

PRESIDENTIAL E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND LINES OF BUSINESS

Benefits of USDA's Participation in Presidential E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business:

Budget Formulation and Execution LoB (BFELoB):

- The BFELoB 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.
- USDA has more than 4,000 users registered for the MAX Federal Community. The Community site is commonly used for sharing information, collaboratively drafting documents (including the direct-editing of documents posted on the site), supporting workgroups, submitting central reports, and much more.
- USDA has been using several MAX Collect exercises and associated publishing capabilities to collect, store, process and publish information from multiple sources, producing professional quality output. As information is collected it is automatically compiled and published real-time using MAX Publication Services, with structured numeric data dynamically displayed using MAX Analytics.
- The Budgeting Capabilities Self-Assessment Tool is a survey tool used to collect information from budget personnel about various aspects of the budget process at their agency. Results from the initial survey, published over a year ago, are being used to identify areas where additional training or automation could be beneficial.
- BFELoB's Human Capital Federal Budget Core Competency Framework was developed as a resource for USDA to use in their internal workforce planning initiatives. The framework includes the "Budget Career Road Map", a set of Core Competencies, Key Behaviors, and Proficiency Levels for budget professionals. This is helpful in assessing skills and gaps, as well as developing plans for targeted growth. In addition, the BFELoB Human Capital work group offers multiple technical and developmental training opportunities throughout the year. They have developed/sponsored a variety of training classes for government budget community which include both in-class and online courses.
- Training material includes a series of four Budget Formulation Process Maps and a series of 11 Budget Execution Process Maps depicting the major processes in Federal Budget Formulation and Execution. The maps provide standardized processes that can be used to train budget analysts. These processes have been incorporated into self-paced training courses. USDA has participated in developing and using the process maps and training modules for staff training.

Disaster Assistance Improvement Program (DAIP):

- DAIP mission 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. On December 31, 2008, DAIP launched its website called DisasterAssistance.gov.
- 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. These reduces confusion and frustration for disaster survivors by reducing the time it takes to identify, apply for, and check the status of their assistance applications.
- In 2015, DAIP reported that on DisasterAssistance.gov USDA had:
 - 88,005 Forms of Assistance page views
 - 4,293 transfers to USDA websites from DisasterAssistance.gov; and
 - 1,460 transfers from USDA websites to DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Through DisasterAssistance.gov, USDA provides information on 19 programs related to food assistance, business and farm loans, crop insurance, farm disaster assistance and more. The USDA program information, as well as news and other resources provided on DisasterAssistance.gov helps individuals, families and businesses prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Enterprise Human Resources Integration (EHRI):

- While electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF) provides a cost effective method of storing, maintaining, and retrieving personnel folder records, it does have its vulnerabilities. eOPF was part of OPM's data breaches of 2014 and 2015.

- The eOPF Project Team contracts out a service, billed directly to the Department, for the bulk scanning of paper OPFs and loose documents into eOPF. That contract concluded its final option year in 2015. For the past six months USDA has been experiencing a significant glitch in our eOPF service, related to our use of an HSPD-12 compliant eAuthentication service to manage initial access to eOPF. USDA's Onboarding (formerly known as EODonline) continues to undergo integration testing and security certification with the assistance of the eOPF team at OPM. With this tool new hire documents and benefit forms will flow directly into eOPF, eliminating the need for multiple-time data entry.

E-Rulemaking:

- USDA's use of the Federal-wide Regulations.gov website and complimentary Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) is the primary repository for promoting public participation and input into the development and issuance of USDA rulemaking. All USDA Federal Register rules, proposed rules, and notices are made available for public comment on E-Rulemaking's Regulations.gov. Since USDA's migration to FDMS in 2006, the system has made numerous upgrades to improve not on the public's interaction with Regulations.gov but USDA's own user interaction with FDMS in the management of its rulemaking dockets. In 2014, USDA agencies posted 1,162 rules, proposed rules, and notice documents to Regulations.gov. USDA received 47,590 comments from the public in response.

E-Training:

- AgLearn is USDA's implementation of the E-Training Presidential Initiative. E-Training and AgLearn provide a single, USDA-wide learning management system that replaces seven legacy, agency-specific systems and widespread manual tracking of training.
- The consolidation of training within AgLearn allows agencies to cooperate in developing, tracking, and purchasing training. Training that has proved successful for one agency can easily be made available for others, eliminating redundant costs for course development and sharing subject matter expertise to a broader audience.
- In 2015, the AgLearn program measured an estimated cost avoidance of about \$20 million. Considering that the AgLearn's budget was only about \$5.3 million this represents an overall USDA return on investment of approximately 370 percent.
- With its substantial buying power, AgLearn was able to negotiate an enterprise license for SkillsSoft content for USDA-wide use at significantly reduced costs. In addition, AgLearn negotiated a reduced rate for requesting agencies to the Rosetta Stone Suite of language courses.
- More than 130,000 AgLearn users (including employees, contractors and partners) completed more than one million training events (e.g., online courses, webinars, and classes) during 2015. AgLearn delivered Department-wide Security Awareness, Privacy Basics, PII, and Ethics mandatory trainings. AgLearn has currently more than 15,000 books in the training library, more than 8,000 online courses, and about 500 videos. AgLearn also supports the Secretary's Individual Development Plan (IDP) initiative
- In 2015, AgLearn continued rolling out leadership competency models and related 360 degree assessments across USDA. This is part of a major program to improve leadership across USDA. In 2015 about 1,500 managers and supervisors in USDA received 360 degree assessments.
- AgLearn has won five competitive, government-wide awards for excellence in the last four years. The most recent was the Human Capital Management in Government award for Public Sector Innovation in the 21st Century for USDA's 360 program.
- In 2015 AgLearn signed up and brought onboard our fourth external client (the Broadcasting Board of Governors). These external clients 1) reduce the overall cost to government for training management and delivery, 2) help stabilize and supplement AgLearn's funding streams, and 3) provide external validation of the excellence and value of AgLearn.

Financial Management LoB (FMLoB):

- FMLoB is focused on financial systems improvements in coordination with the Chief Financial Officers Council.
- There are thousands of interrelated systems and hundreds of stakeholders, including the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Information Officer, and Chief Administrative Officer.
- FMLoB provides USDA with standards, requirements, tools, and services to support USDA's financial management activities. USDA benefitted from information sharing across the Federal community on standards

and best practices in implementing financial systems based on commercial software products used across the government.

- USDA's legacy financial system. FMMI is an advanced, Web-based, financial-management system that provides general accounting, funds management, and financial-reporting capabilities.
- Since beginning operation in 2010, FMMI has been deployed to 28 of USDA's 29 administrative organizations. USDA also chairs the Systems Applications and Products (SAP) Customer Control Board to exchange information and ensure that future product releases and enhancements are aligned with Federal standards.
- The new scope of the FMLoB has been expanded to encompass acquisitions, the Grants Management Line of Business and all forms of Federal financial assistance. The creation of the Council of Federal Assistance Reform in 2011 will help in aligning the goals and data transparency goals.

Geospatial LoB:

- USDA worked towards targeting efforts that utilize and contribute to the Geospatial Line-of-Business (GeoLoB) by implementing the Geospatial Services Library Portal which will align USDA enterprise geospatial infrastructure, standards for delivering map products, and data coordination with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Geospatial Platform (NGP) content management performance measures.
- USDA drafted the first Enterprise Geospatial Data Management Departmental Regulation which will structure agency behavior towards contributing to and consuming the USDA geospatial infrastructure to support the Open Data Presidential Executive Order, improve the data stewardship responsibility as advised by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16, and the FGDC International Standards Organization metadata standards implementation also advised in the OMB Circular A-119.
- USDA created a comprehensive geospatial portfolio to maximize capital planning and reporting of geospatial assets. The geospatial portfolio will also allow the USDA to identify cross cutting architecture requirements to increase value propositions in geospatial planning, acquisitions, data sharing/usage, and mature asset management.

Benefits.gov:

- Benefits.gov is the product of a collaborative partnership of 17 Federal agencies, with the Department of Labor as the managing partner. Citizens can keep up with the latest benefit-related information by subscribing to page updates directly from the site, subscribing to the quarterly eNewsletter, as well as by following Benefits.gov on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.
- In 2015, Benefits.gov reported that the USDA had:
 - 1,840,360 Benefits.gov page views for USDA programs
 - 227,221 transfers to USDA websites from Benefits.gov
 - 54,270 transfers from USDA websites to Benefits.gov
- Benefits.gov supports USDA's goal to reduce food insecurity in America by helping increase public awareness of USDA benefit programs and providing information on how to access safe, affordable and nutritious food. In addition, Benefits.gov provides information on USDA loan and agricultural programs. There are 33 USDA programs featured on Benefits.gov.

Grants.gov:

- Grants.gov was created to provide a single website for all Federal grant opportunities. It was called for from the President's Management Agenda and as part of Public Law 106-107 to streamline and simplify the grants management process by providing a central online system to find and apply for grants across the Federal government.
- Grants.gov FIND provides "one-stop shopping" that will allow potential applicants to review synopses of all available competing funding opportunities for grants and cooperative agreements, as well as other types of financial assistance if the funding agency chooses, under the hundreds of discretionary grant programs. Applicants can search by agency, category of activity to be funded, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number, and other parameters. Applicants can also sign up for email notification of newly posted opportunities based on the parameters they provide.
- Grants.gov APPLY reduces errors in the grant application process by performing data validation, based on information in the agency's application package, to ensure that required fields in the application forms have

been populated correctly. If errors exist, the applicant is notified immediately and is able to correct the information before final submission to the agency.

- USDA avoids the cost of maintaining its own front-end system through Grants.gov. Moreover, the public benefits through cost elimination of traditional mail delivery service for submitting paper applications.
- USDA posted 166 funding opportunities and received 8,536 applications in Grants.gov in 2015.

Human Resources Line of Business

- USDA's OneUSDA effort, led by the Office of Human Resources Management in partnership with the component agencies, continues to provide comprehensive business requirements and applications for consistent operations within USDA's servicing entities.
- USDA is participating on a number of recently created working groups to develop Federal-wide business requirements for HRLOBs, including time & attendance and performance management. This is vital step forward as it will eliminate the need for duplicative efforts across Federal Departments, especially smaller agencies without the resources to generate their own documents, while also providing a comprehensive set of requirements, for vendor and shared service provider to use in developing applications, and for the Federal HR consumer to evaluate the value of each provider's offerings.

Integrated Award Environment (IAE):

- IAE is an E-Government Initiative serving the public and the acquisition and assistance communities in all Federal agencies. IAE provides a government-wide business environment unifying, simplifying, and aggregating systems and optimizes resources to deliver services for buyers as well as for vendors and sellers. IAE has freed up agencies to focus on agency-specific needs while leveraging government-wide shared services. It has enabled transparency of the business processes by sharing data and data sets with the public. USDA uses the initiative's standards and best practices as it continues to enhance its Integrated Acquisition System.
- The IAE offers a portfolio of services which facilitate all phases of the Federal acquisition and assistance life-cycles. IAE includes capabilities for vendors, grantees, and loan recipients to register to do business with the government (System for Award Management (SAM) and Dun and Bradstreet services); vendors to find government opportunities (Federal Business Opportunities); vendors to report sub awards (Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System / Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Sub award Reporting System (FSRS)); agencies to report contract actions (Federal Procurement Data System); contracting officials to check on past performance, if a party has been excluded from doing business with the Federal Government, and check vendor certifications and representations (Past Performance Information Retrieval System, and SAM). Together these systems provide unified shared support services to all Federal awards.
- This initiative helps USDA meet the requirements of Federal Funding Accountability Transparency Act (FFATA), which requires agencies to provide Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers for the Transparency Act website. Since all contracts, grants and cooperative agreements already require DUNS numbers, this initiative seeks to leverage the extant system to cover the remainder of Federal grant activity. This allows both the contracts and grants communities to feed information into the FFATA portal – USAspending.gov. The IAE contract with Dun and Bradstreet was expanded to allow assigning these unique identifiers and to assist Federal financial award reporting;
- USDA participated in the development of the initiative committee's charter and has used the forum to advocate for policy and system changes that will improve transparency and allow for fuller reporting of a class of awards impacted by the DUNS requirement;
- The initiative has also offered a demo of a grants module that could assist agencies in reporting their Federal assistance data. The IAE Grants and Loans committee offers a forum to demonstrate new tools for compliance with reporting requirements and a venue to advise the Council of Federal Assistance Reform which is useful for USDA; and
- In 2015 there was significant activity in implementing the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) which amends the FFATA. USDA has been the government's leader in developing, identifying and defining the data elements to be reported on and is a member of all DATA Act working groups working on the Act's implementation.
- USDA developed three DATA Act White papers defining Obligations, Outlays and Budgetary Resources as part of the DATA Act Implementation.

- The Department created an implementation plan with a project schedule to implement the DATA Act. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) is coordinating the implementation with the agencies.
- The OCFO Transparency and Accountability Reporting Division created two account level reports that need to be DATA Act compliant. This includes an internal Budget Object Code report and Budgetary Authority report.
- OCFO developed technical and functional design documents as well as a requirement traceability matrix for DATA Act implementation.
- OCFO began plans for FY 2016 rollout of a data repository for Account and Transaction level reporting.
- OCFO established a government-wide SAP user group for DATA Act implementation for those Federal agencies using the SAP financial systems platform to address user issues stemming from the DATA Act implementation.

The following table reflects estimated USDA contributions and funding amounts for 2014 through 2017 to the E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business.

E-Government Initiative¹	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate
1. Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
2. Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	136,538	106,069	106,070	106,070
3. Enterprise Human Resources Integration (EHRI)	2,124,312	2,004,308	1,860,138	1,860,138
4. E-Rulemaking	965,000	751,849	486,971	564,025
5. E-Training ³	2,640,000	2,640,000	2,640,000	-
6. Financial Management Line of Business	167,510	159,282	167,510	167,510
7. Geospatial Line of Business	-	-	225,000	225,000
8. Benefits.gov	370,656	361,858	388,807	403,062
9. Grants.gov	509,443	439,294	454,039	516,493
10. Human Resources Line of Business	260,870	260,870	260,870	260,870
11. Integrated Award Environment ²	634,453	634,453	2,433,722	3,674,931
12. Integrated Award Environment – Loans and Grants ²	1,799,269	1,799,269	-	-
USDA TOTAL	9,703,051	9,252,252	9,133,127	7,888,099
<p>¹ USDA participates in and benefits from 24 E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business, but not all initiatives require a financial contribution. The table above provides USDA's actual contributions for 2014 and 2015 and estimated contributions for 2016 and 2017 for only those initiatives that require financial contributions.</p> <p>² In FY16, Integrated Award Environment IAE and Integrated Award Environment were combined into a single activity.</p> <p>³ In FY17, E-Training will no longer be an E-Government Initiative that is funded through the Greenbook.</p>				