

# Archived Information

## GPRA DATA/EVALUATION PROGRAM

**Goal: To improve the type and quality of information available about the performance of the postsecondary education programs funded by the Department of Education.**

**Relationship of Program to Volume 1, Department-wide Objectives:** Supports all objectives in Goal 3 (to ensure access to postsecondary education and lifelong learning) by providing data on program performance for the postsecondary education programs that support these objectives.

FY 2000—\$3,000,000

FY 2001—\$3,000,000 (Requested budget)

OBJECTIVE 1: TO FUND STUDIES AND DATA COLLECTIONS NEEDED TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

**Indicator 1.1 Improved data on performance: Significant improvement will be made in the quality of data available to measure the performance of the postsecondary programs.**

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<b>Status:</b> Decisions are currently being made regarding program areas to be focused on first.  <b>Explanation:</b> No data available; program just received funding.	<b>Sources:</b> Review of Department efforts. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> 2000.  <b>Validation Procedure:</b> No formal validation procedure but will describe data collection efforts in sufficient detail so that outside reviewers can independently judge the quality of data obtained.  <b>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements:</b> None.
1999:	No data available	Not applicable, program not funded		
2000:		Significant improvement in the quality of available data.		
2001:		Significant improvement in the quality of available data.		

### KEY STRATEGIES

#### New or Strengthened Strategies

- ❖ Identify areas in postsecondary education where additional GPRA or evaluative information is needed by reviewing congressional testimony, questions, and General Accounting Office and Office of the Inspector General reports. Conduct well-designed, efficient data collection efforts and studies to obtain the needed information.

### HOW THIS PROGRAM COORDINATES WITH OTHER FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Is currently working with the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration to obtain income data needed for the Student Financial Assistance Policy measures.
- ❖ Where possible, will coordinate data collection efforts with other agencies, such as Census or the National Science Foundation.
- ❖ Will utilize and possibly augment existing National Center for Education Statistics data collection efforts.

### CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING PROGRAM GOAL

- ❖ It may be difficult to assess the impact of many of the postsecondary education programs because of the inability to establish a reasonable control group against which to compare the outcomes of the program participants. In addition, many of the programs are relatively small, meaning that any sort of rigorous evaluation study could easily amount to a sizable percentage of the program.

**INDICATOR CHANGES**

**From FY 1999 Annual Plan (two years old)**

Adjusted—Not applicable.

Dropped—Not applicable.

**From FY 2000 Annual Plan (last year's)**

Adjusted

❖ Indicator 1.1 was modified to incorporate the quality of the data collection efforts rather than just their existence.

Dropped—None.

New—None.