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OMB Receives Leadership Award for Improving Government Performance and Accountability

WASHINGTON – The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was awarded the 2007 Organizational Leadership Award by the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) in recognition of its Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). Presented by ASPA’s Center for Accountability and Performance, the award recognizes outstanding approaches to performance measurement that have resulted in sustained improvements in government performance and accountability. The award was presented on Monday, March 26, 2007 during the ASPA Awards ceremony held in conjunction with its 68th Annual Conference.

“PART and its postings on ExpectMore.gov allow the public to easily access information on how government programs perform and whether taxpayers are getting their money’s worth,” said Robert Shea, Associate Director for Management. “The award is important recognition of the effort made by agencies and OMB to make programs work better.”

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?

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.

OMB has already evaluated nearly 1,000 programs representing nearly 96 percent of federal spending. On March 16, 2007, OMB released to Congress the list of programs it will assess next year with the PART -- bringing the total amount of federal spending reviewed to nearly 100%. This list is available at: www.omb.gov/part/index.html.

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