

OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET



September 2016

OMB 2016 Open Government Plan

On his first full day in office, President Obama issued his Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, which instructed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue an Open Government Directive.¹ That Directive was issued by the Director of OMB on December 8, 2009. OMB's principal role in the President's Open Government Initiative has been to help formulate, draft, and issue the Directive, and to guide agencies throughout the Executive Branch in its implementation.

The Directive required each agency to develop an Open Government Plan. OMB undertook extensive employee engagement during formation of this Open Government Plan that includes a description of OMB's central mission, which is to assist the President in overseeing the preparation and implementation of the Federal Budget and to coordinate the Administration's legislative, management, performance management, and regulatory policies. Unlike other Cabinet Departments and agencies that directly implement government programs and deliver services to the public, OMB's resources are largely directed toward assisting the President to manage the Executive Branch.

OMB is updating its Open Government Plan as a continuation of a long-term effort to be more transparent, participatory, and collaborative. The initiatives and commitments included in the Plan provide a starting point for continued improvements. For this reason, OMB welcomes public input on this Plan and invites suggestions for additional steps OMB might take to promote openness. Feedback on OMB's Open Government plan or open government efforts in general can be sent to opengov@omb.eop.gov.

¹ http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Transparency_and_Open_Government/ ;
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-06.pdf

OMB's Mission and Organization

The core mission of OMB is to serve the President of the United States in implementing his vision across the Executive Branch. OMB is the largest component of the Executive Office of the President. It reports directly to the President and helps executive departments and agencies across the Federal Government implement the commitments and priorities of the President.

As the implementation and enforcement arm of Presidential policy government-wide, OMB carries out its mission through five critical processes that are essential to the President's ability to plan and implement his priorities across the Executive Branch.

1. Budget development and execution. This is a significant government-wide process managed by OMB for the President to implement decisions, policies, priorities, and actions in all areas (from economic recovery to health care to energy policy to national security).
2. Management. This includes oversight of agency performance, Federal procurement, financial management, and information/IT (including paperwork reduction, privacy, and security).
3. Coordination and review of all significant Federal regulations by executive agencies. This process ensure adequate reflection of Presidential priorities and allows for economic and other impacts to be assessed as part of regulatory decision-making, along with review and assessment of information collection requests.
4. Legislative clearance and coordination. This includes review and clearance of all agency communications with Congress including testimony and draft bills for consistency of agency legislative views and proposals with Presidential policy.
5. Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda to agency heads and officials. These are the mechanisms by which the President directs specific government-wide actions by Executive Branch officials.

Organizationally, OMB has offices devoted to the development and execution of the Federal Budget, various government-wide management portfolios, and OMB-wide functional responsibilities and more information can be found here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/organization>.

Budget Formulation and Execution

OMB has five resource management office divisions (RMOs), organized by agency and by program area. These offices, together with OMB's Budget Review Division (BRD), help to carry out OMB's central activity of assisting the President in overseeing the preparation of the Federal Budget and supervising its administration of Executive Branch agencies. In helping to formulate the President's spending plans, the RMOs assess the effectiveness of agency programs, policies, and procedures, weigh competing funding demands within and among agencies, and help work with agencies to set funding priorities. Once the Budget is enacted, RMOs are responsible for

the execution of Federal budgetary policies and provide ongoing policy and management guidance to Federal agencies. As part of these and other responsibilities, the RMOs provide analysis and evaluation, oversee implementation of policy options, and support government-wide management initiatives.

BRD plays a central role in developing and implementing the President's Budget. BRD provides leadership and analytic support across the agency by analyzing trends in and the consequences of aggregate budget policy. It aggregates data provided by the RMOs, provides strategic and technical support for budget decision-making and negotiations, and monitors congressional action on appropriations and other spending legislation. In addition, BRD provides technical expertise in, and guidance on, budget concepts and execution.

Management Policies and Initiatives

The Deputy Director for Management (DDM) develops and executes a government-wide management agenda that includes information technology, financial management, procurement, performance, and human resources.

The Deputy Director for Management oversees five offices, four of which are statutory, that oversee and coordinate the Administration's procurement, financial management, e-government, performance and personnel management, and information and regulatory policies. In each of these areas, OMB's role includes not only administrative management functions, but also program performance and policy management (e.g., program delivery and outcomes). This role encompasses oversight of how agencies devise, implement, manage, and evaluate the statutory programs and policies for which they are responsible. This responsibility is central to OMB's efforts to assist in agency strategic and performance planning, goal-setting, performance measurement, information management, evaluation, and policy research. These functions are essential parts of the policy and program direction advice that OMB provides.

The management offices develop and oversee the President's management plan and other government-wide management policies, and work primarily with and through the RMOs and the agencies to ensure that these policies are implemented:

- The Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM) develops government-wide policies and provides strategic direction to improve financial management, reporting, and systems; to reduce improper payments; to improve grants management; and to "right-size" Federal real property. More information can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/financial_default/
- The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) develops policies and provides direction for Federal procurement and acquisition best practices that better foster cost-savings, reduce duplication, save taxpayer dollars, and increase transparency. More information can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement_default/
- The Office of E-Government & Information Technology, also referred to as the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer (OFCIO), develops and provides direction in the use of IT and Internet-based technologies to make it easier for citizens and businesses to

interact with the Federal Government, save taxpayer dollars, and streamline citizen participation. More information can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/e-gov/>.

- The Office of Performance and Personnel Management (OPPM) works with agencies to encourage use and communication of performance information to improve results and transparency. OPPM also works closely with the Office of Personnel Management to advance effective personnel practices. More information can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/performance_default/.
- The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) has a number of functions, including information policy, statistical policy, and regulatory policy. More information can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoereg_default/.

Regulatory Review and Paperwork Reduction

[Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review,"](#) issued by President Clinton on September 30, 1993, gives OIRA within OMB the responsibility to review agencies' draft proposed and final regulatory actions. President Obama issued [Executive Order 13563 "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review,"](#) on January 18, 2011, to reaffirm and supplement Executive Order 12866 to further improve rulemaking and regulatory review.

With respect to regulatory policy, OIRA's mission includes ensuring coordination and interagency review within the Executive Branch, including offices within OMB and the Executive Office of the President; promoting adherence to the law and to the President's priorities and commitments; and ensuring that regulations are based on sound analysis and serve the purposes of the statutes that authorize them and the interests of the public. Specifically, OIRA's review of draft proposed and final significant regulations helps ensure that the issuing agency has adequately defined the problem that it intends to address; considered alternatives; assessed available information, risks, costs, and benefits (both qualitative and quantitative); consulted affected parties and promoted transparency and participation; and tailored the regulation to focus on the problem in a simple and clear way that does not conflict with other rules or statutes. OIRA seeks to ensure, to the extent permitted by law, that the benefits of agency regulations justify the costs and that the chosen approach maximize net benefits to society. OIRA also administers the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, which calls for clearance and assessment of information collection requests by agencies.

Legislative Clearance and Coordination

OMB manages the clearing process for agency views on legislative proposals and testimony to ensure consistency in the Administration's policy positions.

- **Legislative Proposals.** All bills that Executive agencies wish to transmit to the Congress are sent to OMB for clearance. OMB circulates the bills to other affected agencies and appropriate Executive Office of the President (EOP) staff. Agencies reviewing a draft bill may favor it or have no objection. One or more may propose substantive or technical amendments, or perhaps a complete substitute. Divergent views can be reconciled by telephone, letter, e-mail, or interagency meetings called by OMB.

After review, analysis, resolution of issues, and obtaining appropriate policy guidance, OMB advises the proposing agency that (1) there is “no objection” from the standpoint of the Administration’s program to the submission of the proposed draft bill to the Congress, or (2) the proposed bill is “in accord with the President’s program,” if it implements a Presidential proposal. The submitting agency conveys this “advice” to the Congress in its transmittal letter. (Major legislation is sometimes transmitted by the President.) On the other hand, if the agency is advised that its proposed bill conflicts with an important Administration objective, or is not in accord with the President’s program, it may not transmit the bill to the Congress. In practically all instances, however, disagreements are resolved through discussions at the policy levels of OMB and the agencies.

- **Clearance of Agency Testimony and Letters on Pending Legislation.** If agencies are asked by congressional committees to testify or send letters on pending legislation, or wish to volunteer a letter, similar clearance procedures are followed as for legislative proposals, described above.
- **Statements of Administration Policy (SAPs).** OMB prepares SAPs for major bills scheduled for House or Senate floor action in the coming week, including those to be considered by the House Rules Committee. SAPs are prepared in coordination with other parts of OMB, the agency or agencies principally concerned, and other EOP components. Following its clearance, a SAP is sent to Congress by OMB’s Legislative Affairs Office. OMB also publishes these Statements to its public website.
- **Enrolled Bills and Signing Statements.** After Congress has completed action on a bill, it is “enrolled” (i.e., sent to the President for his approval or disapproval), together with drafts of any signing statements. The Constitution provides that the President shall take action within 10 days after receipt of the bill, not including Sundays. To assist the President in deciding his course of action on a bill, OMB requests each interested agency submit within 48 hours of a bill’s passage its analysis and recommendation in a letter to OMB. Such views letters are signed by the head of the agency or other Presidential appointee. OMB prepares a memorandum to the President on the enrolled bill which transmits these views letters and summarizes the bill, significant issues, and various agency and OMB recommendations. If an agency recommends disapproval, it is responsible for preparing a draft of an appropriate statement for the President’s consideration. In considering whether a signing statement should be issued upon a bill’s signing on the basis of constitutional considerations, OMB’s Office of General Counsel identifies relevant legal issues, in consultation with the Department of Justice and the Office of the White House Counsel, and drafts the legal issues sections of any signing statements.

Additional legislative information is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative-affairs>.

President's Executive Orders and Memoranda to Agency Heads

Under Executive Order 11030, as amended, OMB substantively reviews and clears all draft Presidential Executive Orders and Memoranda to Agency Heads prior to their issuance. Any agency head or White House component wishing to sponsor an executive order or Presidential memorandum formally requests such an order or memorandum from OMB. OMB works with the policy sponsor to draft or refine the proposed order or memorandum; submits the draft to an interagency clearance process; and works with the policy sponsors to address agency comments and resolve disputes. The OMB General Counsel also obtains "form and legality" approval of draft executive orders from the Department of Justice, and seeks legal authority approval from the Department of Justice for Presidential memoranda as well. Draft executive orders and Presidential memoranda are submitted for signature to the President by the Director of OMB and the General Counsel of OMB.

Other OMB Offices

Other OMB offices include Management and Operations, Communications, Economic Policy, General Counsel, Legislative Affairs, and Legislative Reference.

The Office of Economic Policy (EP), along with the Department of the Treasury and the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), develops economic assumptions for the President's Budget and works closely with BRD on budgetary issues. EP assists RMOs with budget estimates, policy proposals, cost models, and other data analytics, especially in the areas of credit and insurance, health, labor, education, and tax policy. EP plays a leadership role in government-wide program evaluation efforts. EP is responsible for the Circular setting Federal discount rate policy. EP also assists the management side of OMB by analyzing procurement policy and issues related to Federal pay and benefits.

OMB's Office of General Counsel provides legal advice and counsel to the Director and the OMB components and staff. In addition, the General Counsel's Office manages the Executive Order and Presidential Memoranda process for OMB and the Administration; reviews and clears all legal and constitutional comments by the Department of Justice and other agencies on proposed legislation before such comments are conveyed to Congress; participates in the drafting of bill signing statements for the President; reviews all proposed legislative text comprising the President's Budget and for all budget-related legislative proposals; evaluates legal issues in proposed regulations; convenes meetings of all agency general counsels and coordinates legal issues across agencies; and ensures OMB's compliance with ethics laws, the Freedom of Information Act, the Federal Records Act, and other statutory requirements.

OMB's Office of Legislative Affairs works closely with White House Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Agency Legislative Affairs offices, and congressional offices on current legislative issues. The Office advises the OMB Director and the organization on legislative issues and developments, provides expertise on the congressional budget process, oversees correspondence with the Congress, and manages the clearance and transmittal of the President's Budget and the Administration's Statements of Administration Policy.

The Legislative Reference Division coordinates the articulation of the Administration's position on legislation by overseeing the review and clearance of the Administration's legislative proposals, testimony, and statements on bills progressing through Congress.

The Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC) is a new office within OMB responsible for formulating and implementing the Administration's strategic plan to combat counterfeiting and other forms of intellectual property infringement. The IPEC office collaborates closely with the array of agencies responsible for intellectual property enforcement to develop an effective government-wide strategy to maximize the effectiveness of available resources. As the IPEC office undertakes the process of formulating Administration strategy, it continues to consider the significant feedback it receives from the public and industry, both in the immense public response to its request for comments and in connection with numerous meetings with companies, organizations and unions. The IPEC office also works closely with the Director, components of OMB, and other offices within the White House, to establish intellectual property policies that promote innovation and to provide advice on a host of intellectual property issues.

The remaining offices provide OMB-wide support and guidance in a number of areas. For example, the Management and Operations Division is responsible for ensuring that OMB has the staff resources, physical facilities, equipment, and information systems needed to accomplish its missions. The Strategic Planning and Communications Office is the principal resource of national, regional, and local media organizations for information about the Federal Budget, management initiatives, and other areas of OMB responsibility.

Transparency and Proactive Disclosure

OMB's Open Government Plan discusses OMB's current procedures and activities to promote the transparency of OMB's operations. Many of these are linked to OMB's role in its budgetary, legislative, management, and regulatory oversight activities.

Analytical Visualization of the Budget

To engage with the public on the Budget, the White House is leveraging open data platforms that allows users to visualize where Federal dollars are being spent in various agencies and departments, and create, analyze and share interactive charts and graphs based off the data for analysis.

Located at: <https://open.whitehouse.gov/budget>, this site allows the public to interact with the 2017 Budget to explore and see visualizations of budget data by agency or program area. The Federal Budget can be thousands of pages long and incredibly complex — this application takes this complexity and turns it into accessible, user-friendly visualizations.

OMB Policy for Federal Agency Public Websites and Digital Services

Issued in 2004, OMB Memorandum M-05-04, Federal Agency Public Websites, set the minimum standards for Federal Agency public facing websites. OMB will soon be issuing an update of this policy to meet the commitment in the National Action Plan for Open Government and to provide standards for Federal Agency public websites and digital services that remains up-to-date with new technologies.

Improving the Use of FOIA Government-wide

Over the past seven and a half years, Federal agencies have processed more than 4.6 million requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), releasing more information in response to FOIA requests than any prior Administration. In processing these requests, the government has achieved a release rate of above 91 percent each year. And when exemptions were used to protect information, the reason cited most often by agencies was for protection of personal privacy.

To ensure the Administration's track record of openness is institutionalized throughout government and carries forward for years to come, in June 2016 the Administration announced a number of additional actions. These include utilizing the Chief FOIA Officers Council and FOIA Advisory Committee to address FOIA's greatest challenges, promoting broader release of records through a "release to one is a release to all" presumption, and launching a centralized FOIA request portal.

To focus agency leadership on these actions and drive the robust implementation of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, OMB also announced the creation of a Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal for FOIA that will be co-led by OMB, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The development of the CAP Goal will

concentrate senior leadership attention and drive performance and accountability for improving the way in which FOIA requests are administered and ensure that Federal departments and agencies are providing sufficient resources toward FOIA responsibilities. The new CAP goal will be publicly posted on Performance.gov, and will have a detailed action plan, including specific metrics and milestones that will be used to gauge progress. To maintain focus on implementation, each quarter, OMB will review progress on these goals and will update Performance.gov with the latest results.

Unlocking Government Information Through Data.gov

The free flow of information between the Federal Government and the public is essential to a democratic society. Data.gov, which is overseen by the Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO), who sits within OMB, and managed by the General Services Administration (GSA), is one of the Administration's key open government initiative. The purpose of Data.gov is to unlock the value of government information. By the close of calendar year 2015, Data.gov has enabled public access to approximately 200,000 datasets on topics such as education, public safety, health care, energy, and agriculture. With over 10 million page views in 2015, open data continues to drive economic growth, unlock opportunities for entrepreneurs, and opens the door to innovative academic research.

Data.gov provides the public with an easy way to find, download, and use datasets that are generated and held by the Federal Government. Data.gov also offers a conduit for the public to provide feedback on disseminated datasets, as well as to request enhancements to existing datasets or dissemination of new datasets. Improving the accessibility of the massive data stores of Federal Government data can help foster innovation, spur new discoveries, and fuel the knowledge economy of the American people. Because Data.gov is a focused effort on "open data and tools," it sets the direction for the transformation of Federal Government data through the next generation of information interoperability and the exchange of ideas and innovation by an empowered public, industry, academia, and all levels of government.

Federal Source Code & Code.gov

In fiscal year 2016, in accordance with the Second Open Government National Action, OMB released the Federal Source Code Policy (<https://sourcecode.cio.gov/>) to improve the way Federal agencies buy, build, and deliver information technology (IT) and software solutions to better support cost efficiency, mission effectiveness, and the consumer experience with Government programs. Specifically, the policy requires that new software developed specifically for or by the Federal Government be made available for sharing and re-use across Federal agencies. It also launches a pilot program that will result in at least 20 percent of that new federally funded custom code to be released to the public.

Through the policy and pilot program, the government can promote innovation and collaboration across Federal agencies and save taxpayer dollars by avoiding duplicative custom software purchases. We will also enable the brightest minds inside and outside of government to review

and improve our code, and work together to ensure that the code is secure, reliable, and effective in furthering our national objectives.

To further assist agencies and promote discover and reuse of source code, OMB will launch a new website – Code.gov – that will help agencies across the Federal Government take steps to improve access to their source code.

Transparency in Acquisition Regulations and Procurement Data

Consistent with OMB OFPP statutory responsibilities, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and all proposed regulatory changes to the FAR are made public. Specifically, all FAR changes are published in the Federal Register for public comment at www.federalregister.gov. In collaboration with the General Services Administration, the FAR is now available in a user-friendly digital application that can be downloaded and searched to more readily find applicable regulations affecting Federal Government contracts. The application is at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far> and the status of all FAR cases (open and closed) is publicly available at http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/far_case_status.html

The Federal acquisition system is designed to deliver the best value product or service while maintaining the public's trust and fulfilling public policy objectives. An open and competitive system provides greater transparency, integrity, fairness, and supports accessible and in-depth analysis of Federal contracts. OFPP's policies, guidance, and regulations result in public display of over \$440B in Federal contract awards annually, information on 34,000 active daily Federal opportunities, details related to 13 million annual procurement transactions, and public information on integrity of Federal contractors.

Additionally, OFPP collaborates with agencies to leverage digital technologies and stakeholder feedback to further improve the effectiveness of the public procurement systems that foster openness and competition. This includes modernizing the online environment in which contract opportunities can be found, displaying new data and information on Federal procurement, and analyzing opportunities for increasing transparency.

USASpending.gov

Pursuant to [Digital Accountability and Transparency Act](#) (DATA Act), OMB is working with the Department of the Treasury to promote increased transparency, reliability, and comparability of the data on USASpending.gov or a successor site. In the summer of 2015, OMB engaged Federal agencies and non-Federal stakeholders in a process to standardize 57 data elements for displaying financial and award-level data on the future USASpending.gov. Since then, OMB has continued to work diligently toward the May 2017 DATA Act deadline by providing Federal agencies with additional instruction for making Federal spending data available to the public. OMB aims to improve tools for decision-making inside and outside of government through our continued work on Federal spending transparency.

Federal Real Property

OMB is chair of the Federal Real Property Management Council (FRPC), that serves as a government-wide forum to provide leadership in strategic real property management initiatives and share best practices across the Federal community. In March 2015, OMB released the National Strategy for the Efficient Use of Real Property (National Strategy) and its companion “Reduce the Footprint” (RTF) policy. The National Strategy institutionalizes the government-wide goal to right-size our Federal property portfolio by defining the strategic framework agencies will use to manage their portfolios for efficiency gains. The framework *freezes* growth in the inventory, *measures* performance and identifies opportunities to improve efficiency and data quality to support data driven decision-making, and ultimately *reduces* the size of the inventory by prioritizing actions to consolidate, co-locate, and dispose of properties. Under OMB’s efforts to right-size the Federal footprint, from Fiscal Year (FY)13-15, the government-wide portfolio was reduced by 24.7 million square feet (SF), a 3.3% reduction from the 730 million square footage office and warehouse baseline in FY 2012. With continued implementation of the National Strategy and implementing policies, OMB will continue to drive efforts to right-size the government-wide portfolio through square footage reductions and greater management efficiencies.

Project Open Data

In fiscal year 2013, OMB, in coordination with OSTP and GSA’s Data.gov team, launched Project Open Data.² Project Open Data is a collection of code, tools, and case studies to help agencies adopt the Open Data Policy and unlock the potential of government data. It will evolve over time as a community resource to facilitate broader adoption of open data practices in government. Anyone – government employees, contractors, developers, the general public – can view and contribute.

In fiscal year 2014, OMB expended Project Open Data and launched the publicly-accessible Project Open Data Dashboard to provide transparent information on the progress of Federal agencies in achieving the objectives of the Open Data Policy and the Open Data Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal.³ OMB officials update the Dashboard on a quarterly basis and provide feedback to agencies on their performance, including the addition of new milestones and metrics.

OMB Datasets

OMB actively disseminates its own data via the web and Data.gov. OMB has disseminated several notable datasets such as:

- **[Budget of the U.S. Government](#)**. This document contains the Budget Message of the President, information on the President’s priorities, budget overviews organized by agency, and summary tables.

² <https://project-open-data.cio.gov/>

³ <http://labs.data.gov/dashboard/offices>; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2013/m-13-13.pdf>

- **[Historical Tables](#)**. These tables provide data on budget receipts, outlays, surpluses or deficits, Federal debt, and Federal employment over an extended time period, generally from 1940 or earlier to the current budget year.
- **[Federal Credit Supplement](#)**. This provides summary information about Federal direct loan and loan guarantee programs subject to the Federal Credit Reform Act (FCRA) of 1990, as amended by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.
- **[Federal Grants to State and Local Governments](#)**. The spreadsheet version from the *Analytical Perspectives* budget publication provides detailed information on Budget Authority and Outlays that are classified as grants to State and local governments. The data are grouped by budget function, Budget Enforcement Act Category, Agency, Bureau and Account and include amounts for the Prior Year, Current Year and Budget Year. (Account-level grant outlays are also provided in the historical Public Budget Database described below.)
- **[Budget Authority and Outlays by Function Category and Program](#)**. These tables provide a programmatic breakdown of policy and current services spending.
- **[Public Budget Database](#)**. These data files contain an extract of the OMB budget database that can be used to reproduce many of the totals published in the Budget and examine unpublished details below the levels of aggregation published in the Budget:
 - Budget Authority and Offsetting Receipts, 1976 – current;
 - Outlays and Offsetting Receipts, 1962 – current; and
 - Governmental Receipts, 1962 – current.
- **[Federal Spending via the IT Dashboard](#)**. The IT Dashboard was launched on June 1, 2009, which provided Federal agencies and the public with the ability to view details of Federal information technology (IT) investments online and to track their progress over time. The IT Dashboard displays data received from agency IT Portfolio and Business Case reports, including general information on over 7,000 Federal IT investments and detailed data for over 700 of those investments that agencies classify as "major." Agency Chief Information Officers (CIO) are responsible for evaluating and updating select data on a regular basis, which is accomplished through interfaces provided by the IT Dashboard.
- **[History of OMB Economic Forecasts, 1976 – present](#)**. These data show annual economic forecasts from each Budget submitted since fiscal year (FY) 1976. During transition years, they include both incoming and outgoing Administration Budgets.
- **[Improper Payments Database](#)**. Improper Payment data contains information on improper payments for programs found to be susceptible to significant improper payments under the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA), as amended by the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 (IPERA). For the programs found to be susceptible to significant improper payments, the dataset includes information on program outlays, program improper payment amounts, and targets for reducing improper payments and is available for

FY 2004 to FY 2011. Beginning in FY 2017, the dataset available will reflect data from FY 2004 to FY 2016.

- **[Completed EO 12866 Regulatory Reviews by Calendar Year](#)**. This is an annual dataset of draft rules reviewed by OMB under Executive Orders 12291 and 12866. The data provide information by agency, length of review in days, and economic significance. This dataset provides annual data going back to 1981.
- **[XML Reports of Information Collection Reviews](#)**. This is structured data updated regularly that contains the current inventory of approved information collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act, information collections under review, and much more.
- **[President's Executive Orders and Memoranda to Agency Heads](#)**. All of the President's Executive Orders and Memoranda to Agency Heads are published on the White House website upon issuance.
- **[Presidential Signing Statements](#)**. The President's statements that accompany his signature of bills are released upon issuance and published on the White House website.

OIRA Regulatory Review Dashboard

For over a decade, OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) has provided information about its work related to regulatory review on www.RegInfo.gov and on OIRA's website.⁴ In February 2010, the "OIRA Dashboard" was added to RegInfo.gov, which provides continually updated and detailed information about regulatory actions under OIRA review. Among other things, the Dashboard graphically displays regulatory actions under review by agency, length of review, economic significance, and stage of rulemaking.

The Dashboard is the centerpiece of an easy-to-use website that allows people to track the progress of Federal regulations submitted for interagency review. Putting this information online and in an accessible format is one of the ways that OMB is applying the principles of the Open Government Directive to rulemaking and regulatory policy.

Although OIRA already discloses a significant amount of information about the nature and status of regulations under review, the Dashboard makes it far simpler for visitors to find and sort rules by agency, by length of review, by stage of rulemaking, and by economic significance. With the help of intuitive and graphical displays, the Dashboard makes it easier for people to identify the rule or category of rules that interest them and allows them to monitor progress of OIRA's review. Simply put, the Dashboard democratizes the data.

Regulations are one of the many "non-budget" activities that work to support the President's priorities in areas such as environmental protection, highway safety, energy efficiency, homeland security, and education. Through the Dashboard, we add new transparency to this important area

⁴ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/oira>

of policymaking – and we invite participation through a link to Regulations.gov to strengthen accountability and effectiveness. In 2015 the Dashboard had over 100 million web hits.

Performance Management Portal

At the outset of this Administration the President mandated a far-reaching effort to modernize and reform government to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations. OMB is responsible for working with agencies to execute the President’s mandate. To do so, the Office of the Deputy Director for Management within OMB is focusing on key strategies that have the highest opportunity and need for performance gains. These strategies include: focusing on high priority performance goals; closing the information technology gap; eliminating waste; improving contracting practices; recruiting and retaining top talent; and harnessing open government for accountability and innovation.

To help agencies focus on making meaningful, measurable progress is made in each of these areas, OMB implemented a performance management system that establishes clear accountability for achieving results, defined action plans, rigorous data-driven reviews, and transparency on metrics and milestones. The cornerstone of the system for communicating results is a performance portal that is located at www.performance.gov. The portal includes:

- An overview of the performance management framework and key performance improvement strategies;
- Links to management dashboards that offer performance strategy and provide critical performance data on key initiatives, like *Freeze the Footprint* and *Infrastructure Permitting reform*; and
- In-depth information on Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals and Agency Priority Goals (APGs), providing implementation strategies, historical data and relevant context, the senior accountable official for each goal, key performance indicators, and agreed-upon measures and milestones; and
- Functionality for public comment and input on performance priorities.

Performance.gov serves as a focal point for leadership oversight of performance priorities, as well as a nexus of problem solving and best practices sharing across government agencies. For the public, Performance.gov provides transparency on government performance. This transparency allows the public to hold government officials accountable for getting results. As importantly, it also encourages innovation by facilitating public participation in problem solving.

Collaboration and Participation

Within the Executive Branch, OMB is engaged in a number of participation and collaboration activities. These activities support OMB’s efforts to manage and implement the President’s budgetary, management, regulatory, and legislative initiatives and policies. OMB will continue its engagement with targeted audiences outside of the Executive Branch and OMB regularly gets feedback from members of the public as part of its centralized review of agency regulatory actions, agency information collection requests, and program examination to formulate the Budget.

Federal Privacy Council

The proper functioning of Government requires the public's trust, and to maintain that trust the Government must strive to uphold the highest standards for collecting, maintaining, and using personal data. Privacy has been at the heart of democracy from its inception, and on February 9th, 2016, the President issued an Executive Order establishing a Federal Privacy Council as the principal interagency forum to improve Government privacy practices of agencies.

The new Privacy Council will help Senior Agency Officials for Privacy at agencies better coordinate and collaborate, educate the Federal workforce, and exchange best practices. The activities of the Privacy Council will reinforce the essential work that agency privacy officials undertake every day to protect privacy.

Regulations.gov API

The Administration continues to promote public participation in rulemaking, which covers such diverse subjects as energy, education, homeland security, agriculture, food safety, environmental protection, health care, and airline and automobile safety. Regulations.gov supports the rulemaking processes at many Federal agencies and is designed to make it easier for agencies to post proposed rules online for comment, and for the public to comment on them. The online platform currently allows the public to view and comment on proposed rules, and includes associated data in the docket that can be searched and downloaded. In the last couple of years Regulations.gov has implemented an Application Programming Interface (API) that allows third-party developers and sites to more easily use data from the site.

Application Programming Interfaces or APIs are technical interfaces/tools that allow people to pull regulatory data and content from Regulations.gov. These have enabled developers to more easily extract data from Regulations.gov, and with this feature will allow other web sites - ranging from other Government sites to industry associations to public interest groups - to repurpose publicly-available regulatory information on Regulations.gov, and present it in unique ways such as on mobile apps, analytical tools, “widgets” and “mashups.” Future releases of the API will include the ability to receive comment submissions from other sites, starting initially with other Federal agency websites, so they can have apps or features on their page which will feed comments directly back into Regulations.gov.

FederalRegister.gov is the first agency website to use the commenting API that allows comments directly on their site and incorporated into the appropriate Regulations.gov docket. For FY 2015 Regulations.gov received 343,653 comments with 16,996 received via the API.

FOIA, Declassification, and Records Management

OMB Compliance with FOIA Requirements

OMB continues to have a relatively small backlog of FOIA requests compared to agencies government-wide. Specifically, at the end of FY 2015, OMB had 42 backlogged requests. This is

an increase from the end of FY 2014, when OMB had 27 backlogged requests, and is at the level of backlogged requests that OMB had at the end of FY 2013, when it reported 41 such requests. This increase in backlogged requests is attributed to a significant increase in the number and complexity of requests received. With regard to the volume of requests, the number of requests received increased from 152 in 2014 to 198 in FY 2015.

OMB's document-review procedure in response to FOIA requests involves a line-by-line review conducted by agency personnel to identify material that is appropriate for release, including whether OMB can discretionarily release material that falls within one of the FOIA's exemptions. This careful review is followed by another review of any redactions made during the initial review to ensure that OMB has properly implemented the presumption of openness. OMB has institutionalized this review process, so that now all potential withholdings undergo review more than once to ensure that the presumption of openness has been applied appropriately.

OMB has also relied on technology to increase its level of transparency. Specifically, OMB uses technology to redact documents and consult with other offices and agencies as necessary. OMB's software allows for redactions to be made in a variety of formats, which enables those reviewing the documents to first confirm that the redactions are appropriate and consistent with each other, and that the presumption of disclosure is applied. Once that review is complete, using the software, OMB staff can then convert the documents into a format ready for production to the requester.

Building on this work, OMB continues to examine the personnel, technology, and communication supporting its FOIA process, in order to properly identify ways to increase overall efficiency in responding to requests that will better achieve and further enhance open government.

OMB Compliance with Records Management Requirements

The purpose of the Records Management Program, administered under the Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended, is to promote economy and efficiency in the creation, organization, maintenance, retention, use, and disposition of OMB's official records. These records include all papers, books, maps, photographs, machine-readable materials, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by an agency for the United States Government under Federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business and preserved or appropriate for preservation.

OMB's records management policy has been made publicly available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/organization/>. The policy provides for:

1. orderly and periodic transfer of inactive records from office storage space or inadequate remote storage to the Federal Record Center;
2. systematic retiring of OMB records that are no longer useful to the division/branch of OMB;
3. identification of OMB records that are of sufficient and continuing administrative and historical value to warrant their transfer to, and preservation, in the Federal Record Center and NARA; and

4. assistance and advice to staff about efficient record-keeping practices.

Declassification

The Directive also states that agencies should provide a link to a publicly available webpage describing their declassification programs, and informing the public about how to access declassified materials and provide input about the types of information that should be prioritized for declassification. Because of its particular functions and scope, however, OMB does not engage in declassification, so this information is not included in this Plan.

Flagship Initiative

Federal Infrastructure Projects Permitting Dashboard

The Federal Infrastructure Projects Permitting Dashboard is an online tool that allows agencies and the public to track the federal permitting and environmental review process for a set of major infrastructure projects. The Dashboard will serve as a key tool in the implementation of Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which calls for the coordination and modernizing of complex federal permitting processes for covered projects across a dozen different sectors such as conventional and renewable energy, pipelines, electricity transmission, and water resources.

Stakeholders can use the Dashboard to identify Federal agency contacts on a project review team, then track project schedules and related documents for covered projects. The Dashboard helps create a more transparent and predictable process for project applicants, and, over time, should serve as a one-stop-shop for all Federal permits, through use of tools such as a searchable Federal permit inventory.

The centralized, standardized, and transparent data on the Dashboard facilitates increased coordination and promotes efficiency across the Steering Council on Federal Infrastructure Permitting, which includes thirteen agencies, OMB, and the Council on Environmental Quality. For more information, please see www.permits.performance.gov.