

# The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993

Public Law 103-62

# Previous Attempts to Establish Federal Performance Management

- Performance-Based Budgeting
- Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System
- Zero-Based Budgeting
- Management by Objectives
- Total Quality Management
- Quality Circles

# Findings

- (1) waste and inefficiency in Federal programs undermine the confidence of the American people in the Government and reduces the Federal Government's ability to address adequately vital public needs;
- (2) Federal managers are seriously disadvantaged in their efforts to improve program efficiency and effectiveness, because of insufficient articulation of program goals and inadequate information on program performance; and
- (3) congressional policymaking, spending decisions and program oversight are seriously handicapped by insufficient attention to program performance and results.

# Purposes

- (1) improve the confidence of the American people in the capability of the Federal Government, by systematically holding Federal agencies accountable for achieving program results;
- (2) initiate program performance reform with a series of pilot projects in setting program goals, measuring program performance against those goals, and reporting publicly on their progress;
- (3) improve Federal program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a new focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction;

# Purposes (cont'd)

- (4) help Federal managers improve service delivery, by requiring that they plan for meeting program objectives and by providing them with information about program results and service quality;
- (5) improve congressional decisionmaking by providing more objective information on achieving statutory objectives, and on the relative effectiveness and efficiency of Federal programs and spending; and
- (6) improve internal management of the Federal Government.

# Requirements of GPRA

- Strategic Planning
- Annual Performance Plans
- Annual Performance Reports

(All of which require the inclusion of performance measures)

# Measurement Types

- Inputs—(resources consumed)—e.g. dollars, people, work-hours, supplies/materials, steel, fuel, medical supplies, instructional materials
- Outputs—(quantities produced)—e.g. satellites, ships, vaccinations, comprehensive curricula
- Outcomes—(results)—e.g. faster communications, coastal waterways protected, fewer absences, improved student achievement

# GPRA Measure Requirements

- Quantitative
- Objective
- Measurable

# GPRA Measure Development

- Responsibility of the agency: program office consults with other offices within the agency and experts to ensure reliability and validity
- Must align with the purposes and authorized activities of the statute
- Must be approved by the Office of Management and Budget

# Uses of GPRA Measures

- Agency publishes GPRA measures in the Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications
- Grantees report GPRA data according to guidance provided by the program office
- Program Office enters aggregated GPRA data into electronic system for creation of performance reports and future performance plans
- Agency uses GPRA data to develop internal improvement plans, target technical assistance, and identify successful practices
- Budget Office uses GPRA data to prepare and justify the President's Budget proposal to Congress
- Congress uses President's Budget to gauge the effectiveness of federal programs
- Congress appropriates funds to programs with consideration given to their effectiveness

# Things to Keep in Mind About GPRA

- Applies to all agencies and programs of the federal government
- Carries the force of law
- Aimed at improving public confidence, program performance and effectiveness, service delivery, Congressional decision-making, and internal management
- Measures focus on outcomes, effectiveness, and results, are established by the agency, and are distinct from measures grantees propose in their applications