



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 24, 2011

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the transparency and information technology management initiatives funded through the Electronic Government (E-Gov) Fund. Projects funded by the E-Gov Fund serve to continuously improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of Federal operations, as well as increase citizen participation through the use of information technology (IT). For example, the IT Dashboard has helped identify at risk Federal IT projects and rigorously review them. As a result of this work, we reduced planned IT budgets by \$3 billion in 2010 alone. As you know, for FY 2011, the Administration requested a total of \$35 million for the E-Gov Fund, but received an appropriation of only \$8 million. As a result, we have revisited our plans for the Fund for FY 2011 and altered the scope of several projects. While we believe that we can make progress on several important initiatives, several projects will experience a sharp decline given the limited amount of funding. No project will go unaffected.

We will maintain important initiatives such as USAspending.gov, the IT Dashboard, Data.gov and Performance.gov at their current levels of operation. As a result of the reduced funding, there will be no enhancements or other development to address needs for improvement. While we will continue to work with agencies to improve the quality of data on the IT Dashboard and USAspending, we will not be able to fund development efforts to improve data accuracy through automation and streamlining, nor will funds be available to increase transparency. For example, we have postponed plans for IT Dashboard enhancements that would have allowed better integration with agency systems for investment monitoring. Limited funding will increase delays in getting new datasets posted to Data.gov, and will limit our ability to stand up new communities of interest on that platform.<sup>1</sup> Further, the reduced level of appropriations will impact the ongoing implementation of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA). For example, there will be a marked reduction in technical support provided to the contractor and grantee communities who enter data on Federal spending into the FFATA portal.

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<sup>1</sup> Communities allow users to explore, discuss, meet others in the same field, and develop the data and apps in a common forum. Current communities include OpenData, SemanticWeb, Health, and Law:  
<http://www.data.gov/communities>.

For detailed information on the specific projects funded through the E-Gov Fund, please refer to the FY 2010 E-Government Act Report submitted on March 30, 2011.<sup>2</sup> Section 1 of the report summarizes the important activities and accomplishments of Federal IT projects under the E-Gov Fund over the last year.

Going forward, we have decided to terminate the following projects given the reduced funding level:

**FedSpace:** Platform for Federal staff and knowledge management to support government programs. It provided a space for collaboration among communities, allowing users to explore, discuss, meet others in the same field, and develop the data and apps in a common forum. This also includes a common library for resource materials across the Federal Government. The project is currently in beta testing.

**Citizen Services Dashboard:** Website providing relevant data on top Federal citizen-facing services including data on service quality (such as timeliness, accuracy, ease), and customer satisfaction. Additional potential features include the ability to gather feedback on top citizen-facing services and the ability to use that data to inform decision making and make improvements.

We have requested \$34 million for the E-Gov Fund in FY 2012, and if we receive that level of funding, we will revisit each of these initiatives to the appropriate path forward.

We appreciate your interest in efforts to increase transparency and citizen participation in the Federal Government through the use of information technology and would be happy to provide your office a briefing on the E-Gov Fund. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Vivek Kundra  
Federal Chief Information Officer

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<sup>2</sup> FY 2010 Report to Congress on the Implementation of The E-Government Act of 2002:  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov\\_docs/FY10\\_E-Gov\\_Act\\_Report.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov_docs/FY10_E-Gov_Act_Report.pdf).