for the purpose of understanding trends or other information related to a goal or a program. Examples could include data about warning signals, unwanted side effects, external factors the government can influence, or external factors where the government may have a limited effect.
- **Indicator, Customer Experience.** A type of measure that indicates or informs the improvement of government's interaction with those it serves or regulates.
- **Indicator, Efficiency.** A type of measure, specifically, a ratio of program activity inputs (such as costs or hours worked by employees) to its outputs or outcomes. Efficiency indicators reflect the resources used to achieve outcomes or produce outputs. Measuring the cost per unit of outcome or output tends to be most useful for similar, repeated practices. In other circumstances, it tends to be more useful to find effective practices and then look for lower cost ways of delivering them.
- **Indicator, Input.** A type of measure that indicates the consumption of resources, especially time and/or money, used.
- **Indicator, Intermediate Outcome.** A type of measure that indicates progress against an intermediate outcome that contributes to an ultimate outcome, such as the percentage of schools adopting effective literacy programs, compliance levels, or the rate of adoption of safety practices. Intermediate outcome indicators are especially helpful if they are based on strong theory and have been validated through research to have a strong positive correlation with the ultimate outcome desired.

- **Indicator, Process.** A type of measure that indicates how well a procedure, process or operation is working, (e.g., timeliness, accuracy, fidelity or completeness).
- **Indicator, Outcome.** A type of measure that indicates progress against achieving the intended result of a program. Indicates changes in conditions that the government is trying to influence.
- **Indicator, Output.** A type of measure, specifically the tabulation, calculation, or recording of activity or effort, usually expressed quantitatively. Outputs describe the level of product or activity that will be provided over a period of time. While output indicators can be useful, there must be a reasonable connection, and preferably a strong positive correlation, between outputs used as performance indicators and outcomes. Agencies should select output indicators based on evidence supporting the relationship between outputs and outcomes, or in the absence of available evidence, based on a clearly established argument for the logic of the relationship.

Inherently Governmental. An inherently governmental function, as defined in section 5 of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act, Public Law 105–270, means a function that is so intimately related to the public interest as to require performance by Federal Government employees. Additional guidance is available at [Performance of Inherently Governmental and Critical Functions](#). The application of the term inherently governmental for functions described in the legislation does not change from the 1993 GPRA legislation to the 2010 GPRA Modernization Act. The preparation of agency Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans, and Annual Performance Reports is considered an inherently governmental function. COOs, PIOs, and Deputy PIOs must be Government employees, but contractors may provide support to these officials in executing their functions.

Intended Use. The concept implied by 'intended use' of data in the GPRA Modernization Act allows agencies to set expectations for data accuracy levels appropriate to the specific purpose for which the information will be used. Agencies should consider the intended use of data, and potential value of reusing the data for statistical purposes, to determine the level of accuracy needed and to manage data collection costs. Agencies can calibrate the accuracy of the data to the intended use of the data and the cost of improving data quality. At the same time, agencies should consider how data limitations can lead to inaccurate performance assessments. Examples of data limitations include 1) imprecise measurement and recordings, 2) incomplete data, 3) inconsistencies in data collection procedures and 4) data that are too infrequently collected to allow for adjustments of agency action in an effective way. The 'intended use' of evidence concept implies that high-stakes decisions should be based on a preponderance of evidence developed using sound methods when feasible. For example, when making a decision about approving a drug, the agency will need a high level of credibility and precision in the portfolio of evidence on which they are basing the decision. This may require multiple randomized controlled trials assessing the effectiveness and safety of the drug within the portfolio of evidence. However, decisions about how to improve the outreach of a given program may not require the same level of precision or as large of a portfolio of evidence.

Machine Readable Format. Format in a standard computer language (not English text) that can be read automatically by a web browser or computer system. (e.g., xml). Traditional word processing documents, hypertext markup language (HTML) and portable document format (PDF) files are easily read by humans but typically are difficult for machines to interpret. Other formats such as extensible markup language (XML), (JSON), or spreadsheets with header columns that can be exported as comma separated values (CSV) are machine readable formats. It is possible to make traditional word processing documents and other formats machine readable but the documents must include enhanced structural elements.

Management Function. Describes offices or activities within agencies that support the agency divisions delivering programs that more directly advance mission. These functions tend to be common across

agencies (e.g., financial, human capital, acquisition, information technology, performance management, risk management, legal, communication, intergovernmental).

Major Management Challenge. Programmatic or management functions, within or across agencies, that have greater vulnerability to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement (such as issues the Government Accountability Office identifies as high risk or issues that an Inspector General identifies) where a failure to perform well could seriously affect the ability of an agency or the Federal Government to achieve its mission or goals.

Major Operating Unit. The organizational unit of an agency or department at which Frameworks for Organizational Health and Organizational Performance will be developed and applied in implementing the requirements outlined in [OMB Memorandum M-23-15, Measuring, Monitoring, and Improving Organizational Health and Organizational Performance in the Context of Evolving Agency Work Environments](#). The designation of major operating units for implementing Organizational Health and Organizational Performance Framework requirements should be done by agencies as a reflection of their distinctive missions and unique histories and organizational structures. For example, as the principal subordinate organizational unit, a bureau, or component office of an agency may be designated as a major operating unit for the development of an Organizational Health and Organizational Performance framework.

Measure. See indicator.

Milestone. A scheduled event signifying the completion of a major deliverable or a phase of work that, when completed, significantly contributes to the goal's overall achievement. Milestones are generally used to convey progress towards goal accomplishment qualitatively.

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). A formal announcement of the availability of Federal funding through a financial assistance program from a Federal awarding agency that provides information on the award, who is eligible to apply, the evaluation criteria for selection of an awardee, required components of an application, and how to submit the application.

Objective. See goal.

Organizational Health. An organization's ability to drive performance results collectively in support of its mission, deliver programs and services, and meet stakeholder needs and priorities on an ongoing basis. An organization's health may include considerations such as resilience, capability, and capacity.

Organizational Performance. An organization's effectiveness in delivering mission-aligned results. Effectiveness and results can be measured by a range of indicators and evidence, both internal and external to the organization.

Organizational Health and Organizational Performance Framework. A set of validated indicators that can be routinely measured, tracked, and assessed, with which an organization's senior leadership, managers, front-line supervisors, workforce, and stakeholders can monitor the organization's effectiveness and ability (including resilience, capability, and capacity) to perform and adapt. An effective organizational health and organizational performance framework can inform agency decisions regarding a variety of factors, including empowering agency leaders and managers to make, monitor, and assess changes in the organization's work environment.

Output. Quantity of products or services delivered by a program, such as the number of inspections completed or the number of eligible clients completing a job training program.

Outcome. The desired results of a program. For example, while the number of eligible clients completing a job training program is an output, an increase in long-term employment would be an outcome of the program. In another example, an outcome of a nation-wide program aimed to prevent the transmission of HIV infection might be a lower rate of new HIV infections in the U.S. Agencies are strongly encouraged to set outcome-focused performance goals to ensure they apply the full range of tools at their disposal to improve outcomes and find lower cost ways to deliver. However, there are circumstances where the effects of a program on final outcomes are so small and confounded with other factors that it may be more appropriate to base performance goals on indicators or intermediate outcomes. Ideally, those indicators and intermediate outcomes should have strong theoretical and empirical ties to final outcomes.

Performance and Accountability Report (PAR). A combined annual report of the Agency Performance Report (APR) and Agency Financial Report (AFR). The report contains the agency's audited financial statements and information on efforts to achieve goals during the past fiscal year. The AFR, combined with an APR pursuant to the GPRA Modernization Act, serves as an option for select agencies as designated by the OMB Director for reporting the agency's end of fiscal year status through the consolidated Performance and Accountability Report. (See section [200.2](#) for information on the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, and [240](#) on Annual Performance Reporting.)

Performance Improvement Council (PIC). The PIC consists of Performance Improvement Officers from the 24 CFO Act agencies and other agencies and is chaired by the Chief Performance Officer and Deputy Director for Management at OMB or the Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management as the designee. The purpose of the Council is to develop recommendations relating to performance management policies, requirements, and criteria for analysis of program performance. In addition, the Council is responsible for facilitating the exchange of performance management information among agencies to accelerate improvements in program performance. The Council also coordinates and monitors continuous reviews of the performance and management of Federal programs.

Performance Management. Use of goals, measurement, evaluation, analysis, and data-driven reviews to improve results of programs and the effectiveness and efficiency of agency operations. Performance management activities often consist of planning, goal setting, measuring, analyzing, reviewing, identifying performance improvement actions, reporting, implementing, and evaluating. The primary purpose of performance management is to improve performance and then to find lower cost ways to deliver effective programs.

[Performance.gov.](#) Web-based system that includes information on the performance and associated management initiatives of the Executive Branch designed to improve organizational performance and program service delivery. As the Government-wide performance website required under the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Performance.gov encompasses the Federal Performance Plan of the current Administration, with continued enhancements being made for including more agency-specific detail and performance information in accordance with the GPRA Modernization Act.

Portfolio. A strategically structured, organized grouping of programs, activities, resources, or other efforts whose coordination and coherence in implementation enables the achievement of agency goals and objectives. Agencies will group programs and associated activities into portfolio in a manner that will best enable effective management and oversight of the portfolio.

Portfolio Manager. A senior official, typically at the Assistant Secretary or Bureau Administrator level, responsible for defining the vision and roadmap for a logical, coordinated grouping of programs or systems. The Portfolio Manager principally focuses on the high-level, executive aspects of managing programs throughout the portfolio, and addresses such key strategic areas as long-term financial health and resource requirements, policy considerations and direction, risk management, stakeholder management, and the

impact of environmental factors on the portfolio's effectiveness to achieve the agency's overall mission and objectives.

Program. Generally, an organized set of activities directed toward a common purpose or goal that an agency undertakes or proposes to carry out its responsibilities. Within this broad definition, agencies and their stakeholders currently use the term "program" in different ways. Agencies have widely varying missions and achieve these missions through different programmatic approaches, so differences in the use of the term "program" are legitimate and meaningful. For this reason, OMB does not prescribe a superseding definition of "program"; rather, consistent with the GPRA Modernization Act, agencies may identify programs consistent with the manner in which the agency uses programs to interact with key stakeholders and to execute its mission. (See section [270](#) on Program and Project Management.)

Program Activity. Activities or projects listed in the program and financing schedules of the annual budget of the United States Government. For the purpose of preparing the annual Agency Performance Plan, an agency may aggregate, disaggregate, or consolidate program activities, except that any aggregation or consolidation may not omit or minimize the significance of any program activity constituting a major function or operation for the agency.

Program Evaluation. See Evaluation.

Program Management. The coordinated application of general and specialized knowledge, skills, expertise, and practices to a program for effective implementation. Effective program management requires programs be managed by both individuals and organizations as whole that work in concert to achieve benefits and advance outcomes towards the accomplishment of the agency mission, goals, and objectives.

Project. A temporary endeavor to create a unique product or service with a start date, a completion date, and a defined scope. Projects are executed in a manner to improve the efficient and effective implementation of programs and contribute to or aligned with agency goals and objectives.

Project Management. The coordinated application of general and specialized knowledge, skills, expertise, and practices to a project to achieve its stated goals and outcomes.

Reasonable Administrative Burden. The concept of reasonable administrative burden is related to decisions about the frequency and granularity of reporting performance in the GPRA Modernization Act. It refers to considering the cost compared to the benefit of reporting information more frequently or at a more disaggregated level. Because it is not uncommon for more frequent or more granular data to have a higher benefit yet also a higher cost, agencies should increase the frequency and granularity of their performance reporting when the expected value justifies the estimated cost.

Regulatory Review. The process by which agencies identify and review existing regulations in order to eliminate those that are obsolete, unnecessary, burdensome, or counterproductive or to modify others to increase their effectiveness, efficiency, and flexibility. [Executive Order 13563](#) calls for periodic review of existing significant regulations, with close reference to empirical evidence. Such reviews may be incorporated into the annual strategic review of objectives, as appropriate. Retrospective analyses conducted, including supporting data, should be released online wherever possible. Consistent with the commitment to periodic review and to public participation, agencies should continue to assess its existing regulations to the extent that review findings specify that a particular regulation, or its language, is impeding progress of achieving the strategic objective.

Risk Management. Coordinated activities to direct and control challenges or threats to achieving an organization's goals and objectives. A risk management process is a systematic application of management

policies, procedures and practices to the activities of communicating, consulting, establishing the context, and identifying, analyzing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and reviewing risk. (See also "Enterprise Risk Management").

Risk Profile. The agency's risk profile provides a thoughtful analysis of the risks an agency faces towards achieving its strategic objectives arising from its activities and operations, and identifies appropriate options for addressing significant risks. See OMB Circular No. A-123.

Statistical Activities. The term "statistical activities," per [44 U.S.C. 3561\(10\)](#), (A) means the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of data for the purpose of describing or making estimates concerning the whole, or relevant groups or components within, the economy, society, or the natural environment; and (B) includes the development of methods or resources that support those activities, such as measurement methods, models, statistical classifications, or sampling frames. Statistical activities include the use of data to describe outcomes and descriptors of interest, such as through estimates of population characteristics, summaries of test results, indices of economic activity, measures of environmental conditions, and incidence rates for a wide range of events. They may include relative measures among subgroups, geographies, and time periods, as well as relationships among measured variables. They also include a wide range of analytic applications, such as research reports, program evaluations, and experiment-based program studies. Finally, they encompass transparency and accountability efforts, such as scorecards, that provide Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the public with information on the relative performance of different programs, providers, and systems.

Statistical Purposes. The term "statistical purpose," as defined by [44 U.S.C. 3561\(12\)](#), (A) means the description, estimation, or analysis of the characteristics of groups, without identifying the individuals or organizations that comprise such groups; and (B) includes the development, implementation, or maintenance of methods, technical or administrative procedures, or information resources that support the purposes described in (A). Statistical purposes include the use of data to better understand the characteristics, behavior, or needs of groups of people, businesses or organizations. But they do not include the description of or decision-making about individual people, businesses or organizations.

Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan presents the long-term objectives an agency hopes to accomplish, set at the beginning of each new term of an Administration. It describes general and longer-term goals the agency aims to achieve, what actions the agency will take to realize those goals and how the agency will deal with the challenges likely to be barriers to achieving the desired result. An agency's Strategic Plan should provide the context for decisions about performance goals, priorities, and budget planning, and should provide the framework for the detail provided in agency annual plans and reports. (See section [230](#) on strategic planning.)

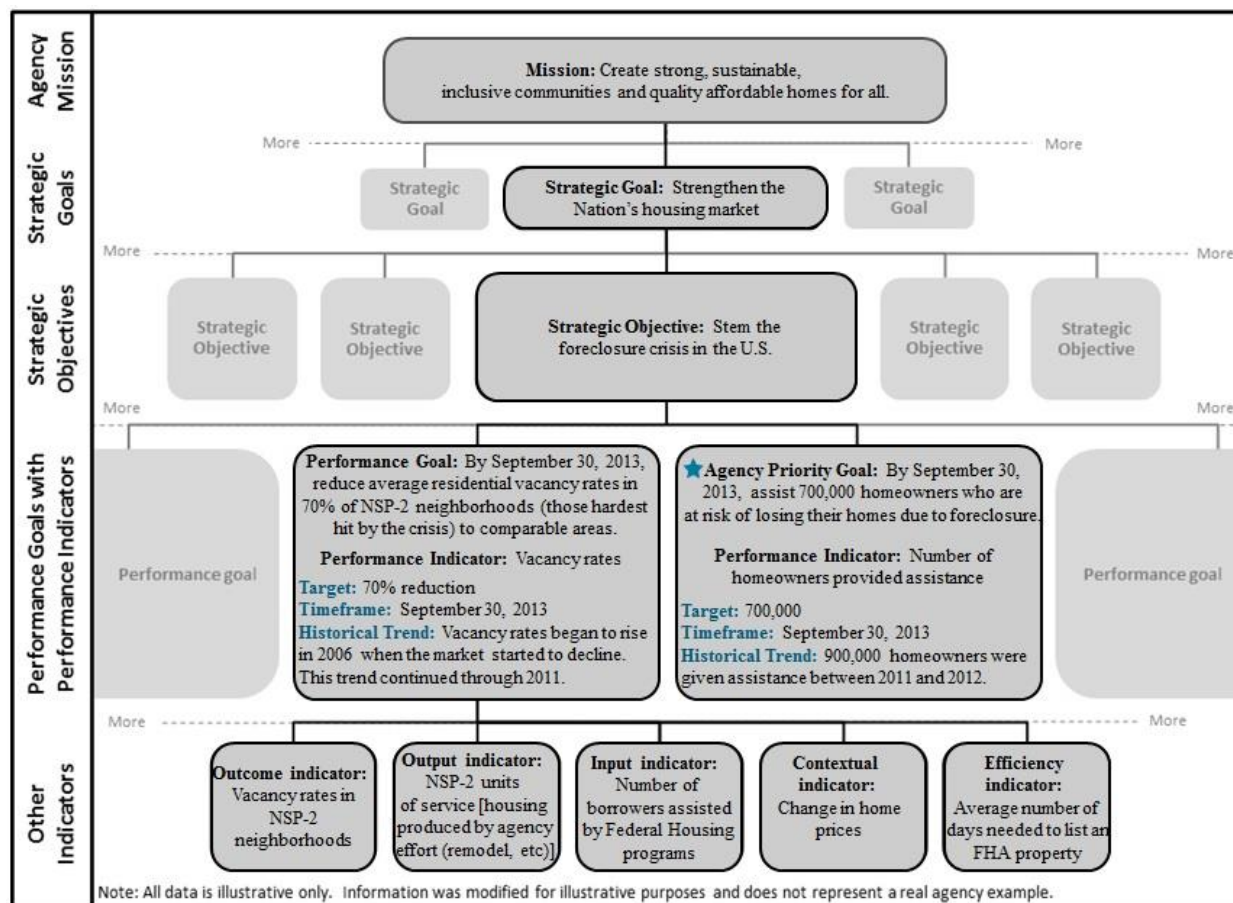
Strategic Review. An agency's management process (or set of processes) that synthesizes available performance information and other evidence, including evaluations, to assess progress on its strategic objectives, in consultation with OMB. (See section [260](#) on strategic reviews.)

Target. Quantifiable or otherwise measurable characteristic typically expressed as a number that tells how well or at what level an agency or one of its components aspires to perform. In setting and communicating targets, where available, agencies should include the baseline value from which the target change is calculated.

Vision Statement. A strategic planning best practice, a Vision statement is one that articulates an agency's desired future state in terms of strategic direction. An agency's Vision statement helps create an image in the mind of readers and stakeholders that expresses what the organization wants to achieve while generating momentum for action on the part of the agency to accomplish the vision.

Work Environment. The combination of: personnel policies; talent and workforce performance management strategies; workforce capacity, workloads, and work schedules; design of workspaces and workplaces; supportive and assistive technology tools for individual and collaborative work; and integration of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility principles across management practices and processes. Among other factors (e.g., resource allocation, workforce availability, and policy or statutory constraints), work environments can impact organizational health and, in turn, organizational performance.

200.25 Example Illustration of Goal Relationships



200.26 Performance Timeline and Management Calendar

Performance Timeline. The Performance Timeline below provides a summary of agency submission requirements related to organizational strategic and performance planning, reporting, and performance improvement efforts at agencies discussed within OMB Circular No. A-11, Part 6. The Timeline identifies government-wide dates for strategic, performance, and evidence planning and reporting documents, and how to align their development with the applicable fiscal year President's Budget. Dates are subject to revision. Changes to deadlines identified in the table below will be communicated by OMB to agency PIOs, Deputy PIOs, Evaluation Officers, and other senior designated officials as applicable.

Management Calendar. An inter-OMB office [Management Calendar](#) is also maintained on MAX Community. This Management Calendar is designed to improve coordination and communications across various OMB offices, Government-wide management councils, and management functions or related initiatives. It is intended to provide an additional tool to agencies in managing inter-office, CXO Council

events and OMB submission and publication requirements. [Click here](#) to access the MAX Community Performance Calendar.

Date	Section of A–11, Part 6 Reference	Description	Location
June – August, 2024 (rolling basis based on agency's 2024 Strategic Review Meeting)	-Data-Driven Performance and Strategic Reviews (260) -Agency Priority Goals (250) -OMB Circular A-123	Starting in June, NLT 2 weeks prior to the date of the 2024 Agency/OMB Strategic Review meeting, Agencies submit for OMB review: -Agency selected Major Actions identified for accelerating/addressing progress resulting from the agency's 2024 Strategic Review; -Other information communicated to agencies by OMB for discussion during the 2024 Strategic Review Meeting.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
July 30, 2024	-Public Reporting (210) -PMA, Cross-Agency Priority Goals (220)	Publish FY 2024 Q3 Quarterly Performance Update CAP Goals.	Performance.gov
July 31, 2024	-Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280)	HISP agencies submit FY 2024 Q3 quarterly CX / HISP feedback data.	MAX Page "CX Portal"
August 9, 2024	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit initial draft FY 2024 Q3 Quarterly Performance Updates and updated Implementation Action Plans for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
September 6, 2024	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit final draft FY 2024 Q3 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review and clearance.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"

SECTION 200—OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Date	Section of A–11, Part 6 Reference	Description	Location
September 9, 2024 (concurrent with FY 2026 Budget submission)	-Public Reporting (210) -Annual Agency Performance Planning and Annual Agency Performance Reporting (240) -Agency Priority Goals (250) -Data-Driven Performance and Strategic Reviews (260) -Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280) -Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290)	Agencies submit for OMB review: -Draft FY 2026 Agency Performance Plan; -Draft Summary of Progress Update for each Strategic Objective (the narrative-focused component of the FY 2024 Agency Performance Report); -Draft FY 2026 Annual Evaluation Plan; -High Impact Service Providers submit for OMB review: Final CX Action Plans.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
September 26, 2024	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Publish FY 2024 Q3 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs.	Performance.gov
October 30, 2024	-Public Reporting (210) -PMA, Cross-Agency Priority Goals (220)	Publish FY 2024 Q4 Quarterly Performance Update CAP Goals.	Performance.gov
October 31, 2024	-Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280)	HISP agencies submit FY 2024 Q1 quarterly CX / HISP feedback data.	MAX Page "CX Portal"
November, 2024 [^]	-Annual Performance Planning and Annual Performance Reporting (240) -See OMB Circular No. A-136	Publish FY 2024 Agency Financial Report (AFR) or Performance and Accountability Report (PAR).	Agency website
November 8, 2024	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit initial draft FY 2024 Q4 Quarterly Performance Update and updated Implementation Action Plan for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
December 2, 2024	-Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290)	Agencies submit for OMB review: -Capacity Assessment Methodology Summary	MAX Page "Submission Portal"

SECTION 200—OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Date	Section of A–11, Part 6 Reference	Description	Location
December 13, 2024	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit final draft FY 2024 Q4 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review and clearance.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
January, 2025 (4 weeks prior to FY 2026 Budget release)	-Public Reporting (210) -Annual Agency Performance Planning and Annual Agency Performance Reporting (240) -Data-Driven Performance and Strategic Reviews (260) -Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290)	For OMB review and clearance, agencies submit final draft .** -FY 2026 Agency Performance Plan; -FY 2024 Agency Performance Report; -FY 2026 Annual Evaluation Plan.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
January 9, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Publish FY 2024 Q4 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs.	Performance.gov
January 30, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -PMA, Cross-Agency Priority Goals (220)	Publish FY 2025 Q1 Quarterly Performance Update CAP Goals.**	Performance.gov
January 31, 2025	-Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280)	HISP agencies submit FY 2025 Q1 quarterly CX / HISP feedback data.	MAX Page "CX Portal"
February 3, 2025 (concurrent with FY 2026 Budget release)	-Public Reporting (210) -Annual Agency Performance Planning and Annual Agency Performance Reporting (240) -Agency Priority Goals (250) -Data-Driven Performance and Strategic Reviews (260) -Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290)	Publish:** -FY 2026 Agency Performance Plan; -FY 2024 Agency Performance Report; -FY 2026 Annual Evaluation Plan.	Agency website/ Performance.gov

SECTION 200—OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Date	Section of A–11, Part 6 Reference	Description	Location
February 14, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit initial draft FY 2025 Q1 Quarterly Performance Update and updated Implementation Action Plan for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review.**	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
February 21, 2025	-Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280)	HISP agencies submit FY 2024 CX Capacity Assessment.	MAX Page "CX Portal"
March 14, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit final draft FY 2025 Q1 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review and clearance.**	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
April 3, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Publish FY 2025 Q1 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs.**	Performance.gov
April 24, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -PMA, Cross-Agency Priority Goals (220)	Publish FY 2025 Q2 Quarterly Performance Update CAP Goals.**	Performance.gov
April 30, 2025	-Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280)	HISP agencies submit FY 2025 Q2 quarterly CX / HISP feedback data.	MAX Page "CX Portal"
May 9, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit initial draft FY 2025 Q2 Quarterly Performance Update and updated Implementation Action Plan for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review.**	MAX Page "Submission Portal"

SECTION 200—OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Date	Section of A–11, Part 6 Reference	Description	Location
July 31, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public Reporting (210) -PMA, Cross-Agency Priority Goals (220) -Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280) 	<p>Publish FY 2025 Q3 Quarterly Performance Update CAP Goals.**</p> <p>HISP agencies submit FY 2025 Q3 quarterly CX / HISP feedback data.</p>	<p>Performance.gov</p> <p>MAX Page "CX Portal"</p>
August 8, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250) 	<p>Agencies submit initial draft FY 2025 Q3 Quarterly Performance Updates and updated Implementation Action Plans for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review.**</p>	<p>MAX Page "Submission Portal"</p>
September, 2025 (concurrent with FY 2027 Budget submission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public Reporting (210) -Strategic Planning (230) -Annual Agency Performance Planning and Annual Agency Performance Reporting (240) -Agency Priority Goals (250) -Data-Driven Performance and Strategic Reviews (260) -Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280) -Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290) 	<p>Agencies submit for OMB review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Full draft FYs 2026-2030 Strategic Plan; -Draft FY 2027 Agency Performance Plan; -Draft Summary of Progress Update for each Strategic Objective (the narrative-laden component of the FY 2025 Agency Performance Report); -Full draft FYs 2026-2027 APG statements (impact and achievement statements) -Full draft Learning Agenda (as separate section of full draft Strategic Plan); -High Impact Service Providers submit for OMB review: Final CX Action Plans. -Full draft Capacity Assessment (as a separate section of full draft Strategic Plan); -Draft FY 2027 Annual Evaluation Plan 	<p>MAX Page "Submission Portal"</p>
September 5, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250) 	<p>Agencies submit final draft FY 2025 Q3 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review and clearance.**</p>	<p>MAX Page "Submission Portal"</p>

SECTION 200—OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Date	Section of A–11, Part 6 Reference	Description	Location
September 25, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Publish FY 2025 Q3 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs.**	Performance.gov
October 30, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -PMA, Cross-Agency Priority Goals (220)	Publish FY 2025 Q4 Quarterly Performance Update CAP Goals.**	Performance.gov
October 31, 2025	-Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery (280)	HISP agencies submit FY 2025 Q4 quarterly CX / HISP feedback data.	MAX Page "CX Portal"
November, 2025 [^]	-Annual Agency Performance Planning and Annual Agency Performance Reporting (240) -See OMB Circular No. A-136	Publish FY 2025 Agency Financial Report (AFR) or Performance and Accountability Report (PAR).	Agency website
November 7, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit initial draft FY 2025 Q4 Quarterly Performance Updates and updated Implementation Action Plans for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review.** (See Section 250.12 for guidance specific to reporting during the final quarterly update of a two-year APG Cycle.)	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
December 5, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Agencies submit final draft FY 2025 Q4 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs for OMB review and clearance.**	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
December 19, 2025	-Public Reporting (210) -Strategic Planning (230) -Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290)	For OMB review and clearance, agencies submit final draft : -FYs 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, including: -Learning Agenda; -Capacity Assessment.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"

SECTION 200—OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Date	Section of A–11, Part 6 Reference	Description	Location
January, 2026 (4 weeks prior to FY 2027 Budget release)	-Public Reporting (210) -Annual Agency Performance Planning and Annual Agency Performance Reporting (240) -Agency Priority Goals (250) -Data-Driven Performance and Strategic Reviews (260) -Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290)	For OMB review and clearance, agencies submit final draft : -FY 2027 Agency Performance Plan; -FY 2025 Agency Performance Report; -FYs 2022-2023 Agency Priority Goal statements; -FY 2027 Annual Evaluation Plan.	MAX Page "Submission Portal"
January 9, 2026	-Public Reporting (210) -Agency Priority Goals (250)	Publish FY 2025 Q4 Quarterly Performance Update for FYs 2024-2025 APGs.**	Performance.gov
February, 2026 (concurrent with the FY 2027 President's Budget release)	-Public Reporting (210) -Strategic Planning (230) -Annual Agency Performance Planning and Annual Agency Performance Reporting (240) -Agency Priority Goals (250) -Data-driven Performance and Strategic Reviews (260) -Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities (290)	Agencies Publish : -FYs 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, including Final Learning Agenda and Capacity Assessment. -FY 2027 Agency Performance Plan. -FY 2025 Agency Performance Report. -FYs 2026-2027 Agency Priority Goal statements. -FY 2027 Annual Evaluation Plan.	Agency website/ Performance.gov

**Subject to revision; however, agencies should plan on meeting these reporting requirements unless otherwise informed by OMB.*

***See Sections [210.4](#) and [250.14](#) of this Circular for guidance on how a Presidential transition year may impact the timing for publishing the Agency Performance Plan, Agency Performance Report, and quarterly progress reviews and reporting of Agency Priority Goals.*

^Guidance on the preparation, submission, and release of Agency Financial Reports (AFR) is found in OMB Circular No. A–136.