

## **The Federal Program Inventory: Making Program Information More Accessible**

### **May 31, 2013**

- Today the Administration is releasing the initial **Federal Program Inventory**, a first step towards bringing together agency program information into one place on [Performance.gov](http://Performance.gov).
- The Federal Program Inventory is a list of programs run by Federal agencies. Its creation was required by the GPRRA Modernization Act of 2010 in order to provide Congress and the public a clearer picture of the programs that exist across the Federal government.
- While significant amounts of information currently exist about Federal programs (e.g., the President's Budget, Congressional Budget Justifications, USA Spending.gov, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance), reporting about the government's activities is often done in a siloed and decentralized way, which inhibits coordination across agencies and cross-cutting analysis across programs.
- The Federal Program Inventory provides greater visibility into the programs the government operates, and facilitate ongoing efforts to improve program outcomes and achieve program efficiencies.
- As the program inventory demonstrates, the government runs a wide variety of programs critical to improving the health, safety, and welfare of the American people. It also demonstrates the wide scope of Federal activities, and the need to continue ongoing efforts to ensure these programs are well coordinated, effective, and not duplicative either within or across agencies.
- To that end, the President has waged an aggressive campaign to eliminate duplication and waste. In each of his five budgets, the President identified, on average, more than 170 cuts, consolidations, and savings, totaling about \$25 billion each year.
  - The 2012 Budget proposed nearly \$25 billion in discretionary terminations, reductions, and savings; Congress reduced these programs by \$23 billion-- representing 92 percent of the requested reduction.
  - The 2013 Budget detailed 210 cuts, consolidations, and savings proposals totaling more than \$24 billion for the current fiscal year.
  - The 2014 Budget proposes 215 cuts, consolidations, and savings proposals, which are projected to save more than \$25 billion in 2014. For example, the Budget includes proposals to streamline Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs; training and employment services; and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG). The full list of cuts, consolidations and savings proposals in the President's 2014 Budget can be viewed [HERE](#). These proposals not only produce savings, but they have the potential to improve the effectiveness of government service delivery.

- In addition, the Administration has been taking action to better coordinate across programs and eliminate duplication where it does exist, including addressing the recommendations made by GAO in its annual reports on fragmentation, duplication, overlap. On April 9th, GAO reported that the Executive Branch has made progress on over 75 percent of the recommendations made in this area, with more than 20 percent fully addressed and at least another 55 percent partially addressed. The Executive Branch fully addressed more than 50 actions recommended by GAO and partially addressed more than 140 actions since 2011.
- The Administration is also improving coordination among existing programs by setting specific Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals in areas where multiple programs are working toward a common goal. With the release of the 2013 Budget, the Administration announced 14 CAP Goals on Performance.gov. In order to accelerate progress on each goal, a senior White House official has been named as the Goal Leader to guide, coordinate, and assure progress on agency implementation efforts. Progress updates for each CAP Goal, with performance milestones and indicators, are posted every quarter on Performance.gov.
- Development of the Federal Program Inventory is an important additional step that will help bring together information from multiple sources, including the budget information presented in the President’s Budget and agency performance goals. Development will be conducted through several phases.
  - This first phase, released on May 31, 2013, provides information from the 24 largest Federal agencies, and provides Congress, the public, and other stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the way each agency has initially defined its programs for purposes of the FPI. Starting with a broad definition used by the Government Accountability Office, each agency further defined “program” for purposes of the program inventory in a way that reflects the unique mission and operations of the agency and takes into account how the agency discusses its activities with Congress and other stakeholders.
  - For the initial inventory, each program includes a title, description, and link to the strategic goals and objectives of the agency. Some agencies have also chosen to add additional information when available. Additional information on agency programs is also available in agency Congressional Budget Justifications and performance plans and reports, and on the agency website.
  - In next year’s release, agencies will incorporate feedback on their program definitions, and will also centralize the inventory on Performance.gov and add additional information for each program. The inventory will then be updated each year, and will be expanded over time with links to additional sources of information.