THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

SECOND OPEN GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Introduction

Throughout his Administration, President Barack Obama has prioritized making government more open and accountable, and has taken substantial steps to increase citizen participation, collaboration, and transparency in government.

At the inaugural Open Government Partnership (OGP) meeting on September 20, 2011, President Obama reiterated his belief "that the strongest foundation for human progress lies in open economies, open societies, and in open governments." The United States has worked both domestically and internationally to ensure global support for Open Government principles to promote transparency; fight corruption; energize civic engagement; and leverage new technologies in order to strengthen the foundations of freedom in our own Nation and abroad.

In support of these principles domestically, the Obama Administration in 2011 launched the first U.S. Open Government National Action Plan (NAP) — a set of 26 commitments that have increased public integrity, enhanced public access to information, improved management of public resources, and given the public a more active voice in the U.S. Government's policymaking process. The Administration continues to make progress in all 26 areas, with 24 of the initial commitments already completed. A notable example of the progress made since the release of the first NAP is the successful launch of *We the People*, the White House petitions platform that gives Americans a direct line to voice their concerns to the Administration via online petitions. In two years, more than 10 million users have generated over 270,000 petitions on a diverse range of topics, including gun violence, which received a video response from the President, and unlocking cell phones for use across provider networks, which led directly to policy action.

Building upon these efforts to create a more efficient, effective, and accountable government, the Administration is issuing the second Open Government National Action Plan for the United States of America. The new plan includes a wide range of actions the Administration will take over the next two years, including commitments that build upon past successes as well as several new initiatives.

In developing the second NAP, the Federal Government sought input from the general public, a broad range of civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector to refine the commitments in this document to build a more open, transparent, and participatory United States Government. In addition, civil society organizations provided valuable feedback through a public report, issued in March 2013, on the U.S. Government's implementation of the first NAP. Civil society organizations also submitted recommendations for commitments to include in the second NAP, many of which were incorporated into this report. In developing the second NAP, Administration policymakers also sought input from the public via the White House Open Government blog and other interactive online platforms.

This document will serve as a roadmap for the next two years as the Administration works in partnership with the public and civil society organizations to carry forth these Open Government efforts. This report, however, is not representative of all U.S. Government efforts to further openness. The process of opening government is a continuing work-in-progress. Under the President's leadership, the

Administration will continue to generate and implement Open Government policies and reforms, as well as continue to seek input from outside groups and citizens about how to create a more Open Government.

U.S. National Action Plan Initiatives

Creating a more OpenGovernment requires a sustained commitment by public officials and employees at all levels of government; it also requires an informed and active citizenry. These new Open Government commitments include the expansion of original commitments as well as the launch of new initiatives. The Administration will work with the public and civil society organizations to implement each of these commitments over the next two years.

Open Government to Increase Public Integrity

1. **Improve Public Participation in Government**

In the first NAP, the Administration expanded opportunities for public participation in government, recognizing the value of the American public as a strategic partner in solving some of the country's most difficult challenges. The United States is committed to continuing to expand public participation in government and will:

- **Expand and Simplify the Use of *We the People*.** In 2014, the White House will introduce improvements to *We the People* that will make petitioning the Government easier and more effective. These improvements will enhance public participation by creating a more streamlined process for signing petitions and a new Application Programming Interface (API) that will allow third parties to collect and submit signatures to *We the People* petitions from their own websites. These improvements will also enhance transparency by enabling the public to perform data analysis on the signatures and petitions. The White House will publish a software development kit to help people build tools using the *We the People* API and will engage with the public on improvements to the API and expansion of its use.

- **Publish Best Practices and Metrics for Public Participation.** In the first National Action Plan, the Administration committed to identify best practices for public participation in government and to suggest metrics that would allow agencies to assess progress toward this goal. Over the past two years, the Administration consulted with the public, civil society stakeholders, and academics on how best to implement this initiative from the first National Action Plan. In 2014, the United States will continue these efforts and publish best practices and metrics for public participation.

2. **Modernize Management of Government Records**

The backbone of a transparent and accountable government is strong records management that documents the decisions and actions of the Federal Government. When records are well managed, agencies can use them to assess the impact of programs, reduce redundant efforts, save money, and

share knowledge within and across their organizations. Greater reliance on electronic communications has radically increased the volume and diversity of information that agencies must manage. With proper planning, technology can make these records less burdensome to manage and easier to use and share. To meet current challenges, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will work with Federal agencies to implement new guidance that addresses the automated electronic management of email records, as well as the Presidential Directive to manage both permanent and temporary email records in an accessible electronic format by the end of 2016. NARA will also collaborate with industry to establish voluntary data and metadata standards to make it easier for individuals to search publicly-available government records.

3. **Modernize the Freedom of Information Act**
The Obama Administration has already made important progress to improve the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process by simplifying the process of filing requests at many agencies, by proactively disclosing information in the public interest in advance of requests, by speeding up processing times, by greatly reducing FOIA backlogs, and by publishing more data on FOIA compliance. There is still much more that the Administration can do and the United States is committed to further modernizing FOIA processes through the following initiatives:

- **Improve the Customer Experience through a Consolidated Online FOIA Service.** More than 100 Federal agencies are subject to FOIA. For the average requester, this can mean significant energy spent searching for the right agency and navigating the unique process for submitting a request to that agency. The Administration will launch a consolidated request portal that allows the public to submit a request to any Federal agency from a single website and includes additional tools to improve the customer experience. The U.S. Government will establish a FOIA task force that will review current practices, seek public input, and determine the best way to implement this consolidated FOIA service.

- **Develop Common FOIA Regulations and Practices for Federal Agencies**. Certain steps in the FOIA process are generally shared across Federal agencies. Standardizing these common aspects through a core FOIA regulation and common set of practices would make it easier for requesters to understand and navigate the FOIA process and easier for the Government to keep regulations up to date. The Administration will initiate an interagency process to determine the feasibility and the potential content of a core FOIA regulation that is both applicable to all agencies and retains flexibility for agency-specific requirements.

- **Improve Internal Agency FOIA Processes.** Over the past few years, several agencies have analyzed existing FOIA practices and used this information to make dramatic improvements in their backlogs and processing times, as well as to increase the proactive release of information in the public interest. The U.S. Government will scale these targeted efforts to improve the efficiency of agencies with the biggest backlogs, and to share lessons learned to further improve internal agency FOIA processes.

- **Establish a FOIA Modernization Advisory Committee.** Improvements to FOIA administration must take into account the views and interests of both requesters and the Government. The United States will establish a formal FOIA Advisory Committee, comprised of government and non-governmental members of the FOIA community, to foster dialog between the Administration and the requester community, solicit public comments, and develop consensus recommendations for improving FOIA administration and proactive disclosures.

- **Improve FOIA Training Across Government to Increase Efficiency**. In order to efficiently and effectively respond to FOIA requests, every Federal employee — not just those in an agency's FOIA office — should fully understand the FOIA process. The Administration will make standard e-learning training resources available for FOIA professionals and other Federal employees and encourage their use.

4. Transform the Security Classification System

While national security requires that certain information be protected as classified, democratic principles simultaneously require government to be transparent — wherever possible — about its activities. Overclassification may have high costs and operational impacts on agencies. Classification must therefore be kept to the minimum required to meet national security needs, and information should be made available to the public through proper declassification once the need for protecting the information has passed. In continuation of our efforts to transform the classification system and declassify as much material as possible, while simultaneously protecting national security, the Administration will:

- **Create a Security Classification Reform Committee.** The Public Interest Declassification Board, an advisory committee made up of experts outside government as well as former government classification experts, has made several recommendations for reducing overclassification and simplifying the classification system in its report, *Transforming the Security Classification System*. The interagency Classification Review Committee, which will report to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, will review these recommendations, coordinate efforts to implement those that are accepted, and meet periodically with external stakeholders to obtain their input as appropriate.

- **Systematically Review and Declassify Historical Data on Nuclear Activities.** The Classification Review Committee will work with the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Department of State to determine, consistent with applicable statutes, how to implement a systematic review process for the declassification of no-longer sensitive historical information on nuclear programs (Formerly Restricted Data or FRD), focusing on specific events and topics of historical nuclear policy interest and ways for the public to help identify priorities for declassification review.

- **Pilot Technological Tools to Analyze Classified Presidential Records.** The Central Intelligence Agency and NARA will pilot the use of new tools to provide classification reviewers with search

capability for unstructured data and automate initial document analysis, beginning with Presidential Records from the Reagan Administration's classified e-mail system.

- **Implement Monitoring and Tracking of Declassification Reviews.** The National Declassification Center at NARA will implement a referral and tracking system that will automatically notify appropriate agency representatives when classified records are ready for declassification review and enable monitoring to ensure that agencies meet review deadlines. This system will include records of Presidential Libraries.

5. <u>**Implement the Controlled Unclassified Information Program**</u>

The Government currently uses ad hoc, agency-specific policies, procedures, and markings to safeguard and protect certain controlled unclassified information (CUI), such as information that involves privacy, security, proprietary business interests, and law enforcement investigations. This patchwork of policies has resulted in inconsistent marking and safeguarding of documents, unclear or unnecessarily restrictive dissemination policies, and impediments to authorized information sharing. The President therefore directed NARA to establish a program to standardize processes and procedures for managing CUI. Over the next year, NARA will issue implementation guidance, with phased implementation schedules, and an enhanced CUI Registry that designates what information falls under the program.

6. <u>**Increase Transparency of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Activities**</u>

In June 2013, the President directed the U.S. Intelligence Community to declassify and make public as much information as possible about certain sensitive intelligence collection programs undertaken under the authority of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), while being mindful of the need to protect national security. Nearly two thousand pages of documents have since been released, including materials that were provided to Congress in conjunction with its oversight and reauthorization of these authorities. As information is declassified, the U.S. Intelligence Community is posting online materials and other information relevant to FISA, the FISA Court, and oversight and compliance efforts. The Administration has further committed to:

- **Share Data on the Use of National Security Legal Authorities.** The Administration will release annual public reports on the U.S. Government's use of certain national security authorities. These reports will include the total number of orders issued during the prior twelve-month period and the number of targets affected by them.

- **Review and Declassify Information Regarding Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Programs.** The Director of National Intelligence will continue to review and, where appropriate, declassify information related to foreign intelligence surveillance programs.

- **Consult with Stakeholders.** The Administration will continue to engage with a broad group of stakeholders and seek input from the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board to ensure the Government appropriately protects privacy and civil liberties while simultaneously safeguarding national security.

7. <u>Make Privacy Compliance Information More Accessible</u>

As data increasingly help drive efficiency and effectiveness of public services, public trust in the Government's good stewardship of data is essential. The Federal Government has a dedicated workforce that has long worked to ensure the proper management and security of personal information held by Federal agencies. Agencies are required to routinely review, assess, and publicly report on their collection and use of personal information. To improve transparency and accountability of Federal data collection, the Administration will:

- **Improve the Accessibility of Privacy Policies and Compliance Reports.** To make it easier for citizens to find and understand what information the Government collects and maintains, Federal agencies will make it easier for the public to access, download, and search online for publicly-available privacy policies and privacy compliance reports.

- **Update and Improve Reporting on Federal Agency Data Policies and Practices.** Agencies will collaborate to review the content of publicly-available privacy compliance reports and to consider best practices to ensure that the reports provide meaningful information about the Federal Government's management of personal information.

8. <u>Support and Improve Agency Implementation of Open Government Plans</u>

The Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Science and Technology Policy will work with an existing interagency open government group, made up of individuals from across the Executive Branch, to develop guidelines for Federal agencies as they work to update their Open Government Plans in the coming months. These guidelines will require, at a minimum, new measures on proactive disclosures. The interagency group will solicit input from civil society organizations for these guidelines and will work to ensure robust implementation of the agency plans in accordance with the [Open Government Directive](#).

9. <u>Strengthen and Expand Whistleblower Protections for Government Personnel</u>

Employees with the courage to report wrongdoing through appropriate, legally authorized channels are a government's best defense against waste, fraud, and abuse. Federal law prohibits retaliation against most government employees and contractors who act as whistleblowers, and those protections were strengthened by recent legislation and Executive action. However, some who work for the Government still have diminished statutory protections. The Government must also ensure that Federal employees know their rights. Therefore, the Administration will:

- **Mandate Participation in the Office of Special Counsel Whistleblower Certification Program**. To ensure that Federal employees understand their whistleblower rights and how to make protected disclosures, the Administration will require covered agencies to complete the U.S. Office of Special Counsel's program to certify compliance with the Whistleblower Protection Act's notification requirements.

- **Implement the Presidential Directive on Protecting Whistleblowers**. The U.S. Government will continue to work to implement the President's October 2012 Policy Directive on Protecting

Whistleblowers with Access to Classified Information ([PPD-19](#)), including by ensuring strong, independent due process procedures; awareness of protections; and agency understanding of the protections available to government contractors under the directive.

- **Advocate for Legislation to Expand Whistleblower Protections**. With the Administration's support, Congress recently enacted legislation to strengthen whistleblower protections for most Federal Government employees and contractors, but there are still gaps in statutory protections available to certain government employees and contractors. The Administration will continue to work with Congress to enact appropriate legislation to protect these individuals.

- **Explore Executive Authority to Expand Whistleblower Protections if Congress Does Not Act**. While statutory protections are preferable, the Administration will explore additional options for utilizing Executive authority to further strengthen and expand whistleblower protections if Congress fails to act further.

10. Increase Transparency of Legal Entities Formed in the United States

The United States has been working closely with partners around the world to combat the criminal misuse of businesses, shell companies, and front companies. These legal entities are used to access the international financial system and facilitate financial crime, while masking the true identity of illicit actors. These legal entities are also used by individuals and companies to shelter assets and evade taxes. Enhanced transparency of companies formed in the United States will help to prevent criminal organizations from obscuring who really benefits from the businesses they operate, help to address tax avoidance, and also help developing countries to combat corruption when criminal actors look to illicitly deposit their money abroad. To promote transparency in company ownership, the Administration will:

- **Advocate for Legislation Requiring Meaningful Disclosure.** The White House will continue to publicly advocate for legislation requiring disclosure of meaningful information at the time a company is formed, showing not just who owns the company, but also who receives financial benefits from the entity.

- **Establish an Explicit Customer Due Diligence Obligation for U.S. Financial Institutions.** In 2014, the Administration will work to enact a rule requiring U.S. financial institutions to identify the beneficial owners of companies that are legal entities. The Treasury Department is currently engaged in rulemaking to clarify customer due diligence requirements for U.S. financial institutions. The agency has received public comments through an Advance Notice of Rulemaking and also hosted several stakeholder roundtables.

Open Government to Manage Resources More Effectively

1. Implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
Two years ago, at the launch of the OGP, President Obama announced the U.S. commitment to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), an international standard aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in the payments that companies make and the revenues governments receive for their natural resources. The United States has actively worked toward increasing revenue transparency and accountability in relevant industry sectors, ensuring that American taxpayers receive every dollar due for the extraction of the Nation's natural resources.

The United States continues to work toward EITI candidacy, including by seeking public comment and feedback on the Federal Government's candidacy application. The Administration intends to publish the first United States EITI report in 2015 and to achieve EITI compliance in 2016. The United States will also:

- Disclose additional revenues on geothermal and renewable energy;
- Unilaterally disclose all payments received by the U.S. Department of Interior;
- Create a process to discuss future disclosure of timber revenues; and
- Promote the development of innovative open data tools that make extractive data more meaningful for and accessible to the American people.

2. Make Fossil Fuel Subsidies More Transparent
Regular public reporting on U.S. Government spending on fossil fuel subsidies will increase transparency and enhance accountability. The United States will publicly publish an annual report outlining Government spending on fossil fuel subsidies and share it with the Group of 20 (G-20) and other relevant international bodies.

3. Increase Transparency in Spending
The Administration's efforts to increase transparency in Federal spending have opened up new data on Federal procurement and financial assistance. The Administration intends to further increase the transparency of where Federal tax dollars are spent by committing to:

- **Join the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency.** The United States will join the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency (GIFT), an international network of governments and non-government organizations aimed at enhancing financial transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement. The Administration will actively participate in the GIFT Working Group and seek opportunities to work with others to champion fiscal openness in appropriate global forums.

- **Regularly Engage with External Stakeholders.** The U.S. Government will hold quarterly meetings with external stakeholders to identify and prioritize ways to improve the usability and functionality of the USASpending.gov website.

- **Open Up Federal Spending Data.** The U.S. Government will make Federal spending data more easily available in open and machine-readable formats.

- **Publish Additional Federal Contracting Data.** The Administration will facilitate the publication of certain Federal Government contract information not currently available in order to increase transparency and accountability of the Federal procurement system. Information will be made available consistent with Federal rulemaking procedures.

- **Provide Strategic Direction for Enhancing Fiscal Transparency.** The Administration, through the work of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB), will continue to provide strategic direction to the Federal Government on ways to increase Federal spending transparency and to detect waste, fraud, or abuse. GATB will update its annual plan with 2013 accomplishments and 2014 objectives including issues of data analytics and data integrity and standardization for procurement and grants.

4. <u>Increase Transparency of Foreign Assistance</u>

Greater foreign aid transparency promotes effective development by helping recipient governments manage their aid flows and by empowering citizens to hold governments accountable for the use of foreign assistance. Increased transparency also supports evidence-based, data-driven approaches to foreign aid. As outlined in past OMB guidance to Federal agencies, by December 2015, agencies managing or implementing U.S. foreign assistance will establish an automated and timely process for publishing foreign aid data to <u>ForeignAssistance.gov</u>. Throughout 2014, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of State, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Treasury, and other agencies will work to add or expand detailed, timely, and high-quality foreign assistance data to ForeignAssistance.gov. The Department of State, as the lead agency for the U.S. government on this issue, will also continue to engage civil society organizations and the public online about the content and the use of the data on the website.

5. <u>Continue to Improve Performance.Gov</u>

<u>Performance.gov</u> provides a window to the public on the Administration's efforts to create a government that is more effective, efficient, innovative, and responsive. The Federal Government improved the website by publishing regular progress updates on agency and cross-agency goals. In 2014, the Federal Government will add new performance goals with implementation strategies as well as enhanced website functionality, such as data exports, to make the information more accessible and useable.

6. <u>Consolidate Import and Export Systems to Curb Corruption</u>

The Administration will develop guidelines for directing the consolidation of United States import/export systems to a "single window" platform to streamline business and regulatory transactions, promote transparency, and keep America competitive, safe, and secure.

7. Promote Public Participation in Community Spending Decisions

Participatory budgeting allows citizens to play a key role in identifying, discussing, and prioritizing public spending projects, and gives them a voice in how taxpayer dollars are spent. Several communities around the country, such as Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Vallejo, already have had success in, or are currently planning, participatory budgeting processes to help determine local budgeting priorities. One way participatory budgeting can be utilized by cities is through eligible Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing and Community Development funds, which can be used to promote affordable housing, provide services to the most vulnerable citizens, and create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. In 2014, the Administration will work in collaboration with the Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative (SC2), the National League of Cities, non-profit organizations, philanthropies, and interested cities to: create tools and best practices that communities can use to implement projects; raise awareness among other American communities that participatory budgeting can be used to help determine local investment priorities; and help educate communities on participatory budgeting and its benefits.

8. Expand Visa Sanctions to Combat Corruption

In early 2014, the U.S. Government will launch an interagency process to explore ways to strengthen U.S. efforts to deny safe haven to corrupt individuals. These efforts include the possibility of strengthening the Presidential Proclamation that denies safe haven in the United States to those who have committed, participated in, or were beneficiaries of corrupt practices in performing public functions. Although this 2004 Proclamation has proven useful in denying safe haven to kleptocrats and their associates and families, experience with its enforcement has revealed several potential areas for enhancement that the Administration will continue to explore.

Open Government to Improve Public Services

1. Further Expand Public Participation in the Development of Regulations

The Administration continues to promote public participation in rulemaking, which covers such diverse subjects as energy, education, homeland security, agriculture, food safety, environmental protection, health care, and airline and automobile safety. Regulations.gov and a related underlying electronic Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) support the rulemaking processes at most Administration and many independent regulatory agencies, and are designed to make it easier for the public to comment on proposed regulations and for government agencies to post those proposed rules online. The online platform currently allows the public to view and comment on proposed rules, and includes associated data in the docket that can be searched and downloaded. The Administration will:

- **Make Commenting on Proposed Rulemakings Easier.** The eRulemaking Program Management Office (PMO), which leads Regulations.gov and the FDMS, will explore launching an API to allow the public to comment on proposed regulations using third-party websites.

- **Continue Proactive Outreach with Stakeholders.** To be responsive to non-government users of Regulations.gov, the PMO will continue to proactively engage and meet with outside

stakeholder groups to obtain input on how best to improve the website.

- **Make Regulations Easier to Read.** The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau launched [an open source pilot](#) to make regulations easier to read and understand. Based on the performance of the pilot, the model will be considered for potential expansion to other agencies.

2. <u>Open Data to the Public</u>

Open Data fuels innovation that grows the economy and advances government transparency and accountability. Government data has been used by journalists to uncover variations in hospital billings, by citizens to learn more about the social services provided by charities in their communities, and by entrepreneurs building new software tools to help farmers plan and manage their crops. Building upon the successful implementation of open data commitments in the first NAP, the second NAP will include commitments to make government data more accessible and useful for the public. Through these commitments, the United States will:

- **Manage Government Data as a Strategic Asset.** In an effort to make U.S. Government data more accessible and useful, Federal agencies will develop an inventory of their data and publish a list of datasets that are public or can be made public. Agencies will also develop new mechanisms to solicit public feedback regarding open government data.

- **Launch an Improved Data.gov.** Data.gov allows the public to easily find, download, and use data collected or created by the Federal Government. The United States will launch a new version of Data.gov to make it even easier to discover, understand, and use open government data. The new Data.gov will index all Federal agency datasets in one easy-to-use catalog. This new website will help developers, researchers, journalists, and other stakeholders find data and will help the public more easily find tools and resources to access Government services.

- **Open Agriculture and Nutrition Data.** Global development, agriculture, and health have been a key focus of the Administration's Open Data Initiatives. To expand these efforts internationally, the United States, in partnership with the United Kingdom, established the Global Open Data on Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN). GODAN aims to increase the quality, quantity, and timeliness of available data to support agriculture and nutrition efforts — as well as to increase the number and diversity of stakeholders who are applying data-based solutions to improve agriculture and nutrition. This initiative will support public and private global efforts to make agriculture and nutrition data more available and easier to access. The United States will create an interagency group that will promote open data efforts in the public and private sectors and encourage new efforts to release agriculture and nutrition data.

- **Open Natural Disaster-Related Data to Support Response and Recovery Efforts.** Government data is used to help first responders and survivors make better-informed decisions during the chaos of a natural disaster. Expanding the amount of natural disaster-related open government data will increase awareness of the effects of natural disasters and improve disaster relief and recovery efforts. FEMA, through its [OpenFEMA](#) initiative, will release new disaster-

related data in a machine-readable format and host workshops to build tools that support first responders, survivors, and impacted communities.

3. <u>Continue to Pilot Expert Networking Platforms</u>

Expert networking platforms offer the potential for Government officials to find and connect with Federal colleagues, academic researchers, or members of the general public that have specialized skills or unique expertise. The pilot program ExpertNet, launched by the Food and Drug Administration to connect Federal experts with each other and with citizens who have expertise on a pertinent topic, will be expanded in 2014. The Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture are also working to leverage a similar networking platform to enable collaboration and discovery among researchers and scientists. The Administration will work with the research community to assess the impact of expert networking and will convene agencies to identify best practices.

4. <u>Reform Government Websites</u>

More citizens seek government information through the internet than any other source. In addition to continuing to be accessible, government websites should be easy to find, use, and navigate. The Administration will continue to work to implement its [Digital Government Strategy](#) to improve Federal websites and to promote a more citizen-centered government. These efforts will include revising and updating OMB policies for Federal Agency websites in 2014.

5. <u>Promote Innovation Through Collaboration and Harness the Ingenuity of the American Public</u>

Creating a more Open Government and addressing our Nation's most challenging issues requires an informed and active citizenry. Recognizing the value of the American public as a strategic partner in addressing some of the country's most pressing challenges, the United States will work to more effectively harness the expertise, ingenuity, and creativity of the American public by enabling, accelerating, and scaling the use of open innovation methods across the Federal Government, including commitments to:

- **Create an Open Innovation Toolkit.** In 2014, the Administration will convene an interagency group to develop an "open innovation toolkit" for Federal agencies that will include best practices, training, policies, and guidance on authorities related to open innovation, including approaches such as incentive prizes, crowdsourcing, and citizen science.

- **New Incentive Prizes and Challenges on Challenge.gov**. The U.S. Government champions the use of challenges, prizes, and competitions to catalyze breakthroughs in national priorities. Launched on September 2010, Challenge.gov has hosted more than 300 crowdsourcing competitions, and the platform has been used by more than 50 Federal departments and agencies. The website will continue to provide public listings of new competitions offered by the Administration to engage citizens in solving difficult problems to help agencies achieve their missions.

- **Increased Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Programs.** Public participation in scientific research, one type of crowdsourcing known as "citizen science", allows the public to make

critical contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math by collecting, analyzing, and sharing a wide range of data. The Administration will expand its use of crowdsourcing and citizen science programs to further engage the public in problem-solving. For example, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will seek to drastically increase the number of asteroid observations by the amateur astronomer community as part of the Asteroid Grand Challenge. NASA will also launch the third International Space Apps Challenge in 2014, building upon the previously successful International Space Apps Challenges to continue to use publicly-released data to solve global challenges. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency will expand its citizen science activities, such as leveraging crowdsourcing to monitor water quality; NARA will increase its citizen archivist crowdsourcing projects that make records more accessible online to include captioning of historical films and transcription of other Federal records by the public; and the U.S. Geological Survey will expand its National Map Corps program to use public input to improve the National Map.

Conclusion

In the months ahead, the U.S. Government will continue to work with partners in government, as well as the public and civil society organizations, to implement these commitments and to continue to build toward a more open, transparent, and participatory United States Government. The Obama Administration remains fully committed to building a 21st-Century Open Government and fundamentally improving the relationship between citizens and government, as demonstrated by the significant progress made in the United States' first two years as a member of the Open Government Partnership.