

SECTION 95—BUDGET APPENDIX AND PRINT MATERIALS

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Ex-95A General Style Guidelines

Ex-95B Additional Guidance for Making Technical Edits in Appropriations Language

Summary of Changes

Incorporates existing guidance for drafting appropriations language and provides citation guidance to ensure consistency (section [95.5](#) and exhibit [95B](#)).

THE APPENDIX

95.1 What is the budget *Appendix*?

The *Appendix—Budget of the United States* is a technical supplement to the President's Budget. The President transmits the *Appendix* to the Congress, and it is published through the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and digitally on <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>. The Appropriations Committees, in particular, use the *Appendix* because it contains the appropriations language proposed by the President for each account that requires such language. The *Appendix* contains other detailed information about each account, such as program and financing information, obligations by object class, narrative statements and data about the work performed, and employment data. The information printed in the *Appendix* is often referred to as *print materials*.

95.2 How is the *Appendix* organized?

The *Appendix* consists of these parts:

Detailed Budget Estimates by Agency—This is the main part of the *Appendix* and contains general provisions of law that apply to all Government activities, and print materials for accounts organized by agency. Section [95.3](#) describes the organization of this part in more detail.

Other Materials—This part may contain:

- ▶ A summary of proposed changes to current year estimates through supplemental appropriations and rescissions;
- ▶ Detailed print materials for proposed supplemental appropriations;
- ▶ A list of amendments and revisions to budget authority requested between transmittal of the previous and current budgets; and
- ▶ A list of advance appropriations.

Financing Vehicles and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve—Contains descriptions of and data on certain entities that are excluded from the main part of the *Appendix*.

Government-Sponsored Enterprises—Contains descriptions of and data on Government-sponsored enterprises (private corporations chartered by Federal law), such as Fannie Mae.

95.3 How is the "Detailed Budget Estimates" section organized?

This part of the *Appendix* presents materials in the following general order:

- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch
- Cabinet agencies in alphabetical order

- Large or prominent non-departmental agencies (for example, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Executive Office of the President) and accounts grouped under the heading, "Other Defense—Civil Programs"
- The remaining agencies, under the heading "Other Agencies," in alphabetical order, with a short list of Federally created non-Federal entities grouped at the end.

We use the term *chapter* to refer to the presentation of materials for a separate agency or group of agencies. Within the chapter for a department or large agency, the materials are organized by bureaus or other major subordinate organizations within the agency (for example, the Farm Service Agency in the Department of Agriculture) or by major program areas (for example, Community Planning and Development in the Department of Housing and Urban Development). When we establish a new account in the MAX database, we assign a bureau and account sequence code, which determines the order in which bureaus and accounts appear in the *Appendix* (see section 79). For the sake of convenience in these instructions, we refer to all equivalent subdivisions of a chapter as bureaus.

The *Appendix* presents accounts in a uniform, logical order in all bureaus, unless there is a compelling reason for an exception. Accounts normally appear as follows:

- General fund accounts
- Special fund accounts
- Public enterprise funds
- Intragovernmental revolving funds and management funds
- Credit reform accounts, with related accounts grouped together in the following order:
 - ▶ Program account
 - ▶ Financing accounts
 - ▶ Liquidating account
- Trust funds
- Trust revolving funds
- General fund receipt accounts

Certain materials are required for each account. The following table shows the print requirements and print sequence for all materials that could be required for an account. Because not all materials apply to a given account, the second column describes the circumstances in which they apply. The fourth column tells you which materials are automatically generated and which ones you must revise using the MAX A-11 Data Entry (DE) application, as outlined in the User's Guide.

BUDGET APPENDIX PRINT MATERIALS

Type of material	Applicability	See A-11 section...	How is it generated?
Appropriations language	Required for each account with appropriations enacted for the current year (CY) or proposed for the budget year (BY). Language is usually not submitted for legislative proposals—transmittal codes 2, 4, or 5.	95.5	Provided by the user

SECTION 95—BUDGET APPENDIX AND PRINT MATERIALS

Type of material	Applicability	See A-11 section...	How is it generated?
Special and trust fund receipts schedule	Required for all special and non-revolving trust fund accounts.	86.4	Generated from schedule N
Program and financing schedule	Required for all accounts.	82	Generated from schedule X
Summary of budget authority and outlays	Required for each regular account that also has a non-zero transmittal code.	86.5	Generated from schedule A for accounts reporting data under multiple transmittal codes
Status of direct loans	Required for all credit liquidating and financing accounts with direct loan activity, including Government-sponsored enterprises.	185.11	Generated from schedule G
Status of guaranteed loans	Required for all credit liquidating and financing accounts with guaranteed loan activity, including Government-sponsored enterprises.	185.11	Generated from schedule H
Summary of loan levels, subsidy budget authority, and outlays by program	Required for all credit program accounts with direct loan or loan guarantee subsidies.	185.10	Generated from schedule U
Narrative statement	Required for all active accounts.	95.11	Provided by the user
Schedule on the status of funds	Required for major trust funds and certain other accounts specified in section 86.5 .	86.3	Generated from schedule J
Balance sheet	Required for Government-sponsored enterprises and credit liquidating accounts. For noncredit revolving funds, optional at the discretion of OMB.	86.1	Generated from schedule F
Object classification	Required for all accounts.	83	Generated from schedule O
Employment summary	Required for each account that reports personnel compensation in object class 11.1 or 11.3. Also required when FTE are funded by allocations from other accounts.	85.5	Generated from schedule Q

95.4 What is the process for getting print materials published in the *Appendix*?

To submit appropriations language or narrative text for the *Appendix*, use the MAX A-11 DE application, which is available to registered users at <https://a11de.max.gov>. You will need a MAX ID to access MAX A-11 DE. For information about how to obtain a MAX ID, visit the MAX homepage: <https://portal.max.gov/portal/home>.

Appropriations language appears in the "PA20xx" exercises; narrative language appears in exercises under "PN20xx" and schedules under "PB20xx." You will be able to edit your narrative in PN20xx exercise when the PB exercise opens in late October.

The process for getting print materials published includes these steps:

When the Congress passes appropriations bills, OMB will load the appropriations language into the PA20xx exercise in MAX A-11 DE. You will then be notified that your appropriations language is ready to be edited. At this time, begin updating the appropriations language. When you have finished editing the appropriations language and narrative, you will move it forward to the next stage in the workflow. This notifies OMB that you are finished and gives editing permission to OMB. If you miss your deadline, OMB may move accounts from the agency editing stage to the OMB editing stage.

OMB will review the text and make changes as necessary. Once OMB has completed its review, the text will move to the next stage in the workflow—the "amounts only" stage—which permits changes to the funding levels requested in the appropriations language.

OMB will contact you, as needed, to update the funding level in the "amounts only" stage. Accordingly, if your agency has outstanding funding decisions and no outstanding policy decisions that require new language, use a funding placeholder that is \$0,000,000 when submitting your language to the first stage of the workflow.

At any time during the process, you can print out the latest text by account or (depending on your user permissions) for your whole *Appendix* chapter in draft form. OMB may also, from time to time during the process, provide a PDF of your chapter for your review. For detailed information on how to use the MAX A-11 DE application to edit and print your text, see the help page: <https://community-dc.max.gov/x/YY4eIw>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

95.5 What do I need to know about the appropriations language included in the *Appendix*?

(a) In general.

The *Appendix* includes appropriations language that reflects the President's annual request to the Congress for budget authority or other statutory authority. For each account for which appropriations language was enacted in the CY or is proposed for the BY, the *Appendix* proposes appropriations language.

Legislative proposals that request authorizing legislation are not included in the *Appendix*. Proposed appropriations language that would change budget authority or outlays in a mandatory program (also known as "CHIMPs," see section [20.3](#)) requires advance approval from OMB.

In most cases, you will submit proposed BY appropriations language by marking up language enacted as part of a regular CY appropriations act provided by OMB in MAX A-11 DE. However, if regular appropriations have not been enacted, OMB will provide you with special instructions.

If you propose new provisions or changes to enacted language (other than changes in amounts) for individual accounts or administrative and general provisions, include an explanation and justification either with the budget submission to OMB or separately to your RMO if the proposal occurs after that time. Any change to appropriations language with a budgetary impact, including changes to general provisions, requires OMB approval (see section [51.2](#)).

(b) Funding under a general provision.

As a general matter, the President's Budget should request appropriations underneath the account header where the funding will be executed, not as part of a general provision. If Congress enacts an appropriation

in a general provision, and the President's Budget is continuing that funding, incorporate that funding within the amounts requested underneath the applicable account header. Please work with your OMB examiner if you think a particular appropriation should remain in the general provisions section of a bill.

(c) Language related to personnel.

If you propose language that relates to employment of personnel without regard to civil service or classification laws, send a copy of the letter from the Office of Personnel Management approving the new provision(s) to your OMB contact. Submit this information separately from the language submissions; do not write any explanations in MAX A-11 DE. Whenever possible, try to include proposed substantive changes in appropriations language with the budget submission to provide adequate time for review by OMB. When you edit your appropriations language in MAX A-11 DE, do not provide additional parenthetical statutory references following the text of the appropriations language.

(d) Technical edits to appropriations language.

When making technical edits to appropriations language, follow the guidelines in exhibit [95B](#).

95.6 Is legislative language for mandatory proposals included in the *Appendix* or with other Budget materials?

No. The *Appendix* only includes the President's request to the Congress for budget authority or other legislative authority to be provided through the annual appropriations process. Legislative language for mandatory proposals is not included in the Budget materials transmitted by OMB. OMB may undertake a separate process subsequent to the Budget release to transmit authorizing language for mandatory proposals. Questions on the development of authorizing legislation should be directed to your OMB representative.

95.7 What are the special appropriations language requirements for credit programs?

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 imposes special appropriations language requirements for credit programs. (See section [185](#) for general guidance on credit programs.) Each program account for a direct loan or loan guarantee program must contain:

- A request for an appropriation for the subsidy costs on a net present value basis;
- A specification of the loan level supportable by the subsidy cost appropriation; and
- A request for an appropriation for the administrative expenses for operating the credit program.

Use the following standard subsidy appropriation language, using the bracketed elements as appropriate. If you need to transfer the amount for administrative expenses to a salaries and expenses account, modify the language as described below. Where loans are disbursed beyond the five-year period after obligation, you need to add the proviso discussed in section [95.8\(a\)](#).

[For the cost of direct loans, \$____,] [and] [for the cost of guaranteed loans, \$____,] as authorized by [authorizing statute]: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize [gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$____] [,and] [total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$____.] In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the [direct] [and] [guaranteed] loan program[s], \$____.

In cases where the Budget will propose to transfer administrative expenses to a salaries and expenses account, substitute the following for the last sentence above:

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the [direct] [and] loan [guarantee] program[s], \$____, which shall be [paid to appropriation for [name of account]] [or, to the extent necessary,] [used to reimburse the Federal Financing Bank as authorized in section 505(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974].

If you believe that the nature of a program requires a modification of the specified language, you may request an exception (see section [25.2](#)).

95.8 What are the special language requirements for (a) programs that disburse over a period longer than five fiscal years, or (b) programs in current law that are requesting authority for an extended disbursement period?

- (a) Programs that disburse over a period longer than five fiscal years.

Unless otherwise specified by law, budget authority is available for liquidating obligations (that is, outlays) for only five fiscal years after the budget authority expires. This is known as the expired phase (see section [20.4\(c\)](#)) and it can be problematic for programs funded by annual or multi-year budget authority where disbursements are expected to occur more than five fiscal years after the budget authority expires. Where loans or other costs (such as termination costs for some contracts and annual lease payments under operating leases, capital leases, or lease-purchase agreements) will be disbursed beyond the five-year period, use the following standard proviso, modified as appropriate, to ensure that the budget authority will remain available for disbursement over the full term of the contract:

Provided, That such sums are to remain available through 20XX for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal year 20XX.

- (b) Programs requesting authority for an extended disbursement period.

In limited cases, programs may need to request authority to extend a disbursement period for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred during the initial period of availability. In these cases, use the following standard proviso, modified as appropriate, to request the authority for funds to remain available for disbursement beyond the existing law date of cancellation:

Provided, That funds previously made available in the [Insert Name of Appropriations Act] (Public Law [AAA]–[BBB]) [[under the heading “[Insert Heading]”] or [pursuant to section [CCC]]] that were available for obligation through fiscal year 20[XX] are to remain available through fiscal year 20[YY] for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 20[ZZ] through 20[XX].

95.9 What are the special language requirements for cancellations of unobligated balances?

When developing legislative language for cancellations of unobligated balances, you must consider whether:

- (1) the account contains funds that were designated as an emergency requirement, as overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism (OCO), or as disaster funding; and
- (2) the cancellation is permanent or temporary.

Each issue is discussed below.

(1) Appropriations language must be clear that the cancelled funds do not include funds that were designated pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended (BBEDCA), as an emergency requirement, as OCO, or as disaster funding. This is important because cancellations of such funds are not counted as discretionary offsets for appropriations of non-emergency, non-OCO, or non-disaster funds (see section 20.4(i)). Unless the appropriations language specifies to the contrary, cancellations may be executed from funding that was provided using either a congressional or statutory emergency, OCO, or disaster designation.

Include the following proviso whenever you are drafting language that would cancel funds from an account that has ever contained emergency or OCO funding:

Provided, That no amounts may be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress [as an emergency requirement] [for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism] [for disaster funding] pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

(2) Appropriations language must specify whether or not the cancellation is intended to be permanent, meaning that the funds should be returned to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury, or temporary, meaning that the funds are returned to the fund from which they were originally appropriated and could become available for obligation in a subsequent fiscal year depending on whether they are permanently appropriated or subject to appropriations. (see section [20.4\(i\)](#)).

Unless otherwise approved by OMB, all cancellations proposed in the Budget should be *permanent*. Regardless of the source of the funding, use the following standard language, modified as appropriate.

Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$____ are hereby permanently cancelled:

If OMB has approved a proposal for a cancellation of funds from special or trust receipts or spending authority from offsetting collections as *temporary*, use the following standard language, modified as appropriate.

Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$____ are hereby cancelled:

Temporary and permanent reductions are recorded on distinct line numbers in MAX A-11 DE (see section [82](#)).

95.10 When BBEDCA discretionary caps are in place or proposed, what are the special language requirements for requests that designate an adjustment to the discretionary caps, such as emergency, Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (OCO), or disaster funding?

If your request includes amounts that the Administration intends the Congress to designate as an emergency requirement or for OCO as defined by the BBEDCA, use the following proviso, modified as appropriate:

Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress [as an emergency requirement] [for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism] pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*,

That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount [as an emergency requirement] [for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism] pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

If your request includes amounts that the Administration intends the Congress to designate as disaster funding as defined by the BBEDCA, use the following proviso, modified as appropriate:

For [specify the type of expenses] resulting from major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$____: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

If the Administration intends the Congress to designate only a portion of the amount being requested as disaster funding, use the following proviso, modified as appropriate:

Provided, That, of the funds provided herein, \$____ shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the amount for major disasters in the previous proviso is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

For other designations, such as program integrity, wildfire, or proposals for a new designation, specific language is needed in the Budget request. Use of any of these designations is not permitted without the prior approval from your OMB Representative.

In the absence of discretionary caps, the Budget may use different language than that described above when an Administration seeks similar consideration for an allocation adjustment (see section [21.3](#)) or other budgetary enforcement through the congressional budget process.

NARRATIVE STATEMENTS

95.11 How do I prepare narrative statements?

Exhibit [95A](#) provides general style guidance for use in preparing narrative statements. The exhibit also describes other conventions, such as those used for capitalizing account titles and program activities.

(a) Active accounts.

You must prepare a narrative statement (revising last year's statement, if there was one) for every active account, including supplemental requests and legislative proposals. An account is active if the program and financing schedule shows obligations in the CY or BY, or you estimate that the account will incur obligations in the outyears. Follow these guidelines when writing the narrative for an active account:

- Write the narrative statements in a concise and factual manner, avoiding hyperbole.
- Orient them toward the policies and objectives for the budget year.
- Include quantitative tables that match program performance and dollar data.
- Discuss performance goals and indicators and how the budget request supports them.
- Discuss efforts to improve program performance and efficiency.

- Discuss pertinent legislation enacted since the previous budget and legislative initiatives proposed in the budget.
- Do not discuss the history, authorizing statutes, and other legal references except in special cases, as explained below.

The separate activities (and any subactivities) listed in the obligations by program activity section of the program and financing schedule should present a meaningful breakdown of the total program (see section [82.5](#)). Therefore, it usually makes sense to address them separately in the narrative statements. You should identify the activities in side headings by the title used in the program and financing schedule and present them in the same order.

(b) Inactive accounts.

An account is inactive if it shows no obligations in the CY or BY and you estimate that no obligations will be incurred in the outyears. The narrative for inactive accounts should explain why the account is inactive. For example, it may be that the account funded a temporary study commission that is no longer authorized, received no appropriation after the past year (PY), and simply spends out obligated balances. If an inactive account shows any budgetary resources (budget authority or unobligated balances) in the CY, BY, or outyears, the narrative should explain the expected disposition of the budgetary resources.

95.12 How should performance information be incorporated into the narrative statements?

The statements should support the agency's annual performance plan by explaining what outcomes the agency expects to achieve with the requested funding and how the agency is working to improve performance and efficiency. Statements should highlight how quarterly reviews and assessments are used to inform funding allocations and what follow-up the agency is taking to improve program performance. Finally, statements should describe, where appropriate, program alignment to achieve Agency Strategic Objectives, implement the Priority Goals and their contributions to agency efforts to improve its operations and make better use of taxpayer dollars. See [Part 6](#) – *The Federal Performance Framework for Improving Program and Service Delivery* of this Circular for additional guidance on agency strategic and performance planning in support of efforts to improve organizational and program performance.

95.13 Are there any special requirements for narrative statements?

In addition to the information required for active accounts, the narrative should include certain specific information, described in the following paragraphs, if the account involves any of the following:

(a) Narrative statements for revolving funds.

For revolving funds, the narrative statement should include the information required for active accounts in general (see section [95.11](#)) using the side heading *Budget program*. In addition, the narrative statement should address the following topics, with the side headings shown:

Financing. Provide significant information on the fund's means of financing, such as sources of income and authority to borrow (including limits on such authority, amounts actually borrowed and repaid during the year). For funds with a statutory limit on the amount of borrowing or on the amount of debt that can be outstanding at any one time, indicate the amount of the limit and discuss the position of the fund with respect to the limit during the budget year. Include in the statement a discussion of how close to the limit the fund will approach during the year.

Operating results. Provide significant information relating to levels of revenue, expense, and net income or loss. Explain the steps being taken to dispose of any deficits and the planned disposition of net earnings.

Include an analysis of retained income on a cumulative basis, disclosing any budget authority amounts used to offset deficits for non-revenue producing outlays since the inception of the fund.

For each fund covered by section 102 of the Government Corporation Control Act, include a specific recommendation on the application of the retained earnings or restoration of capital impairment at the end of the past year. The recommendation should indicate:

- The amount of retained income to be returned to the Treasury and the use to be made of the remainder, if any; and
- Whether restoration of any capital impairment is required and whether this should be done by appropriations or other means.

(b) Narrative statements for Federal credit programs.

Narrative statements for Federal credit programs should address these items:

- Significant factors in developing subsidy estimates, such as default rates and interest rates charged to borrowers.
- Where relevant, information about how risk categories are defined (see section [185.3](#)).
- For loan guarantee programs, the percentage of the loan covered by the guarantee.

(c) Narrative statements in special cases.

The narrative statement should explain any special circumstances affecting the means of financing the program. Cover the following cases in particular:

Mandatory spending. Indicate the legal basis for the budget authority (since no appropriations language is presented for such items).

Offsetting collections and receipts. When offsetting collections or receipts earmarked in a special or trust fund finance a significant portion of the obligations of the account, discuss the source of the collections or receipts and the purposes of and restrictions on their use. For example, discuss user charges to the public, reimbursable work performed for other organizations, and asset sales. The narrative should also discuss receipts generated by the program but deposited into the General Fund of the Treasury, when pertinent to the operations of the program.

Agency debt issued and investments in agency debt. Unless the information is provided in a balance sheet for the account, the narrative statement should include the following information, as applicable, for the year before the past year (PY-1) through BY. For accounts that issue debt instruments to other Federal accounts (excluding debt issued to Treasury or to the Federal Financing Bank) or to non-Federal entities, indicate the par value of outstanding debt securities issued by the account to other Federal accounts (in total) and non-Federal entities (in total). For accounts that own securities issued by other Federal accounts (excluding securities issued by the Treasury or the Federal Financing Bank) or by non-Federal entities, indicate the par value of the securities owned that were issued by Federal accounts (in total) and non-Federal entities (in total).

Limitations on borrowing or debt. For accounts with a statutory limit on the amount of borrowing or on the amount of debt that can be outstanding at any one time, indicate the amount of the limit and discuss the position of the fund with respect to the limit during the budget year. Include in the statement a discussion of how close to the limit the fund will approach during the year.

GENERAL STYLE GUIDELINES

The following two tables cover general style guidelines for OMB documents. The first table includes guidelines for formatting, punctuation, and the use of symbols including, for instance, whether to capitalize a word and whether to use a hyphen. The second table includes guidelines for spelling and usage including whether a word or phrase should be used in a particular situation.

Table 1. Formatting, Punctuation, and Symbols	Usage
14 th	use superscript for "th"
1970s, 1980s, 1950s, 2000s, etc.	no apostrophe before the letter "s"
2021 Budget	Budget has initial cap; do not use "FY" in front of cited year in any of the Budget of the U.S. documents (all years are presumed to be fiscal years unless otherwise stated). For other documents, include "FY"
2021 President's Budget or the President's Budget	President and Budget have initial caps
20 th Century; 21 st Century	Century has an initial cap; use superscript for "th" and/or "st". Do not use superscript for the titles of Acts, which generally do not use superscript unless superscript is included in the public law print.
account titles	initial caps, e.g., Salaries and Expenses. Do not apply initial caps to conjunctions, prepositions, or articles included in the account title (e.g., and, to, from, the)
active duty	lower case
Administration	initial cap when referring to the current Administration. Past and future administrations are not capitalized unless referred to by a specific name (The Washington Administration)
Agency	initial cap if part of the name (Federal Emergency Management Agency) or if standing alone and referring to a Federal organization or unit
America	initial cap
* (asterisk) in tables	in Excel-based tables use an asterisk to indicate: an amount less than \$500 million (thousand) or less than 0.5 percent. The corresponding footnote should read: "Less than \$500 million (or thousand)" or "Less than 0.5 percent," as appropriate
Armed Forces	initial caps
biodefense	no hyphen
biosurveillance	no hyphen
bioterrorist	no hyphen
Budget	initial cap when referring to the FY 20XX Budget of the United States

Table 1. Formatting, Punctuation, and Symbols	Usage
budget	lowercase usage: for estimates, such as "budget totals"; or for departments, such as "the Department of Education's budget"
Budget volume names	italicize, such as <i>Budget</i> volume, <i>Appendix</i> or <i>Analytical Perspectives</i>
carry over	no hyphen, separate words, as in "to carry over"
carryover	no hyphen, as in "carryover" balances
child care	two words
clean up	no hyphen when used as a verb (to clean up the beach)
clean-up	hyphenate when used as a noun (as in "oil spill clean-up") or an adjective (as in "clean-up crew")
colon	two spaces after a colon: for example
colons and semi-colons are on outside of quotes	"sample": or "sample";
comma placement examples: "Imposes limits, or 'caps,' through 2012 on annual funding."	commas and periods should be placed inside quotation marks. Put a dash, question mark, or exclamation point within closing quotation marks when the punctuation applies to the quotation itself and outside when it applies to the whole sentence. Colons and semi-colons are outside closing quotation marks
comma placement example (the "Oxford comma")	in a sequence of words separated by commas, with "and" linked to the last phrase, use a comma before "and." (Example: "eat, drink, and be merry"; not "eat, drink and be merry.")
commonsense	one word
Congress's	possessive
congressional	lower case
counterterrorism	no hyphen
country	lower case, but when referring to the United States use Nation or United States instead of "country"
crosscut or crosscutting	no hyphen
cyber-XXXX	hyphenate cyber-enabled and cyber-related
cyberXXXX	use one word for the following derivations: cybercrime cyberinfrastructure cybersecurity cyberspace
cyber XXXX	generally, other uses of "cyber" require two words, not hyphenated
D.C.	include periods when abbreviating District of Columbia
Department	initial cap if part of a name (Department of Defense), or if standing alone and referring to a Federal unit

Table 1. Formatting, Punctuation, and Symbols	Usage
DOD	Department of Defense abbreviation (all upper case); same for other departments/agencies
e.g.,	means "for example"; use periods and a comma following the abbreviation
E-Government	initial cap E and G with hyphen
Executive Orders	quote the title of the Executive Order and use a comma between the number and name; do not use italics. E.g., Executive Order 13771, "Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs"
Federal	initial cap
Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Legislative Branch	initial caps
Federal Government	initial cap F and G
federally XXXXX	lower case f for federally; no hyphen generally
Government	initial cap when referring to the United States
Government-sponsored	initial cap G when referring to the U.S. and is hyphenated
Government-wide	initial cap G when referring to the U.S. and is hyphenated
high-quality	hyphenate
i.e.,	from the Latin ("id est") phrase meaning "that is"; comma follows abbreviation
internet	no initial cap
its or it's; whose or who's	"its" (with no apostrophe) is possessive, meaning "belonging to it." "It's" is a contraction that means <i>only</i> "it is." Similarly, "whose" means "belonging to who," and "who's" means "who is"
law cases, citation of	italicize when citing law cases; use "v." and not "vs." e.g., <i>Olmstead v. L.C.</i>
low-income	hyphenate
low priority; lowest priority	no hyphen
em dash (—)	frequent use of the em dash, or long dash, within sentences is discouraged. <i>The Chicago Manual of Style</i> defines the em dash as a device "to denote a sudden break in thought that causes an abrupt change in sentence structure." Thus, it should be used on the rare occasion when a tangential phrase within a sentence is absolutely unavoidable. To add a normal subordinate clause, use of a semi-colon is preferred
multiyear	one word, no hyphen
narrative headers	initial caps, e.g., Interstate Maintenance
Nation	upper case when referring to the United States
nationwide	lower case

Table 1. Formatting, Punctuation, and Symbols	Usage
non-defense	hyphenated, generally
nonsecurity	not hyphenated
numbers listed as 1); 2); 3); etc.	use closed parenthesis only, i.e., not (1); (2); (3), etc.
OMB Memorandum	indicate the number of the OMB Memorandum and use a comma between the number and title; do not use italics or quotes. E.g., OMB Memorandum M-20-19, Harnessing Technology to Support Mission Continuity
online	one word, no hyphen
outyear	one word, no hyphen
percent	spell out; do not use % symbol except in tables
pro rata	two words, no hyphen
R&D	use an ampersand (&) instead of "and"
reestimate	no hyphen
<i>Report</i> names	italicize
repropose	no hyphen
rightsize	no hyphen
semi-colons	use semi-colon in series: ; when following a colon
ship names	italicize the name or class of ships: <i>Columbia</i> -class ballistic missile submarine
spring/summer	no initial caps for seasons
south; north; east; west; Northeast; Southwest, etc.	initial cap in reference to a proper name or region, e.g., the Southeast; lower case when identifying compass directions, e.g., southeastern United States
State	initial cap when referring to one or more of the 50 United States
territorial	lower case
Territory	initial cap when referring to one or more of the U.S. Territories
Tribes	initial cap T, but lower case for "tribal"
U.S.	can abbreviate when used as an adjective, i.e., U.S. exports
United States	initial caps and spelled out when used as a proper noun, i.e., the United States will remain strong...
web-based	hyphenate
web addresses	italicize web addresses, use <i>https://</i> , and eliminate the <i>www.</i> prefix, if possible, e.g., [www .omb.gov] <i>https://omb.gov</i>
worldwide	one word, no hyphen
year-over-year percent change	hyphenate as noted

Table 2. Spelling and Usage	Description
2019–2020 school year	not 2019-20
all told	use "in total" rather than "all told"
the Budget not "this" Budget	general rule
the Congress	use "the" in front of Congress
conjunctions, use of	avoid beginning sentences with conjunctions such as "And" or "But"
dates	dates generally get a comma after the year when used in a clause, e.g., "on December 12, 2011, we bought our Christmas tree". However, when citing a month and year only, no comma is needed – e.g., "March 2018"
finally and further	avoid use of "finally" instead use "also" or "further"
FY	use of "FY" is unnecessary in the various Budget volumes because "all years are fiscal unless stated otherwise" (typically noted at front of the volume)
an FY	not "a FY"
healthcare	one word unless referring to an existing program name
initiative or program activity names	initial caps, e.g., American Competitiveness Initiative, or Cooperative Extension Systems (in narrative text/non-MAX schedules). Do not use quotation marks
numbers in text	spell out zero to nine; 10 and up use numerals, e.g., nine, 10
numbers in text referencing a range, e.g., 8 to 23	although the numbers zero through nine should be written out when standing alone, do not spell out numbers 0 through 9 when providing them in a range such as 2 to 11, or 9 to 24 (e.g., <u>not</u> two to 11 or nine to 24)
numbers in tables	use numerals, e.g., an increase of 3 percent
numbers in text used as adjective	hyphenate, e.g., 10-year window
passive voice, use of	avoid use of the passive voice (not "use of the passive voice is to be avoided")
percent	adjective (use of hyphen), e.g., 65-percent response rate generally no more than one decimal place, e.g., 0.8 percent
percentage point or percentage points	use "percentage points" for amounts greater than one and "percentage point" for one or less (e.g. 0.7 percentage point)
possessives	most singular-case usages receive " 's" to create the possessive, including singular words ending in "s." Examples: Charles's; James's (see "Congress's," above). Plural words receive just an apostrophe where appropriate, e.g., States', when referring to more than one State. The possessive of "who" is "whose," not "who's." "Its" is also an exception, as noted above
presently	means "in the near future" or "soon." To refer to the present, use "currently" or "at present".

Table 2. Spelling and Usage	Description
pronouns	avoid use of personal pronouns such as "our," "we," or "us" in narratives
rescission	note spelling
seeks	use "provides" or "proposes" rather than "the Budget seeks"
servicemember	one word
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	note spelling and commas; when referring to STEM, spell out the first instance
State names	<p>in <u>text</u> passages, spell out State names, e.g., Louisiana, Michigan, Alabama, etc.</p> <p>in <u>tables</u>, use 2-letter Postal Service abbreviation for State names (due to space considerations), e.g., LA, MI, AL (no periods)</p>
toward, not towards	do not use the "s"
the DOD, the HHS	no "the" before department/agency acronym
website	one word
will vs. would	<p>Use will if funding was provided. For example: The funding will provide for 350 more catamarans.</p> <p>Use would if not enough funding is provided or if the funding has not been provided yet. For example: Fully funding the President's Budget request would allow GSA to purchase 350 additional catamarans.</p>
workforce	one word
workplace	one word

Additional Guidance for Making Technical Edits in Appropriations Language

The appropriations language for the President’s Budget will either print in a strike-through and brackets format showing changes from a previously enacted appropriations act, as in the 2024 *Appendix*, or in an “all italics” format, as in the 2026 *Appendix*. Regardless of that format, or of the starting point from which you are making changes, follow the guidance below when drafting appropriations language for inclusion in the Budget *Appendix*.

- **Deletions/Insertions**
 - When deleting text, delete only whole words/whole numbers. Do not delete additional spaces surrounding the words/numbers.
 - When inserting text, place the insertions after the deleted text.
 - Example: “For necessary expenses of the program, \$1,000,000 \$2,000,000.”
- **Placeholder Amounts**
 - Use the format “\$0,000,000” when entering placeholder amounts into MAX A-11 DE. Do not use “\$X,XXX,XXX”. Only numerals can be updated later, when final amounts are entered in MAX A-11 DE.
- **Provisos**
 - Provisos follow a standard format.
 - When appropriations language contains provisos, the introductory language preceding the provisos will end with a colon.
 - The first proviso begins with “Provided, That”.
 - All following provisos begin with “Provided further, That”.
 - Provisos end with a colon except for the last proviso, which ends with a period.
 - Example: “For necessary expenses to carry out title V of the ACME Act, \$5,000,000: Provided, That of such amount, \$2,000,000 is for rocket-powered roller skate production: Provided further, That such rocket-powered roller skates shall be for the Road Runner Reduction Program.”
- **Cancellations**
 - The President’s Budget proposes cancellations, not rescissions. If the word “rescind” or “rescission” appears in the base text you are editing, including when it appears in a sub-header under appropriations headings, please change the wording to “cancel” or “cancellation” as appropriate. See section 112.2.
 - Example: “(including ~~reseissions~~ cancellations)”
- **Word of Futurity**
 - Appropriations language in the President’s Budget generally does not propose to add new words of futurity (e.g., “hereafter” or “in this and all future fiscal years”).
 - Use of new words of futurity must be cleared by your resource management office, in consultation with OMB’s Office of General Counsel.
- **Chadha**

The President’s Budget does not include language making the availability or movement of funding subject to Congressional approval. Where such language is included in base text for updating to prepare the President’s Budget request, change “approval of the Committees” to “notice to the Committees”.