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## Federal Telework: No Free Ride

*Progress Requires Investment and  
Awareness, but Telework Delivers Significant  
Opportunity for Federal Government*

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# Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Key Findings:

- ❖ Federal Commuting Costs
- ❖ Federal Telework Today - Agency Honor Roll
- ❖ Looking Forward - What Can Telework Deliver?
- ❖ Are We There Yet?

Demographics

About the Telework Exchange



# Executive Summary

## **Commuting costs are enormous.\***

Each year, the average Federal employee who commutes five days a week:

- ❖ Spends \$10,580 a year on his/her commute
- ❖ Spends 245 hours of his/her life getting to and from work
- ❖ Disperses 8 tons of pollutants into the environment

In addition to the hard costs, other costs include traffic accidents, road rage, and quality of life degradation.

## **Telework offers a significant savings opportunity.\***

If all eligible Federal employees teleworked two days per week, the Federal workforce would realize savings including:

- ❖ \$3.3B in collective savings – back in employees' pockets
- ❖ 73.7M hours back in their lives
- ❖ 2.7M tons of pollutants not dispersed into the environment

## **Federal employees are interested in Telework, but barriers remain. Looking at Federal employees who are interested in Telework but not presently teleworking:\***

- ❖ 56% report their agency has a telework plan (the number is actually close to 100%)
- ❖ 21% believe they have access to the plan
- ❖ 5% can name their agency's telework coordinator

\*Based on 2005 Telework Exchange registrant data, the 2004 OPM Telework report for total number of eligible Federal teleworkers, the 2004 U.S. Census Bureau average commute figure for Washington, D.C., and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for total white collar workforce in the U.S.



# Key Findings: Commuting Costs

## The Average Federal Employee\*

- ❖ Spends an average of **\$10,580** a year to commute five days a week - **16%** of their after tax income
- ❖ Each disperses **8 tons** of pollutants into the environment each year
- ❖ Spends **245 hours** of their life commuting each year
- ❖ Spends more time commuting than on vacation

## The Economy\*\*

- ❖ **\$63.1B** wasted on traffic congestion in the 85 largest urban areas (based on wasted time and fuel)
- ❖ **2.3B** gallons of wasted fuel

\*2005 Telework Exchange registrants and 2004 Census Bureau Average Commute Times. Figures represent five day a week commuters.

\*\*Texas Transportation Institute 2005 Urban Mobility Study



# Key Findings: Who is Saving What Today?

## Savings

## Impact on the Environment

<b>\$5,951,906</b> saved collectively by Federal employees registered on Telework Exchange	<b>4,513 tons</b> of pollutants not dispersed into the environment this year by Federal employees registered on Telework Exchange
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### The Average Federal Employee Who Teleworks Two Days a Week Will:

- ❖ Save **\$4,372** per year
- ❖ Get **98 hours** of their life back
- ❖ Spare the environment **3.6 tons** of pollutants each year



## Key Findings: Agency Honor Roll

Based on Telework Exchange registrants – these Federal organizations' employees are saving the most\*:

1. Department of Defense
2. Department of Health and Human Services
3. Department of Agriculture
4. Department of Transportation
5. General Services Administration
6. Department of the Interior
7. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
8. Department of Housing and Urban Development
9. Department of Justice
10. Department of the Treasury

\* Disclaimer: Honor Roll information is based strictly on teleworkexchange.com registrants – rather than on all teleworking Federal employees.



# Key Findings: Looking Forward: What Can Telework Deliver?

## Federal Government

If all eligible Federal employees telework 2 days per week, savings will include\*:

- ❖ **Money:** \$3.3B in annual collective savings, back in employees pockets
- ❖ **Time:** 73.7M hours back in the lives of Federal employees
- ❖ **Pollution:** 2.7M tons of pollutants not dispersed into the environment each year

## U.S. White Collar Workforce

If all U.S. white collar workers telework 2 days per week, savings will include:

- ❖ **Money:** \$221B in annual collective savings, back in employees pockets
- ❖ **Time:** 4.9B hours back in the lives of U.S. white collar employees
- ❖ **Pollution:** 182M tons of pollutants not dispersed into the environment each year

\*Based on 2005 Telework Exchange registrant data, the 2004 OPM Telework report for total number of eligible Federal teleworkers, the 2004 U.S. Census Bureau average commute figure for Washington, D.C., and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for total white collar workforce in the U.S.



# Key Findings: What Can Telework Deliver?

Full-time five-day a week teleworkers in the Washington, D.C. area, on average, get an hour a day of their life back.

***What can you do with an hour a day?***

## Get Healthy

- ❖ Train for a marathon
- ❖ Lose 60 pounds
- ❖ Learn a new sport

## Get Organized

- ❖ Clean out 83 closets<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Re-organize your garage 31 times<sup>2</sup>

## Get Smart

- ❖ Earn an MBA 35% faster<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Learn a foreign language
- ❖ Read 25 books a year<sup>4</sup>

*Americans now spend more time a year commuting than on vacation.<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>based on 3 hours to clean out one closet

<sup>2</sup>based on 8 hours to clean out one garage

<sup>3</sup>based on 1440 hours to earn an MBA, and 500 hours over 2 years of additional time to devote due to lack of a commute

<sup>4</sup>based on 10 hours to read one book

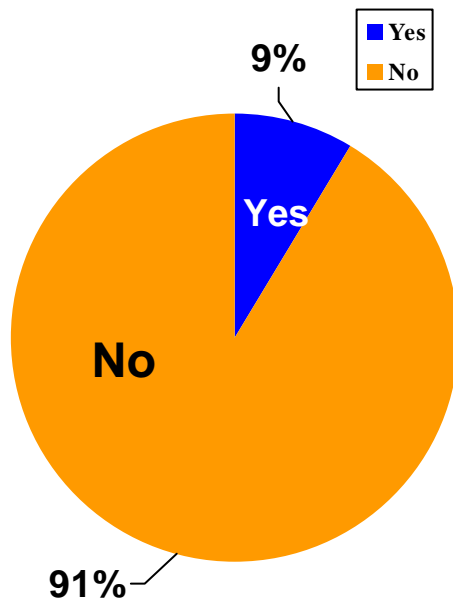
<sup>5</sup>U.S. Census, American Community Survey



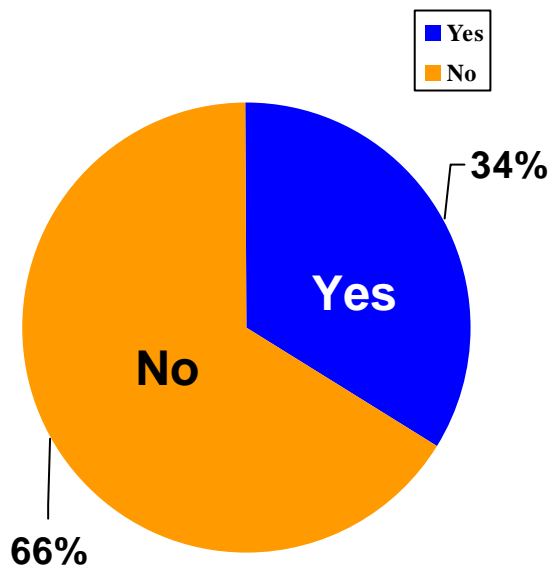
# Key Findings: Are We There Yet?

Significant Federal telework education opportunity exists - Coordinator visibility remains low, access to agency plans poor, awareness of plans low.

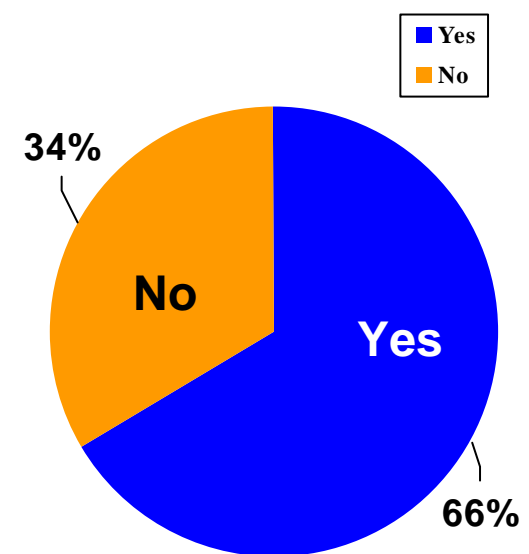
**Can You Name Your  
Telework  
Coordinator?**



**Do You Have Access To  
Your Telework Plan?**



**Does Your Agency Have a  
Telework Plan?**



Note: The majority of this sample is "interested in teleworking" rather than current teleworkers – See next slide for details.



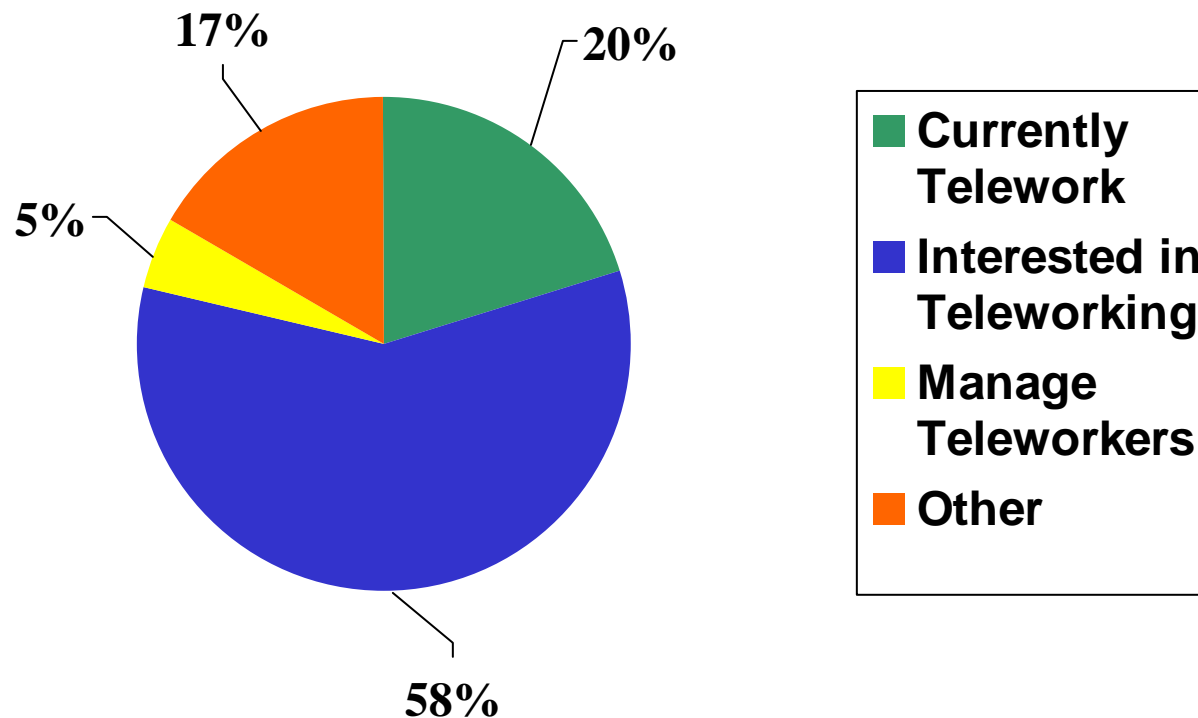
# Key Findings: Are We There Yet?

**Plan, access, and coordinator awareness levels are still low for individuals who report they are “interested in teleworking.”**

	Does your Agency have a telework plan?	Do you have access to the plan?	Can you name your Telework coordinator?
Current Teleworkers	95% yes	86% yes	16% yes
Teleworker Managers	87% yes	70% yes	17% yes
<b>Interested in Telework</b>	<b>56% yes</b>	<b>21% yes</b>	<b>5% yes</b>
Other	58% yes	32% yes	7% yes

\*Based on 2005 Telework Exchange registrants data

## *Telework Exchange Registrants – 3,500+ Federal Employees*



This graph identifies interest in Telework – for the portion of the sample that responded to the identifier question.



# About the Telework Exchange

**The Telework Exchange is a focused, interactive online forum that:**

- ❖ Builds a virtual telework community
- ❖ Provides the first framework to quantify both overall Federal government and agency-by-agency progress against mandated telework requirements
- ❖ Provides the first framework to quantify the value of Federal telework – financial and environmental cost of commuting
- ❖ Generates an information clearinghouse to share best practices and rate teleworking tools
- ❖ Delivers a forum for targeted, audience-specific telework education



**Thank you.**

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