

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Table of Contents

Preface 3

Agency-Wide..... 3

 Purpose Statement..... 3

 OIG and GAO Reports..... 4

 Available Funds and FTEs 5

 Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs..... 5

 Vehicle Fleet 6

 Shared Funding Projects 8

Account 1: Office of the Chief Information Officer 9

 Appropriations Language..... 9

 Project Statements 9

 Justification of Changes 10

 Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs 11

 Object Classification..... 12

 Status of Programs..... 13

This page was intentionally left blank.

PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2027 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 2024 and 2025; Working Families Tax Cut Act; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026; and the President's Budget request for 2027. Amounts for 2026 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 Working Families Tax Cut Act is used to refer to the Public Law 119-21.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

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 small non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1). Due to rounding, some tables may not sum exactly.

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's (OCIO) mission is to serve the information needs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). OCIO supports USDA's diverse mission areas by delivering agile, secure and innovative technology solutions, while cultivating a highly skilled workforce. OCIO develops, delivers, and defends the business information technologies that empower every aspect of the USDA mission.

OCIO provides enterprise solutions for end-user support, cloud hosting solutions, geospatial solutions, application development, cybersecurity, and wide-area network telecommunications to USDA agencies and staff offices funded through the Working Capital Fund. These services are delivered by OCIO's Client Experience Center (CEC), Departmental Administration Information Technology Office (DAITO), Digital Infrastructure Services Center (DISC), Enterprise Cybersecurity Services (ECS), Enterprise Data and Analytics Services (EDAS), and Enterprise Network Services (ENS), with major office locations in Kansas City, Missouri, Fort Collins, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.

USDA continues to implement a modern operating model that positions it as one of the best-managed federal agencies. The model enables it to operate as a facts-based, data-driven, and customer-focused organization. OCIO's ability to modernize and manage information technology (IT) systems effectively is central to achieving this vision.

The Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 and the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) of 2014 provide the CIO with enhanced authority over IT planning, budgeting, and execution. These authorities are reinforced by Secretary's Memorandum 1030-30, establishing OCIO as the Department's lead for IT governance and oversight. The CIO serves as the Secretary's principal advisor on IT management and leads USDA's digital transformation and cybersecurity posture.

To support this transformation, USDA has centralized IT customer support services under OCIO, delivering cost-effective, high-quality helpdesk, desktop, voice, and mobile services across the Department. OCIO continues to standardize IT services by defining user personas, rationalizing application, and streamlining service delivery to maximize value and improve customer experience.

USDA is becoming a data-driven organization, ensuring leadership and employees have access to integrated, high-quality data and analytical tools for rapid decision-making. OCIO has expanded its

enterprise analytics platform, exceeding 3.5 million dashboard views, and launched new cloud-based tools for advanced analytics. The Department is also modernizing its geospatial infrastructure to support scalable, cloud-native solutions.

OCIO leads initiatives in artificial intelligence, system consolidation, legacy system replacement, and cost-saving modernization strategies. These efforts align with Administration priorities to improve federal service delivery, enhance cybersecurity, and reduce waste.

USDA has successfully completed all phases of Executive Order 14028, Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity, and met requirements under OMB Memorandum 22-09, Moving the U.S. Government Toward Zero Trust Cybersecurity Principles. These actions strengthen USDA’s cybersecurity foundation and resilience.

To improve digital service delivery, USDA is streamlining its complex web of online resources and integrating customer data across programs. OCIO is establishing common standards and replicable cloud practices to support self-service capabilities and unified customer experiences. USDA employees now benefit from secure, high-bandwidth access to the network from any location, enabling full use of modern technology.

Among OCIO’s notable accomplishments is the consolidation of 17 agency networks into a single USDA enterprise network and the award of the Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS) contract. EIS provides a comprehensive solution for federal IT telecommunications and infrastructure needs, reducing costs and acquisition time while allowing agencies to focus on mission delivery.

The OCIO Headquarters is in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2025, 1,547 full-time permanent employees were funded by appropriated and reimbursable funds (127) and Working Capital Funds (1,420).

OCIO activities contribute to the success of USDA’s overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management. USDA is currently developing the FY 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan. A detailed FY 2027 performance plan, including Key Performance Indicators, can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Table OCIO-1. Closed, Implemented OIG Reports

ID	Date Opened	Date Closed	Title	Result
50801-0011-12	7/26/2024	5/1/2025	Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 4 Security Evaluation	We recommend USDA update, finalize, and implement policies and procedures to establish a baseline for its phishing tests (e.g., click rates and reporting rates), and subsequently evaluate them against the established baseline.

Table OCIO-2. Closed, Implemented GAO Reports

ID	Date Opened	Date Closed	Title	Result
24-106137	9/20/2024	9/23/2025	Cloud Smart Procurement Implementation	The Secretary of Agriculture will ensure that the CIO of Agriculture finalizes its guidance on standardizing cloud SLAs.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table OCIO-3. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$91,000	116	\$91,000	122	\$85,000	102	\$134,913	97
Total Adjusted Appropriation	91,000	116	91,000	122	85,000	102	134,913	97
Balance Available, SOY.....	1,856	-	319	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available ..	92,856	116	91,321	122	85,000	102	134,913	97
Lapsing Balances .	-111	-	-235	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY.....	-319	-	-2	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available, OCIO	92,426	116	91,084	122	85,000	102	134,913	97

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table OCIO-4. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2024			2025			2026			2027		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES.....	5	-	5	5	-	5	5	-	5	3	-	3
GS-15	11	11	22	12	11	23	9	7	16	7	7	14
GS-14	22	29	51	23	29	52	18	33	51	18	33	51
GS-13	13	14	27	15	16	31	12	13	25	12	12	24
GS-12	1	5	6	1	5	6	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-11	1	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-9.....	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	4	4	-	4	4
Total												
Permanent ...	53	63	116	57	65	122	49	53	102	45	52	97
Total Perm.												
FT EOY	53	63	116	57	65	122	49	53	102	45	52	97
FTE ¹	53	63	116	57	65	122	49	53	102	45	52	97

¹ Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions.

VEHICLE FLEET

Motor Vehicle Fleet

The mission of the Client Experience Center (CEC) within the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is to support a global customer base and their respective business mission areas as the sole IT service provider of choice. Fleet vehicles are located across the country and Puerto Rico. Mission requirements dictate that IT Specialists drive fleet vehicles to the many offices and services centers providing IT support and equipment deployment. OCIO-CEC participates in the USDA interagency fleet vehicle-sharing program helping to reduce the number of vehicles needed overall and increase the per vehicle average utilization rate. Employees across the country are using the program extensively with expected vehicle-sharing increases to come.

Replacement Criteria

Fleet vehicles are replaced in accordance with established vehicle-class replacement standards. Optimal replacement cycle analyses, vehicle allocation methodology (VAM) and total cost of ownership / leasing and lifecycle model analyses are integral to the sourcing strategy and decision-making process.

Reductions to Fleet

Mission requirements dictate the need for retaining vehicles within the inventory and are only retained through justifiable means as mission-critical and best fit within the overall optimal fleet profile. Vehicle utilization is constantly monitored and weighed in determining whether each fleet asset maintains a place within the inventory. VAM studies, weighting, scoring, optimization, and value analyses are integral to the strategy and decision-making process and are conducted to determine whether a vehicle should be retained, transferred, reassigned, or eliminated from the inventory

Table OCIO-5. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2018 End of Year Operating										
Inventory	224	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	272	\$1,098,112
2024 End of Year Operating										
Inventory	94	-	106	-	-	-	-	-	200	1,194,346
2025 Actual Acquisitions.....	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
2025 Actual Disposals	25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	26	-
2025 End of Year Operating										
Inventory	69	-	125	-	-	-	-	-	194	1,433,215
2026 Planned Acquisitions	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
2026 Planned Disposals.....	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
2026 End of Year Operating										
Inventory	49	-	145	-	-	-	-	-	194	-
2027 Planned Acquisitions	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
2027 Planned Disposals.....	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
2027 End of Year Operating										
Inventory	29	-	165	-	-	-	-	-	194	2,006,501

Table OCIO-6. Statement of Proposed Acquisition of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2024	200	26	20	0	20	194
2025	194	20	20	0	20	194
2026	194	20	20	0	20	194
2027	194	20	20	0	20	194

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**Table OCIO-7. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)**

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center	\$100	-	-	-
General Counsel Legal Compliance	-	\$111	\$1,012	\$1,012
Human Resources Enterprise System Management..	46	60	126	128
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	381	308	348	348
Mail and Reproduction Management Division	84	113	78	78
Material Management Service Center.....	2,444	3,269	62	62
Personnel and Document Security Program	88	93	87	-
Procurement Operations Division	6,155	6,184	539	539
Subtotal	9,298	10,138	2,252	2,167
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center.....	24	21	7	6
Finance and Management:				
Internal Control Support Services.....	211	191	1	1
Financial Management Support Services	518	99	83	-
Financial Shared Services.....	1,563	1,198	869	854
National Finance Center	480	464	434	434
Subtotal	2,772	1,952	1,387	1,289
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	15,563	11,971	5,431	5,387
Department Administration Information Technology Office	766	744	223	-
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	27,490	53,760	7,719	7,982
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services.....	2,368	2,762	261	261
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services.....	1,206	961	39	40
Enterprise Network Services	39,096	12,132	2,221	2,221
Subtotal	86,489	82,330	15,894	15,891
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	41	24	19	19
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	98,624	94,465	19,559	19,372
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Agency Partnership Outreach	115	118	62	-
America's Agricultural Heritage	-	-	10	8
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	41	9	-	-
Employee Experience	58	46	5	-
Medical Services	65	-	-	-
NCR Interpreting Services.....	31	24	28	28
OCFO Shared Services Branch.....	-	-	11	20
Office of Customer Experience	47	23	2	-
Physical Security	74	96	44	45
Security Detail	84	129	265	269
Security Operations.....	117	112	121	121
Talent Group	52	55	6	-
TARGET Center.....	25	26	21	21
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	709	638	575	578
Agency Total	99,333	95,103	20,134	19,950

ACCOUNT 1: OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, [\$85,000,000] \$134,913,000, of which not less than \$60,032,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

Table OCIO-8. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2026	\$85,000,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 49,913,000
Budget Estimate, 2027	<u>134,913,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table OCIO-9. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ²

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		FTE Inc. or Chg	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	Key
Discretionary										
Appropriations:										
Office of the Chief										
Information Officer..	\$91,000	116	\$91,000	122	\$85,000	102	\$134,913	97	+\$49,913	-5 (1)
Total Appropriation	91,000	116	91,000	122	85,000	102	134,913	97	+49,913	-5
Recoveries, Other	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	1,856	-	319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	92,856	116	91,321	122	85,000	102	134,913	97	+49,913	-5
Lapsing Balances	-111	-	-235	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-319	-	-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	92,426	116	91,084	122	85,000	102	134,913	97	+49,913	-5

Table OCIO-10. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ³

Item	2024		2025		2026		2026		FTE Inc. or Dec.	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of the Chief										
Information Officer	\$92,426	116	\$91,084	122	\$85,000	102	\$134,931	97	+\$49,913	-5
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	111	-	235	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	319	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	92,856	116	91,321	122	85,000	102	134,931	97	+49,913	-5
Less:										
Recoveries, Other	-	-	-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-1,856	-	-319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	91,000	116	91,000	122	85,000	102	134,913	97	+49,913	-5

³ This table does not match MAX Schedule X due to reimbursables.

³ This table does not match MAX Schedule X due to reimbursables.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES**Office of the Chief Information Officer**

Base funds will allow the OCIO to continue to provide guidance, leadership and coordination for the Department's information management, technology investment, and cyber security activities in support of USDA program delivery. In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, OCIO will follow new government-wide grants guidance prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for subscriptions to academic journals, as well as for the publication of research results that are not specifically required by Federal statute or approved in advance by a Federal agency. This policy preserves funds to support actual research by ensuring that the American taxpayer does not pay for the research, publication, and access to that research, essentially triple-charging the public for the same product.

The numbers (and letters) of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) An increase of \$49,913,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer (\$85,000,000 and 102 FTEs available in 2026).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$55,000,000 for oversight and collaboration of multiple Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Information Technology Enhancements.

The United States faces an unprecedented convergence of threats to its agricultural sovereignty. The National Farm Security Action Plan has elevated food and agriculture to Tier 1 status as a National Security asset. Legacy systems have constraints with technology, hardware refreshes and software updates. OCIO and FPAC are working on several concurrent initiatives to modernize these systems that provide immediate, high-end operational capability to secure the American food supply from foreign adversaries, cyber-physical threats, and economic subversion.

- Funding will be used to implement a data centric platform, Landmark, to simplify delivery of solutions, reduce the number of platform/system integrations, and reduce ongoing operations and maintenance costs. There are an initial set of solutions being built out to work through and optimize that platform. First, is the One Farmer One File initiative (1F1F) providing a comprehensive customer view of all their USDA related engagements across all FPAC agencies. Funding provided would enable USDA to adopt some of the new technologies being developed under a pilot program for the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program, which includes electronic signatures of required documentation instead of the current paper-based forms mitigating the need for farmers and ranchers to visit the local FSA county office. The portal will also strive to provide producers with decision making tools such as providing information about potential eligibility for various FPAC Programs based on their current farming operations. Additionally, the Geographically Enhanced Acreage Reporting solution (GEAR) will replace the existing FSA Crop Acreage Reporting System (CARS). This solution will provide an ability for producers to file their Acreage Report electronically directly with FSA or via integration with third party data providers such as equipment manufacturers with the capability to capture their precision agriculture data. As additional capabilities are added to the Landmark platform, OCIO, in coordination with FPAC will focus on merging capabilities of other platforms such as Farmers and MIDAS into Landmark. Finally, FPAC will move away from antiquated Farm Loan systems to optimize interactions with producers for streamlined loan application, loan making, and loan servicing engagements.
- With the above funding levels, implementation of Landmark will continue to make progress in 2027, and work will continue into 2028.
- OCIO and FPAC are currently highly integrated on the implementation of Landmark both from a leadership and a financial management perspective through OCIO's Information

Resource Management Center’s capital planning and investment control process along with the agency Investment Review Boards (IRBs). This will continue through 2026 and into 2027.

- A) A decrease of \$5,087,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer (\$85,000,000 and 102 FTEs available in 2026).
- A decrease of \$3,128,803 for the Cybersecurity and Privacy Operations Center (CPOC). To sustain critical cybersecurity services, funding will be reallocated to the Enterprise Cybersecurity Services Working Capital Fund Activity Center.
 - A decrease of \$1,546,220 for the Enterprise Data Management Center (EDMC). To maintain compliance, funding will shift to the Enterprise Data Analytics Services Working Capital Fund Activity Center.
 - A decrease of \$324,977 for the USDA Digital Services function. To support implementation activities, OCIO will shift the funding of DS to the OCIO Administrative Support Costs (ASC) account.
 - A decrease of \$87,000 in salaries and expenses to the Office of the Chief Information Officer for National Security Related Expenses being transferred to the Office of Homeland Security. This decrease of \$87,000 for National Security Related Expenses, being realigned to the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), will enhance efficiency and effectiveness within USDA. This strategic realignment will centralize resources under OHS, which provides leadership in national security through policy development, emergency preparedness and response initiatives, and threat mitigation coordination. Consolidating the budget under OHS eliminates redundancies, ensures more coordinated resource allocation, and improves the execution of departmental security policies, ultimately bolstering the USDA’s resilience and readiness without compromising overall security.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs

Table OCIO-11. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Office of the Chief Information Officer (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	-	-	\$1,059	1	\$1,062	1	\$1,076	1
Arizona	-	-	1,059	1	1,062	1	1,076	1
Arkansas.....	\$2,128	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
California	2,128	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado	8,534	8	2,238	3	2,246	3	2,275	3
District of Columbia.....	53,911	67	41,479	54	37,602	44	86,492	42
Georgia	1,114	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indiana.....	-	-	1,059	1	1,062	1	1,065	1
Kansas	1,114	1	2,238	3	2,244	3	2,248	3
Louisiana	6,306	6	1,059	1	1,162	1	1,165	1
Maryland	4,240	4	18,215	22	16,950	15	18,870	12
Mississippi.....	-	-	1,059	1	1,062	1	1,065	1
Missouri.....	4,173	17	4,005	15	4,051	15	5,084	15
Nebraska	1,114	1	1,165	1	1,172	1	1,176	1
New Mexico.....	3,208	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	2,108	2	2,112	2	2,120	2
North Dakota.....	1,114	1	1,165	1	1,172	1	1,176	1
Ohio.....	-	-	1,059	1	1,109	1	1,113	1
Oregon.....	1,114	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania.....	1,114	1	2,238	3	2,257	3	2,261	3
Tennessee	1,114	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	-	-	2,108	2	2,2116	2	2,119	2
Virginia.....	-	-	6,712	9	6,559	7	6,580	7

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
West Virginia	-	-	1,059	1	-	-	-	-
Obligations.....	92,426	116	91,084	122	85,000	102	134,913	97
Lapsing Balances	-111	-	-235	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-319	-	-2	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	91,996	116	90,847	122	85,000	102	134,913	97

OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Table OCIO-11. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars) ⁴

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$7,772	\$9,116	\$8,226	\$8,437
	Personnel Compensation, Field	7,847	9,264	8,359	8,511
11	Total personnel compensation	15,560	18,380	16,585	16,948
12	Personal benefits	5,704	6,302	5,972	6,103
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	3	2	5	5
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	21,276	24,684	22,562	23,056
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	86	72	80	80
22.0	Transportation of things.....	12	7	10	10
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	-	124	124	125
	Communications, utilities, and misc.				
23.3	charges	140	2,150	2,596	2,500
24.0	Printing and reproduction	282	1	158	150
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	7,631	7,912	7,350	2,225
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources ...	6,815	6,522	6,250	59,525
	Other goods and services from Federal				
25.3	sources	46,424	40,975	37,650	40,127
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	8,978	8,548	8,120	7,000
25.5	Research and development contracts	552	-	-	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment..	11	14	15	25
26.0	Supplies and materials	14	50	50	50
31.0	Equipment	168	24	35	40
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	37	1	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	71,150	66,400	62,438	111,857
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	92,426	91,084	85,000	134,913
DHS Building Security Payments					
	(included in 25.3)	\$9	-	-	-
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$202,000	\$208,000	\$113,616	\$115,888
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$130,313	\$133,441	\$136,028	\$139,354

⁴ This table does not match MAX Schedule O due to reimbursables.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS**Office of the Chief Information Officer****Current Activities****Cybersecurity (USDA Chief Information Security Officer (CISO))**

The Cybersecurity and Privacy Operations Center (CPOC) serves as the USDA's enterprise cybersecurity authority. It oversees enterprise-wide cybersecurity, privacy, risk management, threat protection, and compliance functions to safeguard the Department's food and agriculture mission. These functions are designed to detect, monitor, and analyze suspicious activity to defend against unauthorized access.

CPOC leads the oversight of cybersecurity infrastructure, workforce development, training, and privacy programs—ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of USDA's information and systems. It also serves as the authoritative body for implementing the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) and related policies governing trusted internet connections, Internet of Things (IoT), endpoints, mobile devices, cloud environments, applications, High Value Assets (HVAs), Industrial Control Systems (ICS), and both IT and operational technology (OT) assets.

2025 Highlights and Accomplishments

- **FISMA Maturity Rating:** For the first time, USDA earned a Level 4 ("Managed and Measurable") FISMA maturity rating during the 2025 audit. This level reflects consistent implementation of security policies and the use of both quantitative and qualitative data to assess effectiveness and guide program improvements.
- **Cybersecurity Posture Enhancements:** Key milestones in 2025 included early adoption of DHS-approved Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) tools and dashboards, which improved real-time visibility into USDA networks and systems. These tools enabled risk-based decision-making and program health monitoring.
- **Security Operations Center (SOC) Maturity:** USDA prioritized SOC consolidation and incident mitigation, achieving an "Optimized" maturity rating in the Incident Response domain—the highest possible level.
- **Event Logging:** USDA was recognized by the Government Accountability Office as one of the few large federal agencies to achieve Event Logging Level 3 (EL3), centralizing access and visibility for the SOC.
- **Audit Closures:** USDA closed an Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit by implementing 15 recommendations and had no open Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations during 2025.

Zero Trust and Identity Security

- **Zero Trust (ZT) Program:** CPOC launched a comprehensive ZT strategy aligned with Executive Order 14028, NIST SP 800-207, CISA's ZT Model 2.0, and USDA's internal ZTA regulations.
- **ZT Awareness Training:** Released the first Department-wide ZT Awareness Course via AgLearn to support enterprise-wide adoption and maturity.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** Continued progress toward 100 percent MFA adoption across USDA's three approved authentication platforms (usda.net, EDC, and eAuth), reinforcing identity protection and ZT outcomes.

- **Microsoft Defender for Identity:** Implemented to enhance identity protection, with telemetry and alerting integrated into the USDA Enterprise Logging System (Splunk).
- **Data Tagging and AI Readiness:** Initiated enterprise data tagging and labeling standards to support automated classification and enable secure use of AI technologies, including large language models.

Application and Data Security

- **Application Security Testing:** Developed a process for automated dynamic analysis of applications and infrastructure, complementing static analysis by Mission Area development teams.
- **PII Oversharing Mitigation:** Partnered with the OCIO Client Experience Center (CEC) to address improper storage and sharing of PII on SharePoint through awareness campaigns, user guidance, and remediation strategies.
- **Records Management Compliance:** Collaborated with the USDA Records Management Office to implement NARA Bulletin 2024-01 and OPM requirements for Official Personnel and Medical Folders, ensuring compliance and reducing risk.

Privacy and Outreach

- **Data Privacy Week:** Hosted Department-wide sessions promoting privacy as a shared responsibility, with practical guidance on incident reporting and data handling.
- **Privacy Toolkit:** Launched a centralized, living resource consolidating job aids, checklists, and policy references to support staff in meeting privacy requirements.

Cybersecurity Expo and Workforce Engagement

- **Cybersecurity Expo 2025:** Held the most successful USDA Cybersecurity Expo to date, with 2,284 registrants and 1,053 unique attendees from 57 academic institutions, 28 federal agencies, and 554 USDA participants. The event featured expert insights on threat intelligence, ransomware, Zero Trust, and information security.

Supply Chain Risk Management

- **SCRM Program:** In accordance with Executive Order 14144, CPOC established a Supply Chain Risk Management Program to scrutinize IT products and services used across USDA. The program published a cybersecurity SCRM strategy, implementation plan, and roadmap to mitigate risks from nation-state actors and enhance secure software development and procurement.

By identifying and managing cyber supply chain risks, USDA strengthens its Zero Trust maturity, protects sensitive data, ensures operational continuity, and upholds public trust.

Enterprise Data and Analytics

The Enterprise Data Management Center (EDMC) is led by the USDA's Chief Data Officer (CDO) and represents the hub of USDA's data program. The CDO's vision is to realize the full potential of USDA's data and workforce to make better decisions, maximize the impact of citizen-facing programs, and provide the public with easier access to data that can solve national problems and spark innovation. The role of the CDO was established by the Foundations for Evidence Based Policy-Making Act and requires the CDO to manage data as a strategic asset. The CDO holds a dual role as the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer and is

responsible for the USDA's nascent AI program. A branch of EDMC, the Enterprise Geospatial Management Office (EGMO), leads USDA's large geospatial program. EGMO's role is to coordinate geospatial activities through governance, geospatial data management, policy development, training, and enterprise solutions. The EGMO office is led by USDA's Geospatial Information Officer (GIO).

- **Migrated the EDAPT platform cloud infrastructure.** In 2025, USDA's Enterprise Data and Analytics Platform and Toolset (EDAPT) successfully migrated from a third-party managed cloud platform to a USDA-managed cloud platform. Considered one of the most complex cloud migrations USDA has conducted, it was completed on time and on budget. The benefits of this migration include availability of new cloud capabilities including artificial intelligence, better integration with other USDA applications and systems, and avoidance of cost increases potentially exceeding \$1.5 million per year.

Launched the AI Lab. In collaboration with the Chief Technology Officer, EDMC launched an AI incubator called the AI Lab. This sandbox environment allows USDA to evaluate different AI use cases and promote co-development and code sharing. Several evaluations were completed in 2025 including development of AI generated training audio, AI developed documentation from training recordings, summarization and analysis of budgetary information, development of an AI help desk agent, the use of AI to assist with code writing and analytics, to name a few.

Launched GIS for Agriculture. USDA continues to improve its geospatial infrastructure and improve its geospatial data management. In 2025, USDA launched GIS for Agriculture, a central data hub for USDA geospatial data. This central hub for USDA's National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs) serves to create a single portal for finding and accessing authoritative geospatial data from USDA.

Developed the AFIDA Map that outlined US Foreign Agricultural Investments across the US. The interactive map provided a visual overview of foreign-owned agricultural lands in the United States, based on data from the USDA's AFIDA (Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act) program.

Developed and promoted a 10-part Webinar series to the Geospatial Community around Geospatial Technology (i.e. Desktop and cloud tools) and operational strategies to enable Geospatial Artificial Intelligence within each Agency.

Grew the use of data for business intelligence and decision-making. The USDA EDAPT platform provides access to hundreds of datasets and terabytes of data, as authorized, for the workforce to gain insights into the performance and effectiveness of administrative and mission delivery programs. Dashboard usage increased approximately 3.5 percent compared to the previous fiscal year for a total of 971,000 dashboard views in 2025. In September 2025, monthly dashboard usage set a record by exceeding 100,000 views.

- **Developed several university partnerships.** In 2025, USDA partnered with several universities to conduct hackathon style events, resulting in rapid, low-cost prototypes designed to meet USDA challenges. In March, USDA partnered with Colorado State University and NASA to conduct a hackathon to use AI to analyze satellite imagery. The results of that event were several models that could identify

unmarked roads and trails, helping Forest Service find routes for moving resources in wildfire response scenarios. USDA also partnered with the University of Florida to develop an AI tool for public comments analysis. These events have resulted in proofs-of-concept that make the business case for further development and investment.

USDA Digital Service

Digital Transformation efforts to help mission areas fully digitize and automate processes and meet other key targets of the *Improving the Nation through Better Design* Executive Order will be prioritized for 2027 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (IDEA Act). IT Workforce activities required under FITARA will be prioritized to recruit, retain, upskill and reskill the USDA IT and Data Workforce to be ready to meet modern IT mission delivery needs of our stakeholders.

Information Technology Portfolio Management Division (ITPMD)

The IT Portfolio Management Division (ITPMD) oversees 200 IT investments, managing USDA's \$3 billion IT investment portfolio in alignment with Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA) of 1996, 40 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 11101, et seq., as amended; the Federal Information Technology Reform Act (FITARA); the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)/Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act (GPRAMA); and the Program Management Improvement Accountability Act (PMIAA), 2016, Public Law (P.L) 114-264.

ITPMD ensures that the Department's IT investments create products aligned with the President's priorities, the Secretary's goals, and the Chief Information Officer's (CIO's) objectives. This process includes a framework that helps the business to align IT costs with their return on IT investments for taxpayers. It also complies with statutory requirements and guidelines from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), with regular reviews and assessments conducted monthly, quarterly, and annually. ITPMD provides required reports on IT investment performance, ensuring that USDA agencies maintain transparency and accountability throughout the IT Capital Planning and Investment Control phases.

In partnership with the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Contracting and Procurement, ITPMD manages the IT acquisition approval request process, established by the USDA Appropriations Act. This process allows the CIO to monitor, review, and make informed decisions regarding IT expenditures across USDA.

2025 Highlights and Accomplishments

- Replaced the outdated IT portfolio management/investment system with a new tool in a remarkable five-month timeframe. The modernized tool streamlined reporting and significantly reduced the administrative workload on USDA staff, allowing them to focus more on mission-critical tasks.
- Automated the approval process for IT acquisition strategy/plans, reducing approval times from 21 to 5 days, thereby improving efficiency, operations and compliance with federal laws.
- Established an integration between USDA's acquisition review tool and its official system of record tool for IT Portfolio Management of Investments. The integration of

these two systems significantly streamlined processes, eliminated waste, maximized shared opportunities, and cut IT acquisition costs.

Recognized by General Service Administration (GSA) as an exemplary model for providing agencies with comprehensive insights into their IT expenditure.

Enterprise Architecture Division (EAD)

The EAD provides planning and modeling methods and associated governance, guidance and tools to help translate IT strategies into mission results. EAD leverages data as a strategic asset so that architecture becomes a tool to make data-driven decisions that optimize resources and identify duplication and cost saving opportunities. The EAD team supports the creation of an integrated, tiered Enterprise Architecture that helps improve planning and risk management at both the agency and Department levels. Additionally, the team promotes standardizing common computing platforms to enhance interoperability and reduce cost of ownership to better align Enterprise Architecture activities with IT Capital Planning and Governance processes at USDA.

A key component to the EAD methodology is working with Mission Areas to establish business capabilities as the foundation of USDA's enterprise architecture. These business capabilities provide a comprehensive view of USDA's business from a holistic perspective. They were established using the business architecture guild's government reference model and stratified across three tiers of organizational perspective: strategic, mission facing, and enterprise support. EAD provides consultation and technical guidance to Mission Areas, while the ownership of the mission-focused tier will rest with the Mission Areas.

The Enterprise Architecture Vision Environment (EAVE) tool ensures that an accurate inventory of applications, business capabilities, and services are available and effectively used in the planning and investment decision making process.

2025 Highlights and Accomplishments

- Established the Enterprise Architecture Executive Steering Committee, resulting in a robust governance body that will be used to deliver critical technical decisions and provide strategic recommendations to the Integrated Advisory Board.
- Partnered with the Cybersecurity and Privacy Operations Center (CPOC) to develop a Security Architecture for EAVE, essential to USDA for preventing, detecting, and responding to cyber security attacks.

Deployed new tool (Orbis Infinity) to reduce duplication, improve IT planning, and enable Target Architecture, thereby enabling exceptional strategic decisions based on a unified view of the business, now and in the future.

Strategic Sourcing Category Management Office (CM)

Category Management (CM) implements strategic, collaborative, and innovative purchasing methods to help the USDA function as a single enterprise. It increases efficiency, reduces costs, and minimizes redundancies through the increased use of Federal and USDA-wide contracts combined with agency and local solutions. CM analyzes USDA's spending to make data-driven business decisions. This process helps USDA optimize performance, minimize price, increase acquisition goals, evaluate total life cycle management costs, improve vendor access to business opportunities, and otherwise increase the value of each dollar

spent. These methods increase the value of taxpayer dollars spent supporting the USDA's mission.

CM chairs the CM Interest Group, which serves as the USDA's caretaker for strategic IT sourcing and agreements. The group comprises stakeholders from USDA Mission Areas, agencies, and staff offices to discuss new opportunities, management of current enterprise agreements, ending enterprise agreements, updates to the OCIO Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Catalog, and review suggestions for contract consolidations.

2025 Highlights and Accomplishments

Category Management achieved \$21.7M in cost avoidance across 4 contracts and a 5% cost avoidance with Oracle in 2025.

Other Information Resource Management Center (IRMC) 2025 Highlights and Accomplishments

- Led the GSA and USDA teams in reviewing over 1,480 IT contracts, resulting in projected savings or cost avoidance of \$394 million in 2025 and 2026 for USDA.
- Consequently, the USDA was ranked first among 25 federal agencies in this IT cost-cutting initiative and was recognized as an exemplary model for providing agencies with comprehensive insights into their IT expenditures and identifying opportunities for cost savings and IT modernization.
- Implemented robust reporting mechanisms and an internal dashboard to ensure continued visibility, transparency and accountability in FITARA implementation and scoring. As a result of these efforts, USDA successfully maintained a "B" rating on the FITARA scorecard.
- Saved \$85 million, cut 3.7 million administrative hours, and reduced paperwork for taxpayers and the public, ensuring timely compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

CPOC established an Information System Continuous Monitoring program to enable USDA to move from compliance-driven risk management to data-driven risk management by providing Mission Areas and Staff Offices with information necessary to support risk response decisions, security status information, and ongoing insight into security control effectiveness.

The EDMC/EGMO collaborated with USDA's Office of Safety, Security and Protection (OSSP) on a geospatial application to optimize the location of identification credentialing offices. The application is being leveraged by OSSP leadership to ensure that USDA customers, employees, and contractors have the best experience possible when visiting a credentialing site.

The USDA Digital Service partnered with the Office of Human Resources Management to designate additional Direct Hire Authority (DHA) for term and temporary positions within all job categories of the 2210 IT Specialist occupational series (except for categories that already have government-wide DHA) across the Department. This will be a key tool for the Department to recruit and fill key IT positions across the Department in a very competitive market for top IT talent. The USDA DS brought in the first group of USDA DS Fellows in 2024, and the Fellows began their two-year tours of duty in 2025. These Fellows are

partnering with USDA mission areas across the Department on key efforts to accelerate the design, development, and delivery of customer-centric services. As the OCIO leads on IT Workforce, The USDA DS also piloted a skills development program where employees used online courses in AgLearn to help increase their skillsets across key IT and interpersonal skills gaps identified through a workforce assessment. 94 percent of participants who completed the initial assessment, training, and retook the benchmark assessment increased their proficiency levels in skill areas such as data analysis and visualization, systems design, emotional intelligence, problem solving, and project management.

ITPMD governs and provides policy oversight of 203 total IT investments, managing USDA's \$3 billion IT investment portfolio in alignment with Clinger Cohen Act, FITARA and several other laws is ITPMD's primary mission.

USDA has maintained a B on the Congressional FITARA Scorecard and received the FITARA Award for 'Most Improved' in both the Cyber and Cloud categories. The FITARA Team continues to collaborate with the IT Stakeholders and works closely with the GAO to improve USDA's grade on the Scorecard.

The EAD Team deployed an application on the OCIO Web Portal, Application Finder, to allow users to quickly and easily find any Enterprise system used anywhere in USDA. This tool can find a system based on the name, description, or business functions.

CM was instrumental in realizing Cost Avoidance of \$1.03 million by consolidating the OP ENS. CM analyzed requirements and used to realize an 85 percent cost reduction to \$157,000. CM participated in the USDA Application Rationalization Project and have started development of the governance for the project.