

## **Expect More from the Federal Government**

### **Final FY 2007 PART Assessments**

With the publication of the FY 2007 Budget, this Administration will have assessed almost 800 programs – 80% of the federal budget. And what do these assessments show?

- 1 in 7 programs has improved its PART rating;
- Half of programs rated Results Not Demonstrated have improved their ratings;
- 80 percent of programs have acceptable performance measures;
- 40 percent have achieved their long-term goals and 60 percent have achieved their annual goals; and
- 80 percent of programs have efficiency measures and about half of them have achieved their efficiency targets.

### **USAID is Green**

USAID is “on the board” with an upgrade in status to green! USAID’s move to Green on the Budget and Performance Integration scorecard reflects the agency’s use of performance information to improve the effectiveness of its development programs. USAID is using performance as a basis for allocating program funding, improving efficiency, and diagnosing and correcting management weaknesses. To support these efforts the Agency has greatly increased its performance reporting and data collection capabilities, and is now routinely making this information available to senior leadership, program managers, and stakeholders.

### **Programs are Improving**

More programs and agencies are able to show how a focus on performance is improving results. For example:

- The Department of Veterans Affairs is reducing the time veterans wait to get medical appointments. From 2001 to 2005, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) substantially reduced the number of new veteran enrollees unable to schedule an appointment for medical care from a high of 176,000 to 22,494. VHA remains a leader in customer satisfaction, with an inpatient satisfaction score of 84 out of 100 on the American Customer Satisfaction Index, slightly higher than the score of 79 for comparable private sector services.
- To reduce fatalities from automobile accidents, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration promoted greater seat belt use among high-risk groups such as younger drivers, rural populations, pick-up truck occupants, 8–15 year-old passengers, occasional safety belt users, and motor vehicle occupants in States with secondary safety belt use laws. As a result, nationwide seat belt use increased from 73 percent in 2001 to 82 percent in 2005, an all-time high.

But we need more examples of how the Budget and Performance Integration Initiative led to improved results for the American people. As agencies and programs achieve their goals and implement improvement plans, they should be able to clearly articulate how their work benefits the American people in terms of improved results and/or increased efficiency.

## **ExpectMore.gov – Easy-to-understand PART Assessments on the Web**

With the FY 2007 Budget (February 6, 2006), the Administration is launching **ExpectMore.gov**, an exciting new website that describes Federal program performance and what is being done to improve results. By making program performance information readily available in jargon-free language that Americans can understand, we hope that Congressional and public attention can provide the motivation and means for programs to improve their performance. ExpectMore.Gov is not targeted to Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives. The message is simply that we want our citizens to expect more from their federal government. We want to be held accountable for how programs perform and how aggressively they improve, and the way we begin to be held accountable is to be transparent about how programs perform today.

## **New Tool to Help Find the Right Evaluation Methodology**

The 2006 PART process begins in earnest this spring. We'll have updated guidance and new training announced soon. In the meantime, the Council for Excellence in Government is making its resources available to those who want help finding the right methodology with which to evaluate a program's impact. Launched January 20, 2006, the Council makes available a "help desk" Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., to answer agency and OMB questions about evaluations. You can reach the Evidence-based Policy Help Desk by calling 1-800-707-4010 or through its internet site, [www.evidencebasedpolicy.org](http://www.evidencebasedpolicy.org).

Robert Shea  
Counselor to the Deputy Director for Management