2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES -PRESIDENTIAL E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND LINES OF BUSINESS

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2026 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2023 and 2024, annualized Continuing Resolution levels for 2025, and the President's Budget request for 2026. Amounts for 2025 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the "2018 Farm Bill" is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2025, as extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D). Amounts shown in 2025 and 2026 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

USDA participates in nine Presidential E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business (LoB). By participating in the E-Government Initiatives and LoBs, USDA has improved its business processes and program delivery to its customers, employees, and partners. Through these efforts, USDA has been able to work with other Federal agencies to streamline common areas of business delivery (e.g. rulemaking, payroll, and grants management) and learn from best practices throughout the government. The Department will continue to implement these Initiatives and LoBs to achieve further benefits for its customers.

The following table reflects estimated USDA contributions and funding amounts for 2023 through 2026 to the E- Government Initiatives and Lines of Business.

Table E-GOV-1. E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Budget Line of Business	$120	$125	$125	$125
Benefits.gov............................	409	279	0	0
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	106	106	106	106
E-Rulemaking...........................	786	657	876	793
Financial Management Line of Business	168	168	168	168
Geospatial Line of Business.........	225	225	225	225
Grants.gov.............................	597	622	748	915
Human Resources Line of Business..................................	274	274	274	274
Integrated Award Environment....	2,731	2,432	2,370	2,419
Total......................................	**$5,416**	**$4,888**	**$4,892**	**$5,025**

Budget Line of Business (BLoB):

The BLoB provides benefits to partner agencies by encouraging best practices crossing all aspects of Federal budgeting – from budget formulation and execution to collaboration, human capital needs, and providing tools and resources. The Community site can be used for sharing information, collaboratively drafting documents (including the direct editing of documents posted on the site), supporting workgroups, submitting central reports, and more. In addition, USDA has used MAX Collect exercises and associated publishing capabilities to collect, store, process and publish information.

Benefits.gov:

Launched in 2002, Benefits.gov is one of the earliest E-Government initiatives and was established as the official benefits website of the U.S. government. Prior to Benefits.gov, citizens looking for government benefit information had to search through a complicated maze of web pages, often unsuccessfully. Today, millions of citizens have online access to information and can keep up with the latest benefit-related information by subscribing to the quarterly eNewsletter, as well as by following Benefits.gov on X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook and YouTube. USDA currently has 312 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on Benefits.gov, including food and nutrition programs administered by State agencies. At the end of 2024, OMB transitioned the Benefits.gov content to USA.gov.

Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan (DAIP):

The mission of DAIP is to provide disaster survivors with information, support, and services, to apply for disaster assistance through data-sharing efforts between Federal, Tribal, State, local, and private partners. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, under the Department of Homeland Security, acts as the managing partner. The website DisasterAssistance.gov reduces the time needed by disaster survivors to apply for aid and check the status of claims, while decreasing redundancy in application forms and processes. Disaster survivors complete a mini survey online from their computer or mobile device and receive a personalized list of assistance for over 75 benefit and assistance programs available from the 17 participating federal agencies. In addition, participants can check on the status of applications and get updates via mobile alert or email. In 2024, USDA had 19 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on DisasterAsstance.gov that generated over 613,360 Forms of Assistance page views; over 147,853 transfers from DisasterAssistance.gov to USDA and State agency websites; and 55,567 transfers from USDA websites to DisasterAssistance.gov.

E-Rulemaking:

USDA actively engages with Regulations.gov and the back-end Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) to foster and promote public participation and input into the development and issuance of our rulemakings. All USDA Federal Register rules, proposed rules, and notices are made available for public comment on E-Rulemaking's Regulations.gov. In 2024, eRulemaking's program management office along with Federal agency members worked to audit the current FDMS architecture to prepare for upcoming system modernization to include comment analysis capabilities, managing high volumes of comments, comment categorization, and fraud detection. Efforts are also underway to improve the Regulations.gov search, browser, filter, and agency FDMS reporting capabilities. In 2024, USDA agencies posted 626 rules, proposed rules, and notice documents to Regulations.gov and 30,079 comments from the public in response to these postings.

Financial Management Line of Business (FMLoB):

USDA OCFO's continued focus is on transforming its enterprise financial management system to a next generation Intelligent Enterprise Suite (S4/HANA) that will streamline the business processes and integrate financial management activities across USDA agencies. In 2023, USDA successfully completed the explore and preparation phase and awarded the contract for the modernization implementation. In 2024, the project successfully completed four data migration cycles, and its production readiness test is in progress.. Key objectives include improved user experience and compliance with financial reporting and regulatory standards. The proposed transformation uses

augmented, predictive analytics and planning capabilities to deliver consistent, accurate, and standardized data for financial planning and reporting (both at the strategic and operational levels) throughout the department.

Geospatial LoB:

USDA's Enterprise Geospatial Management Office (EGMO) works to enhance and empower the USDA enterprise to meet mission requirements by providing strategic leadership; encouraging innovation; modernizing USDA's $400M geospatial portfolio; facilitating communication and collaboration on geospatial activities and initiatives within the Department; coordinating across Federal Agencies; and engaging with USDA customers and with public and private stakeholders. Consistent with its published Enterprise Geospatial Strategic Plan, USDA has advanced a deployment plan that includes new department regulations and data standards. Policies and guidance for USDA's geospatial portfolio were strengthened in 2024 when EGMO updated its foundational departmental regulations that provide oversight to USDA's uncrewed aerial systems (drones). These actions ensure the continued availability of this technology and support continued innovation at USDA. As part of USDA's active support for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure it reported on the updated National Geospatial Data Assets and made them available to the public through GeoPlatform.gov. Additionally, in 2024, EGMO formalized geospatial professional workforce development and completed loading over 240 new training modules onto USDA's training system of records, AgLearn. The "people-first/mission always" approach ensured that over 40,000 USDA and cooperator staff received training to optimize individual performance and advance professional growth. During 2024, EGMO also addressed audits led by the Inspector General which determined that EGMO's management oversight had strengthened USDA's geospatial portfolio ensuring the integrity, security, and interoperability of its data and underlying systems. In 2024, EGMO leveraged the USDA GeoHub, a single portal that provides access to all USDA National Geospatial Data Assets and high impact applications, to extend its outreach to tribal communities, underserved populations and ensured that USDA's geospatial data continues to be findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable. EGMO worked closely with its Remote Sensing Coordination Committee to ensure that NASA and DOI satellite earth-observing missions include sensors that provide unique insights into our agriculture landscape including providing USDA with millions of dollars of leveraged data products that drive USDA's geospatial and aeronautics programs. Finally, EGMO executed an enterprise agreement for software that provides "geographic information systems (GIS)" capabilities to all mission areas. In doing so, it provided licenses to approx. 70,000 users at USDA, cooperating states, contractors and academic counterparts at a cost avoidance of over $260M for 2024. The capabilities of the GIS software include operational support to advanced AI functions; USDA leverages EGMO provided software in its surveys, research and field operations where GIS is the engine for mission critical operation support related to emergency response for disease outbreaks, forest fire management, trade forecasts, conservation, rural development, nutrition security and various departmental level needs advancing billions of dollars in mission-specific value.

Grants.gov:

Grants.gov, which houses information on over 1,000 grant programs awarding more than $500 billion annually and vets grant applications for Federal grant-making agencies, provides a common website and centralized location for Federal agencies to post discretionary funding opportunities and for grant seekers to find and apply for them. In 2024, USDA posted 218 funding opportunities and received 13,792 applications. Three USDA grant-making agencies established GRants.gov system interfaces to provide further streamlining and automation in the application process. Using the Grants.gov system makes it faster, easier and more cost effective for grant applicants to electronically interact with Federal grant-making agencies. It also provides the following key benefits, among many others, to the grant community. (1) Helping the grant community learn more about available opportunities by centralizing and standardizing grant information, application packages and processes for finding and applying for federal grants. (2) Facilitating interaction with the federal government by streamlining the Federal grants process. (3) Simplifying the grant application process to save applicants costs, time and hassle. (4) Making it easier to research and find federal grant opportunities through improved search capabilities – from a simple key word search to advanced searches over numerous grant

opportunity categories – and having grant opportunities sent directly to grant applicant desktops through custom search profiles. (5) Making electronic grant application processing easier by increasing the ease-of-use through enhanced features common to the Web, such as downloaded and fillable forms, auto-populated data, error checks and email notifications. (6) Providing a secure and reliable source to apply for Federal grants by validating grant applicants via a five-step registration process and ensuring website stability and security through Secure Socket Layer technology to encrypt transactional data and communications over the Internet.

Human Resources Line of Business (HRLoB):

The Human Resources Line of Business (HRLOB) improves USDA's internal efficiency and effectiveness by streamlining and automating the exchange of employee human resource information. HRLOB products comprise a toolkit giving agencies a standard definition of Human Capital Management functions, processes, and data, which promotes consistency and interoperability across agencies. In 2024, HRLOB released several updates to its Human Capital Business Reference Model functional framework, Human Capital Federal Integrated Business Framework and Human Capital Information Model and completed mapping requirements to HCBRM for A5-1 Compensation Management and A5-2 Work Schedule and Leave Management. In addition, HRLOB launched GPPA COI Connect.gov website with materials and resources and created a GPPA Community of Interest (COI) Q&A webpage for ongoing compilation of GPPA-related questions and answers (35+ GPPA-specific Q&A and growth). They also published GPPA Quick Sheet: Understand the Basics on OPM.gov.

HRLOB developed HR QSMO Marketplace Performance Management Framework and socialized framework with the HR QSMO Marketplace Advisory Board. They initiated requests and received buy in to create a PMF working group to develop KPIs including support and interest from Executive Director of CHCO council. They also created an objective framework for evaluating FSP applications to ensure qualified providers entered the marketplace, as well as developed and implemented a business case framework, including criteria for financial sustainability, service delivery quality, and alignment with federal HRLOB standards. HRLOB also vetted incoming FSPs, ensuring that providers meeting the criteria were admitted to the marketplace and improving the quality and reliability of information about the HR services available to federal agencies.

HRLOB coordinated and held the annual Multi-Agency Executive Strategy Committee and Shared Service Provider (SSP) Summit to bring the Human Capital community together to discuss opportunities and challenges in HR IT modernization as well as OPM's data strategy and modernization efforts. HRLOB also supported modernization of Agency and SSP HR IT and data analytics capabilities by reaching out to agencies conducting surveys on Exit Survey / Interview Projects and presented results to various groups and collaborated with OPM Planning, Performance and Evaluation group on next steps. They also held a Data Analytics Tools webinar 3-part series (1,000+ total attendees). HRLOB also develop a New Collaboration Tool and launched a Connect.gov Discussion Board to facilitate community engagement outside of monthly meetings CHCO Council Data Working Group.

Integrated Award Environment (IAE):

IAE uses innovative processes and technologies to improve systems and operations for those who award, administer, or receive Federal financial assistance, contracts, and intergovernmental transactions. In 2024, USDA continued with Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) implementation. USDA maintained high accuracy rates over 95% in Files A, B, C and D2. These files transmit financial data to the US Department of Treasury as required by the DATA Act. USDA continues to improve and refine the DATA Act repository with additional automation and record validation. EzFedGrants reporting is now automated and reporting DATA Act records. USDA published a DATA Act Data Quality Plan in 2019 and updated it in 2024 as well as a DATA Act Data Quality Framework to assist agencies in reporting and evaluating their data with the goal of improving data quality. USDA continues to work with data submitted to the IAE FFATA subaward Reporting System and identified issues for the General Service Administration to address to improve validation of

congressional district information. USDA also works with the Department's grants-making agencies to report on grant awards that have not been closed out timely to the Responsibilities/Qualification module formerly known as FAPIIS.gov. USDA serves as the Federal financial assistance co-chair for the Award committee for e-Government in 2024.