

## 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 Line of Business (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 4,500 users registered for the MAX Federal Community. The Community site can be used for sharing information, collaboratively drafting documents (including the direct-editing of documents posted on the site), supporting workgroups, submitting central reports, and more.
- USDA has used MAX Collect exercises and associated publishing capabilities to collect, store, process and publish information.

#### Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan (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 (FEMA), under the Department of Homeland Security, acts as the managing partner.
- 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.
- In 2016, USDA had 20 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on DisasterAssistance.gov that generated:
  - 42,874 Forms of Assistance page views.
  - 15,788 transfers from DisasterAssistance.gov to USDA and other websites.
- Through DisasterAssistance.gov, USDA provides information on 20 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):

- There is potential benefit by leveraging the disparate data sources within EHRI, eOPF and Data Warehouse (formerly the Central Personnel Data File, CPDF), as these data sources are reportedly managed in isolation of each other. As such, there isn't a 'validation' process to ensure that completed personnel action request (PAR) items are correctly accounted for in eOPF (i.e., that an eOPF document exists for every applicable PAR record), not even assurance that the data is consistent between sources. Records/data associated with retirement could be processed and presented to employees, who would have been in a good position to quickly determine if the information presented and a vested interest in ensuring any errors are corrected.
- The business model under which eOPF operates has essentially allowed OPM to operate without any financial repercussions for their responsibilities. The costs associated with the aftermath of the data breach allowed OPM to pass on their additional costs to agencies in the current budget year, which required USDA to reduce funding in other IT programs. As Federal entities who use eOPF are not in a position to review or approve of the business decision that OPM makes, they are essentially operating as if they are under an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract.
- Another business decision that has impacted USDA was the decision to only allow eOPF access from allowed IP addresses (e.g., Federal work locations). While addressing the risks associated with access from 'any' location worldwide is an important step in securing the data, OPM's presumption is that all Federal employees have access to a computer at work with which they can access their eOPF during working hours. There are approximately 12,000 employees at USDA who do not have such access, as well as seasonal employees who are inactive and are not in USDA work locations to access their records. OPM made no 'enterprise-wide' provisions to allow an alternative secure method to access eOPF.

#### 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, 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 2016, USDA agencies posted 1,176 rules, proposed rules, and notice documents to Regulations.gov. USDA received 54,633 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 2016, the AgLearn program measured an estimated cost avoidance of about \$25 million. Considering that the AgLearn's budget was only about \$5.5 million this represents an overall USDA return on investment of approximately 369 percent.
- With its substantial buying power, AgLearn was able to negotiate an enterprise license for Skillsoft 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 132,500 AgLearn users (including employees, contractors and partners) completed more than one million training events (e.g., online courses, webinars, and classes) during 2016. AgLearn delivered Department-wide Security Awareness, Privacy Basics, PII, and Ethics mandatory trainings. AgLearn has currently more than 15,400 books in the training library, more than 8,200 online courses, and about 550 videos. AgLearn also supports the Secretary's Individual Development Plan initiative
- In 2016, 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 2016 about 1,500 managers and supervisors in USDA received 360 degree assessments.
- AgLearn has signed up and retained four external clients (Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Export-Import Bank, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and 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):

- In September 2016 USDA was designated a shared service provider for the Momentum Enterprise solution. The Momentum shared service organization currently has 39 external customers (GSA and 38 small boards and commissions)
- 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.
- 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.
- The USDA Grants Management and Federal Financial Assistance solution, ezFedGrants, is integrated with Grants.gov allowing for a more streamlined and transparent process between grant administrators and recipients.

#### Geospatial LoB:

- USDA has drafted Departmental Regulation (DR) to establish the policy for the reporting, management, and acquisition of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and UAS data within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This DR defines the strategic direction necessary to ensure the safeguarding of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of the citizens of the United States and USDA personnel when using UASs. The DR is currently in clearance.
- Established the USDA GeoData Management Workgroup (GDMW) to provide an inter-agency forum to collaborate on geodata related issues. The GDMW facilitates development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geodata financed in whole or in part by Federal funds and where appropriate considering agency missions. The workgroup will develop and recommend geospatial data policies and products that reflect changing business needs and the technological changes to best meet those needs.
- The Federal Geographic Information Council is in the process of updating the National Spatial Data Asset (NGDA) Lifecycle Maturity Assessment, scheduled to be released mid-2017. USDA has been a partner in the effort to update the assessment tool established in 2014, improving the ability to benchmark and collect metrics on Federal spatial data assets. Tools such as the assessment help NGDA Dataset Managers comply with Federal requirements that promote the use of Data.gov and GeoPlatform.gov as well as manage Federal geospatial data as an asset throughout its lifecycle promoting interoperability and openness of Federal geospatial information.

#### 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 2016, USDA had 317 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on Benefits.gov, including nutrition programs administered by State agencies, that generated:
  - 2,425,406 Benefits.gov Forms of Assistance page views.
  - 723,105 transfers from Benefits.gov to USDA and State agency websites.
  - 53,834 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.

#### Grants.gov:

- Grants.gov is the central repository and clearinghouse for information on over 1,000 grant programs and provides access to more than \$100 billion in grants distributed annually. The program provides organizations and agencies with a centralized source to both "FIND" and "APPLY" for federal discretionary grants.
- Previously, grant processes varied widely among agencies and programs. This resulted in a complicated, burdensome, and costly process to find grants. Mandated by Public Law 106-107 and the 2002 President's Management Agenda, Grants.gov transformed the federal grants environment by streamlining and standardizing public-facing grant processes. Grants.gov eliminated redundancies and now provides a simplified and improved process for both applicants and grantors.
- Grants.gov provides a secure and reliable government-wide single portal for applying for Federal grants electronically, simplifying the grant application process and reducing paperwork. Grants.gov empowers smaller agencies with limited resources to improve the reach of their grant programs and provides larger agencies with the benefits of process standardization, cost savings, and increased visibility. In addition, Grants.gov provides web services through system-to-system (S2S) interfaces for applicants and grantors. The S2S applicant interface provides an automated mechanism for applicants to find and apply for Federal discretionary grants. The S2S grantor interface provides an automated mechanism for grantors to post opportunities and retrieve submitted applications. In both cases, the interfaces reduce the need for manual processing and redundant data entry. As a result, USDA posted 187 funding opportunities and received 18,368 applications and avoided the cost of maintaining its own front-end system through Grants.gov.

- In 2016, the Grants.gov program focused on improving functionality, implementing new features, and expanding content. These improvements included, among others;
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Search Enhancement – The search capability to allow the applicant community to easily locate grant opportunities using CFDA. The CFDA search box was modified to be capable of finding results containing either CFDA numbers or titles. The Search Grants page now also allows CFDA numbers and titles to be used as parameters in the URL;
- Grants.gov Community Blog – Grants.gov leveraged Web 2.0 capabilities using a public-facing platform. In May 2016, the program launched the Grants.gov Community Blog to provide information and allow for two-way communications. The Grants.gov Community Blog allows the program to provide announcements, highlight new features and functionality, direct users to existing static content, highlight trending topics of interest, and package complicated content into a reader-friendly format; and
- Grant Forecasts – In June 2016, the Grants.gov program implemented The Grant Forecasts functionality. Previously, each grant-making agency was responsible for publishing their own grant forecasts, requiring applicants to search multiple websites before accessing the official Funding Opportunity Announcements on Grants.gov. Enhancing the Grants.gov “Search” capability to display forecasted opportunities allows users to conveniently find grant forecasts and synopsis data on a single website (Grants.gov “Search Grants”).

#### 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; and
- 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):

- In 2016, there continued to be 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; and
- OCFO is targeting to meet the May 2017 DATA Act implementation date.

The following table reflects estimated USDA contributions and funding amounts for 2015 through 2018 to the E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business.

<b>E-Government Initiative<sup>1</sup></b> (Dollars in Thousands)	<b>2015 Actual</b>	<b>2016 Actual</b>	<b>2017 Estimate</b>	<b>2018 President's Budget</b>
1. Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business	\$95,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
2. Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	106,069	106,070	106,070	106,070
3. Enterprise Human Resources Integration (EHRI)	2,004,308	1,860,138	1,860,136	1,860,136
4. E-Rulemaking	751,849	486,971	564,025	699,806
5. E-Training <sup>2</sup>	2,640,000	2,640,000	-	-
6. Financial Management Line of Business	159,282	167,510	167,510	167,510
7. Geospatial Line of Business	-	225,000	225,000	225,000
8. Benefits.gov	361,858	388,807	403,062	413,036
9. Grants.gov	439,294	454,039	516,493	493,961
10. Human Resources Line of Business	260,870	260,870	260,870	273,914
11. Integrated Award Environment <sup>3</sup>	634,453	2,433,722	3,674,931	3,748,428
12. Integrated Award Environment – Loans and Grants <sup>3</sup>	1,799,269	-	-	-
<b>USDA TOTAL</b>	<b>9,252,252</b>	<b>9,133,127</b>	<b>7,888,097</b>	<b>8,097,861</b>

<sup>1</sup> USDA participates in and benefits from 17 E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business, but not all initiatives require a financial contribution. The table above provides USDA's actual contributions for 2015 and 2016 and estimated contributions for 2017 and 2018 for only those initiatives that require financial contributions.

<sup>2</sup> In 2017, E-Training was transferred to the Working Capital Fund and will no longer be an E-Government Initiative.

<sup>3</sup> In 2016, Integrated Award Environment IAE and Integrated Award Environment were combined into a single activity.