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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
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**Access to 30 New Programs Drives Success of GovBenefits
Web Site Assists Over 13,000 Citizens A Day**

Washington, D.C. – An enhanced version of the GovBenefits Web site went live last Monday offering citizens access to benefit information and services of 30 new programs, totaling an estimated \$1.05 trillion in assistance each year. A full listing of all 85 programs is now available at www.GovBenefits.gov.

“The President’s E-Government initiative is about promoting efficiency, eliminating red tape and making government more citizen-centered. Today we bring the services of 30 more government programs to the fingertips of Americans most in need, including America’s veterans, seniors, youth and those victimized by the tragedy of September 11th,” said Mark Forman, Office of Management and Budget’s Associate Director for Information Technology and E-Government.

Through the addition of the Department of Justice’s *September 11th Compensation Fund*, GovBenefits now easily guides beneficiaries of September 11th victims to applications for benefit compensation. New programs like Federal Emergency Management Agency’s *Disaster Housing Program* offer rental assistance, grants for lodging and minor home repairs to help citizens whose homes have been severely damaged by natural disaster.

A one-stop source, GovBenefits tailors the services of the government to the immediate needs of each citizen. Through an easy-to-use online survey, a U.S. veteran can find individualized results on eligibility for various government agency benefit programs and be granted access to program descriptions, contact information, application materials and the program’s latest news. Students can apply directly for loans and grants programs offered by the Department of Education and for other youth assistance programs.

On April 29, 2002, GovBenefits, the first of President Bush’s E-Government Initiatives, was jointly launched by the Department of Labor and the Office of Management and Budget. This initiative is a result of the continuing coordination of 11 federal agencies.

The President’s E-Government Strategy, released by the Office of Management and Budget and guided by the President’s Management Council, has identified 24 E-Government initiatives to integrate agency operations and information technology investments. E-Government is an integral part of the President’s Management Agenda to streamline business-to-government transactions, save taxpayer dollars and make it easier for citizens to interact with the government.

For more information, please contact OMB Communications at (202) 395-7254.

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