

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Agency-Wide.....	3
Purpose Statement.....	3
Available Funds and FTEs	4
Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs.....	4
Account 1: Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.....	5
Appropriations Language.....	5
Lead-Off Tabular Statement	5
Project Statements.....	5
Justification of Changes.....	6
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs	7
Object Classification.....	8
Status of Programs.....	9

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 Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (AgBF) account is responsible for financing and overseeing the comprehensive operation, maintenance, repair, improvement, sustainability, and energy conservation activities for critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) facilities. This vital mandate, formally delegated by USDA to AgBF since 1984, encompasses the day-to-day management and security of both the Headquarters Complex and the USDA-owned George Washington Carver Center (GWCC), as well as covering associated administrative and support staff costs. The Headquarters Complex encompasses 14.1 acres of grounds and two buildings totaling approximately 2.5 million gross square feet in Washington, D.C. The GWCC comprises 350,000 gross square feet across seventy-three acres in Beltsville, Maryland. As of September 30, 2025, AgBF's mission is supported by 33 full-time permanent employees, all based in Washington, D.C.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table AgBF-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)¹

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$22,603	64	\$22,603	64	\$15,000	43	\$70,000	43
Total Adjusted Appropriation	22,603	64	22,603	33	15,000	43	70,000	43
Balance Available, SOY.....	35,948	-	15,815	-	14,965	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other.....	2,734	-	1,962	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	61,300	64	40,380	33	29,965	43	70,000	43
Balance Available, EOY.....	-15,815	-	-14,965	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	45,485	64	25,416	33	29,965	43	70,000	43
Other Funding:								
Reimbursables from USDA Agencies....	32,936	-	-8,467	29	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation, Other Funding.....	32,936	-	-8,467	29	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, SOY.....	35,395	-	55,060	-	19,020	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other.....	21	-	1,809	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available, Other Funding	68,353	-	48,402	29	19,020	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	-55,060	-	-19,020	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations, Other funding	13,293	-	29,382	62	19,020	-	-	-
Total Obligations, AGBF	58,777	64	54,798	62	48,985	43	70,000	43
Total Available, AGBF.....	129,653	64	88,783	62	48,985	43	70,000	43

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table AgBF-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs²

Item	2024 Actual			2025 Actual			2026 Estimated			2027 Estimated		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
SL.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-15.....	7	-	7	5	-	5	4	-	4	4	-	4
GS-14.....	12	-	12	7	-	7	6	-	6	6	-	6
GS-13.....	14	3	17	6	1	7	14	-	14	14	-	14
GS-12.....	13	-	13	9	-	9	11	-	11	11	-	11
GS-11.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-10.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-9.....	7	1	8	4	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	4
Other Graded	4	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
Ungraded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent.	60	4	64	32	1	33	43	-	43	43	-	43
Unfilled, EOY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Perm. FT EOY	60	4	64	32	1	33	43	-	43	43	-	43
FTE.....	60	4	64	32	1	33	43	-	43	43	-	43

¹ 2024 Actuals reflect corrected data consistent with the SF-133, replacing previously reported data.

² Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions.

ACCOUNT 1: AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

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

Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (Including Transfers of Funds)

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, [~~\$15,000,000~~]\$70,000,000, to remain available until expended.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table AgBF-3. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2026	\$15,000,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 55,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2027	<u>70,000,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table AgBF-4. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ^{1,3}

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or	FTE	Chg
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Dec.	Inc.	Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Ag Buildings and Facilities	\$22,603	64	\$22,603	33	\$15,000	43	\$70,000	43	+\$55,000	-	(1)
Subtotal	22,603	64	22,603	33	15,000	43	70,000	43	+55,000	-	
Total Adjusted Approp	22,603	64	22,603	33	15,000	43	70,000	43	+55,000	-	
Recoveries, Other	2,713	-	1,962	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	35,984	-	15,815	-	14,965	-	-	-	-14,965	-	-
Total Available	61,300	64	40,380	33	29,965	43	70,000	43	+40,035	-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-15,815	-	-14,965	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	<u>45,485</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>25,416</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>29,965</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>+40,035</u>	<u>-</u>	

Table AgBF-5. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ⁴

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or	FTE
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Dec.	Inc.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Ag Buildings and Facilities	\$45,485	64	\$25,416	33	\$29,965	43	\$70,000	43	+\$40,035	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations	45,485	64	25,416	33	29,965	43	70,000	43	+40,035	-
Total Obligations	45,485	64	25,416	33	29,965	43	70,000	43	+40,035	-
Add back:										
Balances Available, EOY:										
Ag Buildings and Facilities	15,815	-	14,965	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	15,815	-	14,465	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	<u>61,300</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>40,380</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>29,965</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>+40,035</u>	<u>-</u>
Less:										

¹ 2024 Actuals reflect corrected data consistent with the Standard Form-133, replacing previously reported data.

³ This table does not match MAX Schedule X due to reimbursables. An upward obligation was recorded that changes the total obligations for 2024.

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

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		FTE Inc. or Dec.	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	Dec.
Recoveries, Other	-2,713	-	-1,962	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-35,984	-	-15,815	-	-14,965	-	-	-	+14,965	-
Total Appropriation.....	22,603	64	22,603	33	15,000	43	70,000	43	+55,000	-

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The baseline funding requested for the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (AgBF) account is fundamental to the operational continuity and security of critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) infrastructure. AgBF has held the delegated responsibility from USDA since 1984 for the comprehensive management, operation, maintenance, repair, improvement, and security of the Headquarters Complex.

This appropriation directly finances all essential operations, maintenance, repair, improvement, sustainability, and energy conservation activities across these facilities, alongside the administrative overhead for building management and its dedicated support staff. It specifically underwrites necessary onboard staffing, essential utility services, and contractor support for vital functions such as general operations and maintenance, safety protocols, custodial services, pest control, limited hazardous material abatement, and landscaping. In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, AgBF 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.

These sustained investments are paramount. They enable USDA to maintain a safe, functional, and secure environment for its employees and contractors, thereby ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of the Department’s core missions and program objectives that are vital to supporting American farmers and rancher

- (1) An increase of \$55,000,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (\$15,000,000 and 43 FTEs available in 2026).

This funding is vital because AgBF, in partnership with the General Services Administration (GSA), is responsible for managing the complex transition, maintaining buildings during staff relocations, and preparing spaces for closure, like the South Building. Without this increase, there would be risk of disruptions to daily operations, which would hinder the Secretary's plan to make USDA more efficient and closer to farmers. It's important to note that this request is for operational support during this major transition; it does not cover large-scale projects like replacing outdated HVAC, electrical systems, or improving accessibility, which are separate, long-term investments. This increase is simply to keep the USDA running smoothly as it undergoes this critical transformation.

This budget increase is critical to successfully implement Secretary Rollins's major 2025-2027 plan to reorganize the USDA. This plan involves moving about 2,600 staff from Washington, D.C. to five new regional hubs and significantly reducing our presence in the National Capital Region. It will directly support the build-out of these new regional hubs and help cover the office moves and relocation expenses for agencies to the regional hubs as they vacate the Headquarters’ facilities. This ensures a smooth transition and enables the Department to achieve its goal of bringing leadership closer to farmers.

Part of this reorganization effort requires relocation of all staff from the South Building, as well

as the decoupling of the South Building infrastructure from the Whitten Building before the disposal process can begin. Since the South Building is a GSA-owned building, the 2027 GSA Budget also includes a \$375 million request from the Federal Capital Revolving Fund for the USDA staff consolidation into the Whitten and Yates Buildings and the South Building infrastructure decoupling and disposal project.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs

Table AgBF-6. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Agricultural Buildings and Facilities (thousands of dollars, FTEs)⁵

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
District of Columbia	\$20,515	58	\$25,416	33	\$29,820	42	\$69,855	42
Maryland	3,034	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Jersey	-	-	-	-	145	1	145	1
New York	1,147	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	1,145	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations	25,841	64	25,416	33	29,965	43	70,000	43
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	15,815	-	14,965	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	41,656	64	40,380	33	29,965	43	70,000	43

⁵ 2024 Actuals reflect corrected data consistent with the Standard Form-133, replacing previously reported data.

OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Table AgBF-7. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars) ^{6,7}

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$5,172	\$5,715	\$5,773	\$5,830
	Personnel Compensation, Field	201	-	-	-
11	Total personnel compensation	5,373	5,715	5,773	5,830
12	Personal benefits	2,231	2,179	2,201	2,223
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	-	-	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	7,604	7,895	7,974	8,053
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	4	-1	1	2
22.0	Transportation of things.....	4	-	-	-
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	5,280	-	944	944
23.2	Rental payments to others	-	-	-	-
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	248	944	-	-
24.0	Printing and reproduction	29	-	-	-
25	Other contractual services.....	-	-	-	50,000
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	123	-4	1	1
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources ..	25,007	12,957	17,362	7,316
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	-27,345	129	129	129
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.	97	-	-	-
26.0	Supplies and materials	62	-53	1	2
31.0	Equipment	61	-1	1	1
32.0	Land and structures	31,352	3,552	3,552	3,552
	Total, Other Objects	37,881	17,521	21,991	61,947
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	45-485	25,416	29,965	70,000
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$186,207	-	\$218,000	\$221,000
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$121,785	\$156,818	\$129,186	\$130,442
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.6	12.7	12.6	12.6

⁶ 2024 Actuals reflect corrected data consistent with the SF-133, replacing previously reported data

⁷ This table does not match MAX Schedule O due to reimbursables.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS**Office of Operations**

The Office of Operations (OO), an office within Departmental Administration (DA), is responsible for the repair, improvement, maintenance, sustainability and energy conservation initiatives at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Headquarters Complex in Washington, D.C. (Agriculture South and Jamie L. Whitten Buildings) and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) in Beltsville, Maryland. This responsibility includes the administration of associated building management functions and support personnel costs.

USDA's Headquarters Complex, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, occupies approximately 14.1 acres and includes two major facilities totaling an estimated 2.5 million gross square feet. Since 1984, USDA has exercised delegated authority to administer the full scope of management, operation, maintenance, repair, and improvement of this historic facility.

This authority further extends to USDA-owned GWCC, which comprises 350,000 gross square feet, located on a 73-acre site in Beltsville, Maryland.

Current Activities

OO provides a secure and well-maintained facility infrastructure, along with consolidated business and administrative services, to support USDA employees in the National Capital Region (NCR). OO also provides comprehensive facilities operations and management services, as well as operational support, to USDA agencies and staff offices located within the Headquarters Complex, GWCC, and USDA-leased facilities in the NCR.

These services encompass a broad range of functions, including engineering, architecture, space management, internal energy conservation, recycling, sustainable practices, and occupational safety and health services. OO develops and implements strategies and initiatives to ensure the effective and efficient management of USDA's Headquarters facilities including:

- Ensuring efficient utilization of space by USDA agencies and staff offices in the NCR in the most cost-effective manner by reducing the USDA footprint in the NCR and reducing agencies' dependency on leased facilities. Recently completed the APHIS Riverdale Road close-out with the return of the last three floors to GSA in September 2025. This effort delivered a substantial financial benefit, achieving an estimated \$20 million in rent cost avoidance over the next five years. APHIS staff were consolidated to GWCC.
- Providing maintenance of USDA's Headquarters critical infrastructure and modernization of the buildings to meet long-term facility needs of the Department and to improve and maintain the safety, health, and welfare of employees.
- Supporting and enhancing delivery of quality facility and administrative services to agencies at the Headquarters Complex and GWCC, resulting in an improvement in the overall quality of the employee work environment.
- Demonstrating responsible stewardship of natural resources by implementing energy conservation measures and sustainable practices at the USDA Headquarters Complex and the GWCC.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

In 2025, the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (AgBF) account operated under significant budgetary constraints, due to a reduction in the reduced 2024 appropriation. Despite these constraints, a significant portion of the available funding was appropriately allocated to sustain core operational requirements, including daily building operations and maintenance, salaries and benefits, utility costs, service contracts, and addressing critical deferred maintenance needs. In spite of these fiscal challenges, OO successfully implemented targeted measures that not only enhanced operational

efficiencies but also supported the long-term strategic objectives of the Department; specifically, the optimization of federal real property assets and the phased elimination of high cost leased space within the NCR.

Through the budgetary constraints of 2025 AgBF and the application of AgBF carryover and Nonrecurring Expense Funding (NEF), OO initiated or completed several critical initiatives. These efforts spanned multiple operational domains, including facility modernization and space management, safety, and emergency operations, building maintenance and repair, and long-term infrastructure improvements. Representative examples of these initiatives include:

- Continued collaboration with Mission Areas and Staff Offices to assess space requirements in the NCR, with the objective of disposing costly leases and strategically relocating employees in alignment with the Administration's planned reorganization efforts.
- Returned the APHIS Riverdale Road facility to GSA in September 2025. Achieved an estimated \$20 million in rent cost avoidance over the next five years. APHIS staff were relocated to GWCC.
- During 2025, construction was substantially completed. Framing of walls, rough-in of HVAC equipment, plumbing, electrical, telecommunications, and fire alarm work on all floors and interior finishes were brought to conclusion. By the end of 2025, construction was approximately 95 percent complete. Interior finish work and reconstruction of the 14th and 12th street moats continue. The renovation replaced aging/failing mechanical systems with new energy efficient systems, abated hazardous materials, and provided an overall upgrade of building systems and office spaces from the basement to the attic with code compliant, accessible, and modern space, while preserving the architecturally significant features in this historic property. The design includes Ultraviolet-C (UVC) lighting in the air handlers, Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) 13 air filters to improve air quality, and touchless fixtures and door openers in the restrooms. The renovation will receive the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

Building Maintenance and Repairs:

- Responded to 25,816 facility related service requests for the USDA Headquarters Complex buildings and 15,308 facility related service requests for GWCC. Performed 412 facility related minor repairs for the Headquarters Complex and GWCC valued at \$3.2 million and two major repairs, which were not covered by the operations and maintenance contract valued at \$3.1 million. These efforts encompassed repairs to critical infrastructure systems, including plumbing and sewer, electrical and mechanical systems, roofing and waterproofing components, pavement and structural elements, and fire protection systems. Additionally, repairs were undertaken to ensure compliance with applicable building codes and life safety standards, including the modernization of fire alarm systems.
- Performed 2,332 hours of preventive maintenance at the USDA Headquarters Complex and 608 hours at GWCC. Preventive maintenance contributed to a zero rate of failure of any significant building system.
- Successfully executed and managed \$21.5 million in service contracts in support of operations across the Headquarters complex.
- Provided services through 75 Interagency Agreements in support of 47 customer agencies, completed facility alterations including painting, flooring installation, electrical services, and locksmith services.
- Processed more than 780 repair and alteration work orders, valued in excess of \$750,000, in support of major renovation projects. These efforts directly supported USDA Agencies and Staff Offices by enhancing the functionality and overall quality of the workplace environment.

OO staff diligently maintain and repair the Headquarters Buildings despite their age and constrained financial resources. The facilities require substantial capital investment to address critical infrastructure needs, modernization, and deferred maintenance. Necessary upgrades include the modernization of essential building systems such as elevators; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); and extensive exterior repairs, including roofing, window restoration, and masonry cleaning and repointing. In addition, major renovations are required to address life safety concerns, including the abatement of hazardous materials, installation of fire suppression sprinklers in unmodernized areas of the buildings, replacement of outdated mechanical systems with energy-efficient alternatives, and comprehensive improvements to ensure full compliance with current Life Safety Code standards.

Facility Improvements:

- Continued the implementation and system customization of Archibus—the online platform utilized by USDA customers to reserve conference rooms and hoteling spaces, as well as to submit building and facility service requests across USDA Headquarters and the GWCC. In 2026, additional functional requirements were identified, developed, and assessed to further improve system performance and user experience. Enhancements to the Archibus platform were accepted for the space management modules, facility operations and maintenance, and conference room/hoteling functions, with continued refinement and implementation activities scheduled to extend in 2026. The system incorporates three-dimensional models of the South Building, Whitten Building, and GWCC to support efficient space assignment and utilization. Archibus is strategically designed to improve customer service delivery by enabling real-time tracking, status updates, and accounting of work requests.

Energy and Water Management Program:

- Supported energy efficiency initiatives and promoted energy conservation awareness in USDA Headquarters Complex and GWCC to achieve and sustain annual reductions in building energy consumption. Key efforts to reduce costs and improve efficiency included:
 - Activated a load reduction strategy in alignment with the Electrical Demand Response Program to decrease electricity consumption during peak grid demand periods. This initiative effectively reduced utility expenses while minimizing disruption to building occupants.
 - Incorporated cost-efficient mechanical and electrical systems into the HQ modernization contract, including the replacement of fixtures and the installation of insulation through all exterior walls and roofs, marking the first use of insulation in these areas.
 - Ensured new major renovation projects adhered to high-performance building and sustainability design standards, with the goal of attaining LEED Gold certification for the HQ modernization. The GWCC project achieved a LEED Silver certification.
- Promoted water conservation and sustainable facility operations at USDA Headquarters Complex and GWCC to maintain annual reductions in water usage. Notable measures included:
 - Integration of high-efficiency water mechanical systems and plumbing fixtures as part of the GWCC modernization effort for Buildings 1,2,3, and 4, as well as within the South Building Wing 7 modernization.

Biobased Products

- Continued the use of biobased and alternative products at USDA facilities by incorporating specific requirements into janitorial service contracts. Additionally, AgBF maintained

requirements within operations and maintenance contracts mandating the use of biobased (BioPreferred) and compostable products, when possible, to support sustainable practices.

- The HQ Modernization Project incorporated biobased materials, contributing to the attainment of a LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Safety and Emergency Operations:

- OO Safety and Emergency Operations aligns with the following mission.
 1. Prevent Workplace Hazards – Proactively identify, assess, and mitigate potential hazards to prevent occupational injuries, illnesses, and unsafe conditions.
 2. Ensure Regulatory Compliance – Support USDA compliance with applicable federal safety and health regulations, including those promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).
 3. Promote Employee Well-Being – Foster a safe and health-conscious work environment that enhances employee morale, wellness, and productivity.
 4. Reduce Operational Costs – Prevent incidents that lead to medical costs, workers' compensation claims, and productivity losses, while improving overall operational efficiency.

During 2025, OO implemented a series of internal control and programmatic enhancements to ensure the continuous and safe operation of USDA Headquarters Complex and GWCC. These efforts supported Continuity of Government (COG) requirements and safeguarded employee health, enabling the Department to maintain uninterrupted service delivery, including:

- Participated in a functional exercise focused on Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Devolution. These activities enabled USDA to assess operational readiness and ensure the Department's ability to sustain essential functions under all emergency scenarios - natural, technological, or human-caused.

The OO Safety and Emergency Operations successfully reduced workplace incidents and property damage by identifying hazards within USDA facilities through enhanced agency and employee engagement. Improvements in communication and reporting procedures contributed to the elimination of safety obstacles and resulted in measurable enhancements to employee safety at the USDA Headquarters Complex and GWCC.

- Developed and launched an online Safety and Health Awareness Training Program through AgLearn for USDA Headquarters and GWCC personnel, aimed at strengthening safety compliance and increasing situational awareness of workplace hazards.
- Hosted an Occupational Health and Safety Awareness Fair for USDA Headquarters employees featuring industry safety experts, vendors, and educational displays.
- Conducted four formal safety committee meetings with representatives from USDA Mission Areas, Agencies, and Staff Offices. These meetings facilitated information-sharing with agency safety coordinators regarding OSHA requirements, performance goals, and emerging health and safety issues.
- Developed a comprehensive inspection schedule for USDA Headquarters and GWCC and conducted 350 facility safety inspections and 75 indoor air quality assessments to ensure compliance with occupational health and safety standards, mitigate incidents, injuries, and illnesses while identifying and implementing corrective action.
- Utilized an integrated safety reporting system to monitor incident reports, inspection findings, corrective actions, and task accountability at USDA Headquarters and GWCC. The platform provides real-time tracking of incidents, responsible parties, and status updates to support immediate resolution.

- Coordinated with OO Facilities Management Division to implement abatement measures in areas containing asbestos and lead-based paint.
- Maintained a compliant hazardous waste disposal program, ensuring safe handling, storage, and disposal.
- Monitored and maintained Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the USDA Headquarters and GWCC facilities to ensure operational readiness and compliance.
- Maintained, managed, and monitored all food services and vending operations throughout the USDA Headquarters and GWCC to ensure compliance with applicable health and food safety regulations, and to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all occupants.

In 2026, OO Safety and Emergency Operations will continue its commitment to prevent workplace hazards through targeted inspections, training, and risk mitigation; ensure full regulatory compliance with federal safety standards; expand employee education and awareness regarding occupational safety and health; reduce costs associated with workplace incidents and improve operational performance; and enhance hazardous waste management protocols and response systems.

This page was intentionally left blank.