New Scorecard Shows Federal Agencies Making Gains in Performance

Washington, DC – Today, OMB released the first quarter FY 2008 President’s Management Agenda (PMA) scorecard. This quarter’s scorecard included 10 upgrades for status and 28 upgrades for progress. The current scorecard can be found at www.results.gov.

Each quarter, OMB releases the PMA Scorecard rating 26 Federal agencies on each of the five PMA initiatives: Human Capital, Competitive Sourcing, Financial Performance, E-Government, and Performance Improvement. The quarterly release of the PMA scorecards is designed to make agency management more accountable to its stakeholders, track agency progress, and boost government performance. Eighty-seven percent of agencies rate at least moderately acceptable, with scores better than red, up from 78% last year and 20% in 2001. Over the last year, seven agencies have improved at least one initiative from Red or Yellow to Green, the top rating an agency can receive on the Scorecard.

For the first time, the Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) and Social Security Administration (SSA) have achieved green for both status and progress on all five PMA initiatives. The Department of Labor (DOL) also maintained green on all scores.

“We are very pleased to see that agencies are doing what they say they will do,” said Clay Johnson, OMB’s Deputy Director for Management. “We’re seeing significant improvement in progress scores, and today, Federal agencies are better managed than even the best-performing agency in 2001. We’d particularly like to congratulate DOL, EPA, and SSA for their commitment to improving their performance for American taxpayers.”
OMB also released a report required by the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA) Improving the Accuracy and Integrity of Federal Payments, in which it summarizes the FY 2007 results of agency efforts to reduce improper payments. Federal agencies continue to achieve significant reduction in improper payments. The programs first reporting in FY 2004 had a 4.4 percent error rate (or $45.1 billion in improper payments). In FY 2007, the error rate for those programs declined to 3.1 percent (or a $7.8 billion reduction in improper payments). Similarly, programs that first reported in FY 2005 and FY 2006 have cut improper payments in half, a $2.3 billion reduction.

Federal agencies have demonstrated their commitment to identifying all possible sources of improper payments and have expanded the universe of high risk programs that are measured and audited each year. In FY 2007, Federal agencies identified $1.9 trillion in program outlays to be measured for improper payments and subjected an additional $330 billion in contract payments to recovery audits. As a result, 80% of all Federal outlays are being actively measured or reviewed for improper payments. These outlays represent nearly all sources of risk for significant payment errors throughout the Federal government.

“Reporting improper payment rates to the public has enabled Federal agencies to quickly take effective action to eliminate them. Transparency in goals and performance measures has driven real, significant accountability throughout most of the Federal government,” said Johnson. "We still have more work to do, but the President’s Management Agenda is continuing to demonstrate results, and we are working to ensure that this commitment to greater government effectiveness continues in 2008 and beyond.”

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