

Federal Government Quarterly Priority Progress Reviews

Requirements

At least quarterly, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) supported by the Performance Improvement Council (PIC) is to review with the appropriate lead government official the progress made toward achieving each federal government priority goal, including progress achieved during the most recent quarter, overall trend data, and the likelihood of meeting the planned level of performance. 31 U.S.C. § 1121(a)(1).

The reviews also are to involve officials from the federal agencies, organizations, and program activities that contribute to the accomplishment of each federal government priority goal. 31 U.S.C. § 1121(a)(2).

At these reviews, OMB is to

- assess whether relevant agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies, and other activities are contributing as planned to each priority goal;
- categorize the priority goals by their risk of not being achieved; and
- for those at greatest risk of not being achieved, identify strategies to improve performance, including any needed changes to agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies, and other activities.

31 U.S.C. § 1121(a)(3), (4), (5).

Select Legislative History

The Act attempts to lay out a process for reviewing progress towards the federal government priority goals on, at minimum, a quarterly basis. For each federal government priority goal, the Director of OMB should review the progress achieved during the most recent quarter and the likelihood of meeting the performance target. As a part of these reviews, the Director of OMB and the PIC must categorize the federal government priority goals according to the risk of not meeting performance targets, and for those at greatest risk, identify strategies to improve performance. S. Rep. No. 111-372, at 11 (2010).

The Director of OMB and the PIC are also required to assess whether the agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies and other activities are contributing as planned to each federal government priority. By looking at the contribution of each underlying federal entity and type of federal intervention, the Director of OMB and the PIC may be able to identify successful practices that could be replicated by other agencies to improve their results and contributions to the overall federal government priority goal. This assessment process may also reveal federal activities that are duplicative or even working at cross-purposes. S. Rep. No. 111-372, at 11 (2010).

Related GAO Work

GAO has elaborated on and suggested several practices that support this requirement, including:

- identifying leading practices to promote successful data-driven reviews ([GAO-13-228](#));
- using performance information to manage for results ([GAO-05-927](#), pp. 7-17); and
- practices to enhance or facilitate the use of performance information for management decision making ([GAO-05-927](#), pp. 18- 32).