

## SECTION 250 – AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS

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**Summary of Changes**

Reorganizes, consolidates, and streamlines guidance. Revises guidance to incorporate updated statutory requirements from the Federal Agency Performance Act of 2024.

### **250.1 To which agencies does this section apply?**

The GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRAMA) requires those agencies listed in 31 U.S.C. § 901(b) (Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act agencies) to submit Agency Priority Goal (APG) information to OMB, and review progress on a quarterly basis for reporting to Performance.gov.

### **250.2 What is an Agency Priority Goal (APG)?**

APGs, as identified every two years, are the highest priority performance goals of each agency. They advance near-term results in areas such as improvements to service delivery, efficiencies, or outcomes that may be achieved without new legislation or funding. APGs are limited in number. Progress is reviewed quarterly and reported to Performance.gov.

### **250.3 What criteria must agencies use when establishing APGs?**

Identifying APGs requires management discussions and decisions about agency priorities, trade-offs, measurement, evidence, strategies, timing, and implementation responsibilities. APGs must:

1. Advance the highest priorities for agency leadership and the Administration;

2. Rely predominantly on strong agency execution identifying a level of performance that can be achieved within a two-year time period, not new legislation or additional funding;
3. Align with the resource levels proposed in the President's Budget (or as appropriated by the Congress);
4. Advance improvements in near-term outcomes, customer service, or efficiency, and advance progress toward longer-term, outcome-focused goals in the Agency Strategic Plan;
5. Lead to clearly discernible outcomes if achieved by the end of the two-year period;
  - APGs are written as clear, concise statements that easily communicate throughout the agency and to external audiences the performance improvement to be achieved.
  - APGs incorporate indicators and defined quarterly milestones to track progress.
6. Be ambitious yet achievable within the two-year period;
7. Have a clearly identified agency official, a “goal leader,” who is responsible for achievement of the goal.

**250.4 What are additional criteria agencies should consider when developing APGs?**

Agencies may wish to consider several additional criteria when developing APGs:

- Objectives set forth in the President's State of the Union Address, Executive Orders, or other management priorities and initiatives identified by the Administration in memoranda;
- Whether a policy area or priority under consideration would benefit from collaboration and coordination across multiple components or bureaus of an agency, or inter-agency, and thus be appropriate for a joint-goal;
- Whether quarterly reviews are likely to accelerate progress on the goal;
- Potential to improve understanding of the agency's impact on people or communities.

**250.5 How many APGs should agencies establish?**

Agencies should identify between two and four performance goals for designation as APGs.

**250.6 Do all Agency Priority Goals (APGs) have to relate to a Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal?**

No. In order for the Federal Government to make progress towards its CAP Goals, some agencies will have goals that contribute to a CAP Goal, but not all APGs will or must directly or indirectly contribute to a CAP Goal.

### 250.7 How should agencies construct APG Goal Statements?

Successful APGs address a problem and have a set completion date, a target, and an indicator that is outcome-oriented. The format of APG goal statements will generally include two sentences, written in a concise, plain-language style:

1. an impact statement, a single sentence that describes the broader outcome or problem or opportunity being addressed by the goal; and
2. an achievement statement, a single sentence that clearly reflects the level of performance the agency wants to achieve by the end of the two-year goal period. The achievement statement will start with "By September 30th, 20XX..." followed by a quantitative target.

Below is an example of an effective APG goal statement that follows this framework:

*Improve the customer experience by reducing the Average Speed of Answer on the National 800 Number (**Impact Statement**). By September 30, 2021, achieve an average speed of answer of 11 minutes (**Achievement Statement**).*

### 250.8 What is the timeline for developing the next cycle of Agency Priority Goals covering FYs 2026-2027?

Agencies will next establish APGs covering FYs 2026-2027. This will occur in parallel with the FY 2027 President's Budget process.

Date	Action
May 30, 2025	Agencies submit a status update to OMB on draft impact statements for FYs 2026-2027 APGs.
Summer 2025	Agencies receive feedback from OMB on proposed APG impact statements.
September, 2025 (concurrent with FY 2027 Budget submission)	Agencies submit to OMB full draft APG goal statements.
October 1, 2025	FYs 2026-2027 APG goal period begins.
December 3, 2025	For OMB clearance, agencies submit <b>final draft</b> FYs 2026-2027 APG goal statements.
February, 2026 (concurrent with President's FY 2027 Budget publication)	FYs 2026-2027 goal statements published on Performance.gov.

**250.9 Can APG goal statements be changed after they have been approved and published? If so, using what criteria and process?**

APG goal statements should only be changed in exceptional circumstances (e.g., to make a goal more ambitious, to reflect a change caused by enacted appropriations). The possibility of missing a target is *not* a justification for a goal change.

Proposed changes to APGs that affect the goal statement or goal area must be submitted to OMB by the agency goal leader with the approval of the agency's Chief Operating Officer and Performance Improvement Officer. The correspondence should explain why the goal change is needed, what has changed since the goal was published, why it is necessary to make the change, and how the change will be explained to the public.

**250.10 What information related to APGs will be made public?**

Statutorily required information on APGs, including the results of the agency's quarterly, data-driven reviews, is published on Performance.gov. OMB provides reporting templates. These templates are available for use by agencies and APG implementation teams on "Submission Portal > APG pages" on [MAX Community](#).

**250.11 How does the final quarterly update of a two-year APG cycle differ from other quarterly updates during the two-year performance period?**

For the final quarterly performance update of any APG implementation and reporting cycle (e.g., FY 2023, Quarter 4 of the FYs 2022-2023 cycle) agencies are required to include a clear statement in their updated quarterly Implementation Action Plan that definitively states whether the agency achieved the goal's overall planned level of performance.

**250.12 How does a Presidential transition year affect quarterly progress reviews and reporting of APGs?**

APGs are intended to focus on achieving the priorities of the Administration under which they were established, and reporting on the APGs established by a different Administration is discontinued in a transition year.