

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES -PRESIDENTIAL E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND LINES OF BUSINESS

Table of Contents

Preface 49

Agency-Wide 49

 Purpose Statement..... 49

 Budget Line of Business (BLoB):..... 49

 Benefits.gov: 49

 Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan (DAIP):..... 50

 E-Rulemaking: 50

 Financial Management Line of Business (FMLoB): 50

 Geospatial LoB: 50

 Grants.gov:..... 51

 Human Resources Line of Business (HRLoB): 51

 Integrated Award Environment (IAE): 51

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Preface

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is regarding the 2025 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2022 and 2023, enacted levels for 2024, and the President’s Budget request for 2025. Amounts for 2023 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels. Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2024. Amounts shown in 2025 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline. Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Agency-Wide

Purpose Statement

USDA participates in nine Presidential E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business (LoB). 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.

The following table reflects estimated USDA contributions and funding amounts for 2022 through 2025 to the E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business.

Table eGov-1. E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business (thousands of dollars)

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Estimate
Budget Line of Business.....	120,000	120,000	125,000	130,000
Benefits.gov	443,380	409,031	446,318	0
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan.....	106,070	106,070	106,070	106,070
E-Rulemaking	750,211	785,774	657,312	875,947
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	510,000	597,000	622,000	748,000
Human Resources Line of Business	273,913	273,913	273,913	273,913
Integrated Award Environment	2,731,401	2,731,401	2,431,643	2,369,638
Total	\$5,327,485	\$5,415,699	\$5,054,766	\$4,896,078

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. 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 X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook and YouTube. USDA currently has 312 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on Benefits.gov, including food and nutrition programs administered by State agencies. In 2023, USDA programs generated 4,645,805 Forms of Assistance page views on Benefits.gov; 1,081,149 transfers from Benefits.gov to USDA and State agency websites; and over 12,300 transfers from USDA websites to Benefits.gov.

The Benefits.gov line of business (LoB) will be retired, and the website will be decommissioned by the end of 2024. Agency partners are not expected to contribute to the Benefits.gov LoB in 2025 or in future fiscal years. Relevant Benefits.gov content may be integrated into the current content on USA.gov, as appropriate. USA.gov

(formally FirstGov.gov) was created in 2000 and became statutorily required through the E-Government Act to provide the public with a single access point to Federal “information and services consolidated, as appropriate, with information and services provided by state, local, and tribal governments.” The purpose of the Customer Experience Executive Order commitment was to support the original premise of USA.gov by consolidating the duplicative content on Benefits.gov and other Federal websites, as appropriate, into a centralized website.

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 2023, USDA had 19 programs (Forms of Assistance) listed on DisasterAssistance.gov that generated over 204,200 Forms of Assistance page views; over 59,800 transfers from DisasterAssistance.gov to USDA and State agency websites; and 1,244 transfers from USDA websites to DisasterAssistance.gov.

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. In 2023, eRulemaking worked to implement the Providing Accountability through Transparency Act of 2023 to improve the public’s ability to provide useful feedback by having agencies include a plain language summary of 100 words or less on Regulations.gov. In addition, eRulemaking worked to prioritize a streamlining solution within FDMS to reduce duplicative comments of the same data; thus, improving data storage utilization and system cost efficiencies. These deduplication features were released in early 2024. In 2023, USDA agencies also posted 836 rules, proposed rules, and notice documents to Regulations.gov and 308,272 comments from the public in response.

Financial Management Line of Business (FMLoB):

In 2023, USDA OCFO’s continued focus is on evolving its financial management systems to a next generation Intelligent Enterprise Suite (S4/HANA) that will streamline the business processes and to integrate financial management activities across USDA agencies. USDA successfully completed the explore and preparation phase and awarded the contract for the modernization implementation. The project is currently in the realization phase. Key objectives include improved user experience and compliance with financial reporting and regulatory standards. The proposed transformation uses augmented, predictive analytics and planning capabilities to deliver consistent, accurate and standardized data for financial planning and reporting (both at the strategic and operational levels) throughout the department.

Geospatial LoB:

USDA’s Enterprise Geospatial Management Office (EGMO) works to enhance and empower the USDA enterprise to meet mission requirements by providing strategic leadership; encouraging innovation; modernizing the geospatial portfolio; facilitating communication and collaboration on geospatial activities and initiatives within the Department; coordinating across Federal Agencies; and engaging with USDA customers and with public and private stakeholders. Consistent with its 2021 Enterprise Geospatial Strategic Plan, USDA has advanced a deployment plan that includes new department regulations and data standards. Updated geospatial policies and guidance were completed in 2022 and published in 2023. As part of USDA’s active support for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure it reported on the updated National Geospatial Data Assets and made them available to the public through GeoPlatform.gov. Additionally, in 2023 a software diversification initiative was implemented to reduce cost and expand the USDA Geospatial software portfolio footprint. A modernization effort to reduce storage costs associated with geospatial imagery was initiated by continuing the development of agency-wide shared geospatial platforms.

Grants.gov:

[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), which houses information on over 1,000 grant programs awarding more than \$500 billion annually and vets grant applications for Federal grant-making agencies, provides a common website and centralized location for Federal agencies to post discretionary funding opportunities and for grant seekers to find and apply for them. In 2023, USDA posted 265 funding opportunities and received 14,756 applications. Using the [Grants.gov](https://www.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. (1) Helping the grant community learn more about available opportunities by centralizing and standardizing grant information, application packages and processes for finding and applying for federal grants. (2) Facilitating interaction with the federal government by streamlining the Federal grants process. (3) Simplifying the grant application process to save applicants costs, time and hassle. (4) Making it easier to research and find federal grant opportunities through improved search capabilities – from a simple key word search to advanced searches over numerous grant opportunity categories – and having grant opportunities sent directly to grant applicant desktops through custom search profiles. (5) Making electronic grant application processing easier by increasing the ease-of-use through enhanced features common to the Web, such as downloaded and fillable forms, auto-populated data, error checks and email notifications. (6) Providing a secure and reliable source to apply for Federal grants by validating grant applicants via a five-step registration process and ensuring website stability and security through Secure Socket Layer technology to encrypt transactional data and communications over the Internet.

Human Resources Line of Business (HRLoB):

The Human Resources Line of Business (HRLOB) improves USDA's internal efficiency and effectiveness by streamlining and automating the exchange of employee human resource information. HRLOB products comprise a toolkit giving agencies a standard definition of Human Capital Management functions, processes, and data, which promotes consistency and interoperability across agencies. In 2023, HRLOB released several updates to its Human Capital Business Reference Model functional framework, Human Capital Federal Integrated Business Framework and Human Capital Information Model and posted all HC-FIBF standards (A1-A10, X1) and HCIM (A1-A10) on [Regs.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) for public comment. HRLOB also published resources (process maps, forms inventories, Cheat Sheets) that standardize business processes for the Employee Transfer Process and Onboarding Process that USDA HR professionals used to streamline their processes. In addition, HRLOB updated 20 Guide to Processing Personal Actions (GPPA) Chapters to complete updates of all 35 GPPA Chapters to ensure agencies had updated guidance with more enhanced features when using the GPPA. In 2023, HRLOB also coordinated and held the Multi-Agency Executive Strategy Committee and Shared Service Provider (SSP) Summit to bring the Human Capital community together to discuss opportunities and challenges in HR IT modernization as well as OPM's data strategy and modernization efforts. HRLOB also supported modernization of Agency and SSP HR IT and data analytics capabilities by launching a workflow automation library with resources including workflow processes, business rules, and associated data elements and standards for key processes, as well as launching a webinar series to improve community data literacy and analytics capacity. The Data Analytics CoP grew to nearly 400 members, which USDA participates in and has presented on various data analytic topics.

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 2023, 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 99 percent on File C. File D2 financial assistance award reporting had an 82 percent accuracy rate. These files transmit financial data to the US Department of Treasury as required by the DATA Act. USDA continues to improve and refine the DATA Act repository with additional automation and record validation. EzFedGrants reporting is now automated and reporting DATA Act records. USDA published a DATA Act Data Quality Plan in 2019 and a DATA Act Data Quality Framework to assist agencies in reporting and evaluation their data with the goal of improving data quality.