

Performance Measures Template for State Grant Workplans

Q. What is the language in the President's budget requiring the grant workplan performance measures template?

“The Administration believes that accountability improves a program's effectiveness and ensures resources are providing the intended results. However, while over half of EPA's budget provides grants to States to implement their environmental programs, EPA faces difficulties in getting States to report consistent, meaningful, performance information. To address this issue, EPA will develop a standardized template that all States will use to develop and submit their State grant agreements. This new template will include clear linkages to EPA's Strategic Plan and long-term and annual goals, as well as consistent requirements for regular performance reporting. It also will allow for meaningful comparisons between various States' past and planned activities and performance, making progress more visible and programs more transparent.”

Q. What principles will EPA follow to develop the performance measures template?

- Meet OMB and EPA needs for “consistent, meaningful performance information.”
- Uses existing measures, data sources, and reporting systems and can facilitate reporting of Eco-Region measures.
- Minimize the administrative burden on regions and states.
- Build on efforts to improve measures and enhance the strategic alignment of grant workplans.
- Augment current partnership agreements and workplans rather replacing them.
- Supports innovation and multimedia programs as well as core media programs.
- Achieve maximum buy-in and compliance from states, EPA programs, and regions.
- Facilitates national implementation in year one.

Q. How will the Template impact state grant workplans?

The template will be an appendix to existing grant workplans; it will not require current grant workplans to be replaced or restructured. This approach will support regional-state grant workplan development processes and build on the performance partnership system. The Template will include the most essential measures of results for the programs associated with each of the categorical grants. The purpose of the Template Appendix is to highlight and condense environmental result and program performance information that EPA and OMB would like to see for each State. It is clear that many factors beyond the state grant affect these results, and that the grant workplan is the mechanism of financial grant accountability.

Q. Will the Template add a new layer of reporting or require new information from states?

The template will not add another layer of reporting. The template will include a limited set of existing performance measures and measures developed during OMB's PART (Program Assessment and Rating Tool) reviews that address high level environmental and program outcomes. The information to report these measures will be drawn to the extent possible from data currently provided by States and Regions through a variety of national data systems and

existing reporting mechanisms. In limited cases EPA may have to work with States to produce State-by-State data.

Q. How will EPA work with the states to review the measures?

EPA has been and will continue to work closely with the States to develop and review these measures. Between now and mid-April, EPA will continue to work closely with the Partnership and Performance Workgroup, ECOS, ASWIPCA, ASTSWMO, ASDWA, STAPPA/ALAPCO and individual states to fully communicate this effort. The draft NPM guidance documents were posted to the EPA internet site the week of March 6 with mention of this process. The proposed measures and other background materials were added to this site the week of March 20.

Q. Which state grants will use the performance measures template? How were these grants chosen?

The OMB template language covers categorical grants and PPGs to implement environmental programs. This includes the following continuing environmental programs:

- Clean Air Act Section 105; Radon
- Pesticides Enforcement; Lead; Pesticides Program Implementation
- Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance; Brownfields; Underground Storage Tanks
- Clean Water Act Section 106; Non-point Source (CWA Section 319); Beaches Protection; Public Water System Supervision; Underground Injection Control

The template does not cover categorical project grants or categorical program grants that are limited by statute to development activities or are awarded competitively. Grants not covered include: Wetlands Program Development; Targeted Watersheds; Wastewater Operator Training; Homeland Security; Pollution Prevention; Sectors Program (Compliance & Enforcement); Environmental Information: Environmental Information Exchange Network

Q. What is the Eco-Regions initiative and how does it relate to the Template?

The Eco-Region approach is a performance management effort to develop an effective management tool for measuring and communicating environmental progress being achieved by the regions and states. An Eco-Region is a contiguous area of the country - comprised of two or more entire EPA Regions - that is likely to address similar environmental problems.

The Eco-Region approach does not add a new structure that parallels or overlaps EPA's existing planning/budgeting/ analysis/accountability system developed under GPRA and refined under PART. EPA's goal is to focus a subset of issues and associated measures that are already captured in our existing system.

We expect that as Eco-Region measures are identified, those that relate to state grants will be reconciled and included in the State Grant Performance Measure Template. The Eco-Region effort is beginning to identify possible performance measures for each regional environmental priority, also relying on existing measures to the extent possible. An important operating principle of this template exercise (see above) is to facilitate reporting on EcoRegion measures, where appropriate.