PRESIDENTIAL E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND LINES OF BUSINESS

USDA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESIDENTIAL E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND LINES OF BUSINESS:

USDA participates in 14 Presidential E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business (LoB); however, this document describes only 10 Presidential E-Government Initiatives and LoB, that are funded through USDA distributed funding. By participating in the E-Government Initiatives and LoBs, USDA has improved its business processes and program delivery to its customers, employees, and partners. Through these efforts, USDA has been able to work with other Federal agencies to streamline common areas of business delivery (e.g. rulemaking, payroll, and grants management) and learn from best practices throughout the government. The Department will continue to implement these Initiatives and LoBs to achieve further benefits for its customers.

Budget Line of Business (BLoB):

The BLoB provides benefits to partner agencies by encouraging best practices crossing all aspects of Federal budgeting – from budget formulation and execution to collaboration, human capital needs, and providing tools and resources. USDA has more than 4,500 users registered for the MAX Federal Community site. The Community site can be used for sharing information, collaboratively drafting documents (including the direct-editing of documents posted on the site), supporting workgroups, submitting central reports, and more. In addition, USDA has used MAX Collect exercises and associated publishing capabilities to collect, store, process and publish information.

Benefits.gov:

Launched in 2002, Benefits.gov is one of the earliest E-Government initiatives and was established as the official benefits website of the U.S. government. Prior to Benefits.gov, citizens looking for government benefit information had to search through a complicated maze of web pages, often unsuccessfully. Today, millions of citizens have online access to information and can keep up with the latest benefit-related information by subscribing to the quarterly eNewsletter, as well as by following Benefits.gov on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. In 2018, USDA had 306 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on Benefits.gov, including food and nutrition programs administered by State agencies, that generated over 3.8 million Forms of Assistance page views; over 880,000 transfers from Benefits.gov to USDA and State agency websites; and over 1,500 transfers from USDA websites to Benefits.gov.

Through Benefits.gov, USDA provides information on over 300 programs related to food assistance, business and farm loans, crop insurance, disaster assistance and more. Participation in Benefits.gov supports USDA's goal to provide all Americans access to a safe, nutritious, and secure food supply, by helping increase public awareness of USDA benefit programs on food and nutrition. In addition, Benefits.gov provides information on many other USDA programs including farm loans, rural housing and business loans, and agricultural programs.

Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan (DAIP):

The mission of DAIP is to provide disaster survivors with information, support, and services, to apply for disaster assistance through data-sharing efforts between Federal, tribal, State, local, and private partners. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, under the Department of Homeland Security, acts as the managing partner. The website DisasterAssistance.gov reduces the time needed by disaster survivors to apply for aid and check the status of claims, while decreasing redundancy in application forms and processes. Disaster survivors complete a mini survey online from their computer or mobile device and receive a personalized list of assistance of over 75 benefit and assistance programs available from the 17 participating federal agencies. In addition, participants can check on the status of applications and get updates via mobile alert or email. In 2018, USDA had 20 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on DisasterAsstance.gov that generated over 218,000 Forms of Assistance page views; over 297,000 transfers from DisasterAssistance.gov to USDA and State agency websites; and 1,300 transfers from USDA websites to DisasterAssistance.gov.

Enterprise Human Resources Integration (EHRI):

EHRI offers a standardized approach for Human Resource (HR) record conversion, storage, access, sharing, and archiving. Solutions are customized to meet the needs of agencies of all sizes. EHRI also provides management oversight for paper Official Personnel Folder (OPF) conversion and eOPF hosting, as well as comprehensive support to guide agencies throughout the OPF conversion process. Key governmentwide benefits includes, eliminating the need for more than two million paper employee records, saving almost $800 million over the next 10 years; streamlining HR processes; and providing economies of scale for the entire government.

E-Rulemaking:

USDA uses the Federal-wide Regulations.gov website and the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) as the primary repository for promoting public participation and input into the development and issuance of USDA rulemaking. All USDA Federal Register rules, proposed rules, and notices are made available for public comment on E-Rulemaking's Regulations.gov. Since USDA's migration to FDMS, the system has made numerous upgrades to improve USDA's own user interaction with FDMS in the management of its rulemaking dockets. In 2018, USDA agencies posted 844 rules, proposed rules, and notice documents to Regulations.gov. USDA posted 346,163 comments from the public in response.

Financial Management Line of Business (FMLoB):

In 2018, USDA focused on incorporating Credit Commodity Corporation (CCC) accounting into the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) system, USDA's Systems, Applications and Products (SAP) based core accounting system. The objective is to reduce audit findings related to CCC and obtain a clean audit opinion for CCC and the Department. The effort has been broken into five major releases that will occur over the next 22 months.

FMLoB also corrected issues with the FMMI outbound interface to Corporate Property Automated Information System (CPAIS) Personal Property, which was responsible for a multitude of receipts missing from CPAIS Personal Property. Finally, FMLoB completed the 2017 Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP) reporting /data submission to GSA for USDA. The data submission to GSA complied with the 2017 FRPP changes and satisfied the mandatory reporting requirement.

Geospatial LoB:

The Enterprise Geospatial Management Office (EGMO) works to enhance and empower the USDA enterprise to meet mission requirements by providing strategic leadership, encouraging innovation, and facilitating communication and collaboration on geospatial activities and initiatives within the Department, and with public and private stakeholders in the broader geospatial community. The Federal Geospatial Data Committee National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Imagery Theme reflects the dynamic imagery requirements across all levels of government for observing our planet at all scales throughout the year. USDA and Department of the Interior jointly lead NSDI. While work progressed on nearly all objectives, the NSDI also convened its first National Imagery Summit (Summit) on September 20-21, 2018. This government-only event was attended by a broad cross-section of Federal, state and local participants with over 550 people attending in-person or by webinar. The purpose of the Summit was to facilitate enhanced community awareness of current land imaging programs, discuss program gaps and challenges, and begin dialogue on the establishment of a land imaging collection framework.

USDA established a Department-level Geospatial Advisory Committee (GAC) to support the USDA EGMO by providing technical assistance, coordination, and guidance. The GAC is an advisory group to the EGMO with membership that represents in-depth knowledge of geospatial technology and how it applies to program requirements within their agency, and that can provide the expertise and perspective to support better coordination and collaboration between agencies in the Department. Currently we are working on the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 and participating in the tiger team workgroups for governance, data standards and delivery, covered agencies and reporting, and communications.

Grants.gov:

Grants.gov provides a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities. Today, the Grants.gov system houses information on over 1,000 grant programs and vets grant applications for federal grant-making agencies. In 2018, USDA posted 162 funding opportunities and received 8,614 applications.

Use of the Grants.gov system makes it faster, easier and more cost effective for grant applicants to electronically interact with federal grant-making agencies. It also provides the following key benefits, among many others, to the grant community. Grants.gov centralizes more than 1,000 different grant programs across federal grant-making agencies awarding more than $500 billion annually while standardizing grant information, application packages and processes for finding and applying for federal grants along with registering once to apply to as many federal agencies and grant programs as needed with just one secure login. Grants.gov has also eliminated the need to expend resources, time, postage and reproduction costs associated with traditional paper-based grant applications, making it easier to research and find federal grant opportunities.

Human Resources Line of Business (HRLoB):

The HRLoB solutions currently being developed will enable the federal government to standardize HR business functions and processes, as well as the systems that support them. These common solutions will enable a shift in emphasis within the agencies from administrative processing to customer service and strategic planning. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) HRLoB program focuses on its critical role in the long-term replacement solution to legacy payroll and personnel data records. A number of Multi-Agency Executive Strategy Committee sub-committees were established in 2018 to assist OPM with developing solutions to specific areas of need.

Integrated Award Environment (IAE):

IAE uses innovative processes and technologies to improve systems and operations for those who award, administer, or receive federal financial assistance, contracts, and intergovernmental transactions. In 2018, USDA continued with Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) implementation. In the fourth quarter, USDA had 100 percent accuracy in File A, over 99 percent on File B, and 86 percent on File C. These files transmit financial data to the US Department of Treasury as required by the DATA Act. Additionally, USDA created a DATA Act Dashboard, additional Standard Operating Procedures, and held multiple training sessions to address reporting requirements. USDA continues to improve and refine the DATA Act repository with additional automation and record validation and has added 6 data elements to EzFedGrants to make it DATA Act compliant.

The following table reflects estimated USDA contributions and funding amounts for 2017 through 2020 to the E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business.

E-Government Initiative (Dollars in Thousands)	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimates	2020 Budget
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business	$110,000	$110,000	$110,000	$110,000
Benefits.gov	402,698	413,036	418,503	465,887
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	106,070	106,070	106,070	106,070
Enterprise Human Resources Integration (EHRI)	1,860,138	1,860,138	1,860,138	1,860,138
E-Rulemaking	564,025	699,805	580,067	553,132
Financial Management Line of Business	167,510	167,510	167,510	167,510
Geospatial Line of Business	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
Grants.gov	516,493	493,961	473,087	484,000
Human Resources Line of Business	260,870	273,913	273,913	273,913
Integrated Award Environment	3,674,931	3,748,430	4,048,189	2,731,401
USDA TOTAL	7,887,735	8,097,863	8,262,477	6,977,051