

FASAB Update



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DISCLAIMER



- Views expressed are those of the speaker.

Overview



- Reporting Model
- Leases
- Insurance Programs
- Opening Balances for General PP&E
- Land
- Budget and Accrual Reconciliation
- Tax Expenditures

Reporting Model



External users need to

- Understand the relationship between
 - ✦ financial statements and required supplementary information (RSI) and
 - ✦ other information contributing to the reporting objectives
 - presented voluntarily
 - presented to comply with legislation or administrative directives
- Understand the relationship among
 - ✦ budgetary information
 - ✦ cost information
 - ✦ performance information

Reporting Model



External users need to

- Determine whether the government's financial condition improved or deteriorated
 - ✦ what measure(s) should be considered
- Understand component reporting
 - ✦ budgetary terms and concepts unique to federal government
 - ✦ how the financial statements relate to the government-wide financial statements

Reporting Model



Board developing conceptual guidance

- Concepts intended to
 - guide the Board in developing reporting model standards
 - provide information to help others understand the purposes for financial statements and RSI

- Discuss the relationship between financial statements and RSI and other information
 - financial statements and RSI
 - based on common understanding of terms
 - meets qualitative characteristics
 - other information
 - contribute to reporting objectives
 - may accompany or provided in financial statements and RSI
 - may have limitations , e.g. not exposed to the same level of internal controls as financial statements and RSI

Reporting Model



Board developing conceptual guidance

- Distinguish between information required for
 - the government-wide reporting entity
 - ✦ power to tax
 - ✦ charge fees
 - ✦ borrow
 - component reporting entities
 - ✦ authority through appropriations
 - ✦ diverse missions and activities

Reporting Model



Board developing conceptual guidance

- Reporting concepts regarding
 - component budgetary information
 - information that should be provided by the government-wide reporting entity
 - information that should be provided by component reporting entities
 - disaggregation of information
 - performance results
 - summary level information

Reporting Model



Potential impact on standards

- Guidance regarding
 - presentation of component budgetary information
 - disaggregating and classifying information
 - the presentation of multiple periods of information
 - relating financial and non-financial performance information
 - summary level reporting

Polling Question



- How should costs be classified in financial statements?
- A. by program
- B. by function
- C. by object class
- D. by strategic goal
- E. none of the above

Leases



- FASAB is collaborating with GASB to develop standards for governmental organizations.
- GASB's preliminary views document should improve clarity of ultimate exposure draft.
- Each Board will issue an exposure draft.

Leases



- Tentative decision to establish a single model (with exceptions for short-term arrangements – 24 months for federal).
 - Leases create assets consisting of the “right to use” a resource.
 - Leases create liabilities consisting of the obligation to pay for the resource.
- Treatment should help identify the interest cost associated with leases.

Leases-Intragovernmental Exceptions



- Leases between two consolidation entities (as defined in SFFAS 47) would be expensed by lessor when due and payable.
- Minimal disclosure requirements.

Leases



Tentative Timelines

- FASB/IASB – Final expected late 2015
- GASB – Issued ED and final expected early 2017
- FASAB – ED during 2016 and final 2017

Department of Defense – Implementation Issues



SFFAS 48 - Opening Balances for Inventory, Operating Materials and Supplies, and Stockpile Materials

- Issued January 2016
- Effective FY17, but earlier implementation encouraged
- Amended SFFAS 3, *Accounting for Inventory and Related Property*
- **Deemed Cost**
 - Several valuation methods permitted
 - Flexible dates to allow components to establish opening balances at different dates
 - Once established, considered GAAP
- **Conditions - Available only when presenting GAAP information either (1) for the first-time or (2) after a period during which existing systems could not provide necessary information. The application of SFFAS 48 based on the second condition is available once per reporting entity.**

Department of Defense – Implementation Issues



- ***SFFAS 50 Establishing Opening Balances for General Property, Plant, and Equipment***
 - Exposure Draft was Issued December 22, 2015
 - Using deemed cost (Same as SFFAS 48-replacement cost, estimated historical cost, and fair value) for establishing opening balances of all general PP&E.
 - Selecting between deemed cost and prospective capitalization of internal use software
 - Allowing an exclusion of land and land rights with disclosure of acreage information and expensing of future acquisitions

Department of Defense – Implementation Issues



- SFFAS 50 Due Process Issues
 - Respondents disagreed with land proposal
 - ✦ Key reasons- inconsistency & added cost
 - ✦ Land project

 - Reasonable estimates and the recession of SFFAS 35.
 - ✦ SFFAS 6 was revised to include the following in par. 26:
26. All general PP&E shall be recorded at cost. Although the measurement basis for valuing general PP&E remains historical cost, reasonable estimates may be used to establish the historical cost of general PP&E, in accordance with the asset recognition and measurement provisions herein. Cost shall include all costs incurred to bring the PP&E....
 - ✦ Similar change made in SFFAS 10

Department of Defense – Implementation Issues



SFFAS 50 - Establishing Opening Balances for General Property, Plant, and Equipment

- At the April 2016 meeting the Board approved SFFAS 50, *Establishing Opening Balances for General Property, Plant, and Equipment: Amending Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 6, SFFAS 10, SFFAS 23, and Rescinding SFFAS 35.*
- The alternative methods include (1) using deemed cost to establish opening balances of general PP&E, (2) selecting between deemed cost and prospective capitalization of internal use software, and (3) allowing an exclusion of land and land rights from opening balances with disclosure of acreage information and expensing of future acquisitions.
 - ✦ Similar conditions as in SFFAS 48.
- Alternative valuation methods through comprehensive implementation guidance in SFFAS 6
- Amends SFFAS 6, SFFAS 10, SFFAS 23 and rescinds SFFAS 35
- Pending Congressional and Sponsor reviews.

Land



- Project goal: Improve accounting/reporting for land
 - SFFAS 6 requires capitalization of **land & land rights** acquired in connection with GPP&E at the cost incurred.
 - SFFAS 29 defines “**stewardship land**” as land **other than GPP&E** land. It requires disclosures regarding policies for managing land, categories of land, and physical quantity information.

Land



- Project objectives: Recommend recognition, measurement, and disclosure requirements as appropriate:
 - What is the most appropriate reporting objective?
 - Does predominant use or managerial intent influence the accounting and/or reporting?
 - Which measurement attribute(s) should be considered for recognition purposes?
 - Which non-financial attributes if any, should be presented?
 - What are agency best practices and practical limitations?
- **Join our Task Force** - *“This land is your land, this land is my land, from California to FASAB Standards”.....**This land was meant for YOU and me!!***

Insurance Programs

21

In this first phase of the Risk Assumed Project FASAB is seeking to improve federal financial reporting and to better inform readers about the operating performance of insurance programs and the risk of loss to the federal government from adverse events



Insurance Programs

22

Each program:

- Has a unique mission related to the risk factors they must manage
- Usually fills a gap for a certain amount of time or money, where the insurance industry is not willing or able to manage certain risk factors
- Is complicated due to many uncertainties

Insurance Programs:

23

To provide concise, meaningful, and transparent information regarding insurance program costs and liabilities, the exposure draft proposes to establish three categories of insurance and related guidance:

- exchange transaction insurance programs other than life insurance,
- nonexchange transaction insurance programs, and
- life insurance programs.

Insurance Programs

24

The exposure draft proposes to capture all current and future insurance programs through updated definitions and terminology and would rescind existing standards for insurance and guarantee programs in SFFAS 5, *Accounting for Liabilities of The Federal Government*, paragraphs 97-121.

Insurance Programs

25

Status:

- Exposure Draft (ED) released for comment December 30, 2015
- Comments were requested by March 29, 2016
- 18 comment letters were received and summarized
- Staff analyzed the comments and provided recommended updates to the Board

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Budget and Accrual Reconciliation



- **Project Goal:**
 - Improve the component reporting entity's budgetary and net cost reconciliation
 - Support the Government-Wide Accounting (GWA) reconciliation

- **Project Objectives:**
 - Review usefulness of the current Statement of Financing note disclosure
 - Improve the component reporting entity budget and accrual reconciliation
 - Research and recommend alternative component level reconciliation that may support GWA reconciliation

- **Working Group & Proposed Timeline**

Polling Question



- The best way to explain the difference between net cost and net obligations is:
 - A. Narrative only
 - B. a reconciliation format shown vertically (current approach)
 - C. a reconciliation format shown with columns with similar items grouped together
 - D. no way to do this

Polling Question



- Citizens can understand "outlays" better than they can understand "obligations."
- A. True
- B. False

Tax Expenditures

29



- **What are tax expenditures**



Revenue losses attributable to provisions of the U.S. Federal tax laws which allow a special exclusion, exemption, or deduction from gross income or which provide a special credit, a preferential rate of tax, or a deferral of tax liability (Source: Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974)

- **Examples** – *note that many achieve various policy objectives:*
 - Exclusion of employer-provided health insurance premiums and medical care
 - Deductibility of medical expenses
 - Exclusion of interest on various types of state and local bonds

Tax Expenditures (cont'd)

30



• History

- 1995-1996: estimates and disclosures included in CFR
- Since 1997: estimates and disclosures excluded from CFR
 - Existing estimates are not measured under current accounting concepts
 - Discussion is currently absent; however, tax expenditures significantly impact the federal government's financial position, tax collections, and performance outcomes
- Current project
 - Board identified a need to improve users' awareness and understanding of tax expenditures

Tax Expenditures (cont'd)

31

- **Project History**

1. Task force deliberations and recommendations
2. Board deliberations
3. Exposure Draft



Tax Expenditures (cont'd)

32

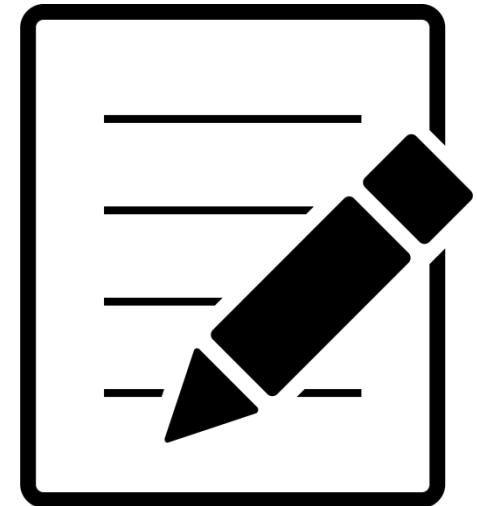


- **Task force recommendations:**

1. Narrative disclosures within the notes to the financial statements and MD&A of the CFR
2. Inform readers regarding other online sources of information where readers can obtain detailed information

<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/tax-policy/Pages/Tax-Expenditures.aspx>

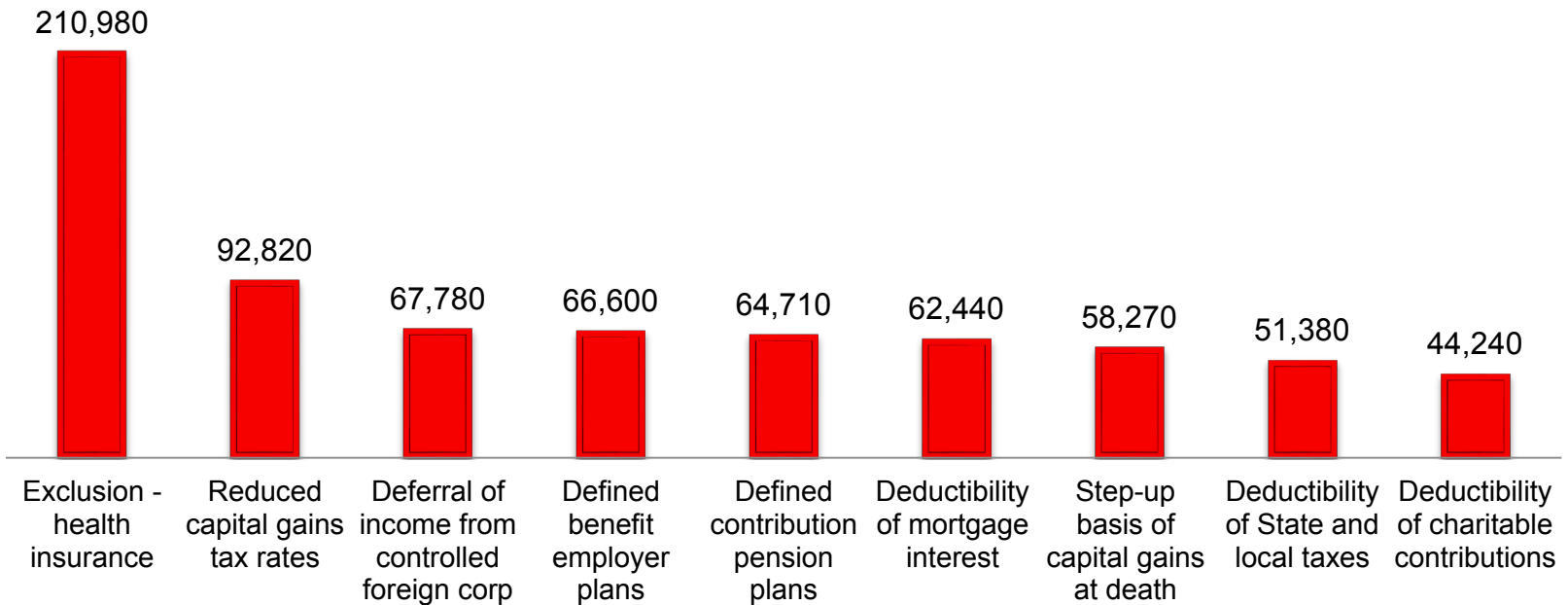
3. Options for presenting tax expenditure estimates in the CFR



Largest Tax Expenditures - FY2016

In Millions

33



Source: FASAB analysis of Department of the Treasury estimates obtained at <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/tax-policy/Documents/Tax-Expenditures-FY2017-11132015.pdf>

Tax Expenditures (cont'd)

34



● **Exposure Draft** (current status)

- Require discussion of tax expenditures, their general purpose, and how they impact the government's financial position and condition
- Discussion of other factors that may affect tax collections in order to place tax expenditure information in an appropriate context
- Disclosures on how nonexchange revenue, tax collections and refunds are impacted; and whether tax expenditures are presented in the consolidated financial statements
- Encouraging the presentation of tax expenditure estimates in OAI
- ED issued June 2, 2016

Three-Year Plan



- Performance reporting!
- How should FASAB deliver guidance?

Polling Question



- I prefer to have access to standards through
 - A. the Handbook we now have
 - B. a topical codification
 - C. original pronouncements
 - D. A and B
 - E. A and C
 - F. all three
 - G. an electronic system (not a PDF)

Polling Question



- What areas (new or old) should FASAB work on in the next few years?

QUESTIONS

