

CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

ACF has made a number of improvements in the FY 2006 performance management information. In an effort to have a more outcome-focused approach, ACF has developed (and is working on developing) more outcome-oriented measures and long-term measures. We have begun with the programs that have been analyzed through the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART), such as Child Care, Child Welfare, and Assets for Independence. New long term and outcome-oriented performance measures have been included for Child Care and Child Welfare. Efficiency measures have been identified or are being developed for each of the program areas; several of these are developmental and will be refined over the next several months. We have tightened the overall presentation and included graphs and, in the Overview section, have included trend charts to highlight progress over time.

ACF has projected targets based on trend data wherever possible. There are a few measures that lack baselines because programs are implementing new initiatives and data collection activities. Baselines for those measures will be established upon completion of start-up and developmental activities. In a few cases, the targets or measures are stated in ways that cause baselines to change annually (e.g., continuous improvement targets or legislatively defined targets). For those, a context has been provided in the narrative.

Descriptive information has been provided to explain revision of targets and reasons targets were not achieved including steps that will be initiated to correct shortfalls.

Efforts were made to streamline the presentations of performance. For example, descriptive performance summaries are included in the earlier (non-supplementary) portions of the Performance Budget to avoid duplication of material.