
Agency Performance Plans

Overview

The Office of the City Administrator (OCA) is building a robust performance management program across the District. This process includes making several updates to the format and submission process for annual agency performance plans.

Under the new process, agencies had the opportunity to update major components of their performance plan for FY 2017 including: objectives, key performance indicators and workload measures. Ultimately, the revised performance plans will be able to communicate more effectively the important work each agency plans to do over the coming year and how each agency will work to improve its performance. First drafts of the high-level components of each agency's performance plan (objectives, key performance indicators, and operations) are published online with the Mayor's FY 2017 budget submission.

The following provides a background of annual performance plans and their uses, a summary of major changes in FY 2017, a description of the major components and a summary of the performance management timeline.

Background:

Annual Performance Plans can help accomplish several purposes, these include:

- Provide clear direction on how an agency plans to make progress toward achieving its mission and aligning to the Mayor's goals and vision for the District,
- Help to align and prioritize resources,
- Be a tool to monitor progress toward completion of strategic initiatives and key projects,
- Communicate to the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the public on what the agency plans to do to improve its performance over the coming year.

The OCA heard from several agencies about the problems the prior annual performance plans presented: they did not encompass the full scope of agency activities nor did they often align with an agency's budget; content was difficult to understand by the public; and for many agencies, content was outdated. The new system incorporates changes to address these problems. In addition, it increases flexibility to help all agencies more clearly communicate what they plan to achieve and help the Mayor and City Administrator track their performance throughout the year.

Structure:

I. Major Changes

- In FY 2017, all agencies had the ability to update their strategic objectives, key performance indicators, and workload measures to reflect their current mission. After FY 2017, these components should remain stable unless agency requirements change or new data that would be helpful to track performance becomes available.

- All agencies will include a Strategic Objective on Excellence in Government along with standardized metrics across all agencies provided by the OCA. These metrics will track areas like spending, contracting, hiring and customer service. This is new standardized data being reported in the performance plans across government agencies that will help the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the public to compare an agency's performance across government. OCA will work over the next several months to have the data in these areas ready for view in FY 2017.
- Agencies will include Daily Services and major long-term Key Projects through the addition of an Operations component. This addition will help agencies better reflect all of the work they do to achieve their Strategic Objectives and is defined in greater detail below.

II. Components

Below is a summary of each component in the Annual Performance Plan.

- **Strategic Objectives.** Strategic Objectives describe what the agency will do, at a high level, to achieve its Mission. These are action-based sentences that define what an agency does for its customers, whether the customers are citizens or other District agencies.
 - o New for FY 2017, each agency will be required to add an Excellence in Government Strategic Objective and several key performance indicators. These indicators are as follows:
 - Contracts/Procurement - Percent of Expendable Budget spent on Certified Business Enterprises
 - Contracts/Procurement - Contracts lapsed into retroactive status
 - Budget - Local funds unspent
 - Budget - Federal Funds returned
 - Customer Service - Meeting Service Level Agreements
 - Human Resources - Vacancy Rate
 - Human Resources - Employee District residency
 - Human Resources - Employee Onboard Time
 - Performance Management - Employee Performance Plan Completion
 - o For agencies that do not track one of the measures above in one of the District's citywide databases, OCA will work with that agency to substitute a corresponding measure.
- **Key Performance Indicators.** Key Performance Indicators measure how well an agency is achieving its Strategic Objectives. They are outcome oriented and should be used to answer the question, "What does the agency need to measure to determine success?"
- **Operations.** Operations include the work that happens on a daily basis to help achieve the Strategic Objectives. This is further divided into Daily Services, such as sanitation disposal, and long-term Key Projects that are high profile, one-time and span several years, such as the redevelopment of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Many agencies will mostly have Daily Services, whereas some agencies that have substantial amounts of capital funds will have several Key Projects.

Available in the second draft to be published in the Congressional Submission of the FY 2017 budget (typically done in late June or early July):

- **Workload Measures.** Workload Measures cover inputs and outputs of Operations such as the number of driver's licenses issued. Workload Measures include major components that provide crucial information about an agency's work and the work that is needed to make progress toward the Strategic Objective.

Available in the final draft to be published on the OCA website by October 1, 2016:

- **Strategic Initiatives.** Strategic Initiatives are defined as changes and/or enhancements to Operations that will help make progress on the Strategic Objective. Strategic Initiatives are typically completed or implemented in one or two years. Strategic Initiatives may affect more than one Operational function. A Strategic Initiative can encompass several areas:
 - o How an agency will improve a Daily Service, for example, by streamlining the intake process for customers accessing an agency's service.
 - o How an agency will implement a new component to a current Daily Service, for example, by rolling out body-worn cameras for police officers on patrol.
 - o How an agency will implement the current phase and expected progress for long-term Key Projects, for example, by completing the initial design work for construction of a new District facility. Daily Services may not always have a corresponding Strategic Initiatives but Key Projects will always have an Initiative that describes the year's expectations.

III. How are Performance Plans used?

Annual Performance Plans will be used at several points during the year to help the Mayor, City Administrator and Deputy Mayors prioritize resources, track progress, and make adjustments during the year as needed. The draft Annual Performance Plans will be used during budget meetings to understand how changes in funding are expected to affect performance.

After Annual Performance Plans are finalized, OCA and Deputy Mayors will meet with agencies once per quarter to assess how progress on the Performance Plan is being made. These meetings can help identify areas where progress is stalled and talk about what adjustments and assistance are needed to help move forward. In addition, they will also serve as a way to check in and see that the agency continues to remain focused on areas that are important to the Mayor throughout the year. For example, adjustments could need to be made for new laws, regulations or new potential focus areas that arise after the performance plan is published. These changes will be communicated in a transparent way where the public can see where and why a focus was changed.