



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
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Contact: OMB Communications, 202-395-7254

**OMB Releases List of 2007 Programs to be Assessed
with the Program Assessment Rating Tool**

Washington—The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released to Congress the list of programs it will assess next year with the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). In 2007, OMB will continue assessing the management and performance of Federal government programs and increase their accountability and effectiveness. This list is available at: www.omb.gov/part/index.html.

“Our push for program performance improvement is never ending,” said Robert Shea, Associate Director for Management, OMB. “Programs have been working hard to improve, and we want to ensure ExpectMore.gov reflects the latest tools and strategies to improve program performance and management.”

With the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART), agencies and OMB ask approximately 25 common-sense questions about each program's performance and management. These include:

- Is the program's purpose clear and is it well designed to achieve its objectives?
- Does the program have clear, outcome-oriented goals?
- Is the program well managed?
- Does the program achieve its goals?

For all the responses to these questions, there is an explanation and the relevant evidence is cited. The website, www.ExpectMore.gov, provides easy public access to information about the performance of Federal programs. The conclusions in these assessments are based on evidence, including information from reports by agency Inspectors General and the Government Accountability Office.

This will mark the sixth year that PART is used to assess programs' strengths and weaknesses and to establish action plans to improve program performance. These assessments, in turn, are factors in decisions about program funding. To date, the Administration has assessed:

- 977 programs, or 96 percent of the Budget, with the following program ratings:
 - 17 percent are "Effective"
 - 30 percent are "Moderately Effective"
 - 28 percent are "Adequate"
 - 3 percent are "Ineffective"
 - 22 percent are "Results Not Demonstrated"

The primary purpose of PART is to make sure that Federal programs live up to their Congressionally-mandated intent and are effectively managed to provide the best value for taxpayers. PART is a diagnostic tool and is not the only basis for program funding proposals. When a program is ineffective, it can become a candidate for termination or reduction or it can

be reformed so that it achieves results. Following completion of a PART assessment, all programs develop action plans to improve their performance and report regularly on the implementation of those plans.

In 2005, the PART received the Innovations in American Government Award from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. This award recognized these assessments for their ability to systemically help Federal programs establish clearly defined goals and measure results.

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