



Department of the Treasury

Open Government Plan 4.0

October 2016



Message from the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privacy, Transparency, and Records



As the Senior Agency Official for Open Government, I am pleased to present the U.S. Department of the Treasury's fourth Open Government Plan. This report documents Treasury's efforts to embrace the three pillars of open government: transparency, participation, and collaboration.

Inquiries about this report may be directed to the Office of Privacy, Transparency, and Records via e-mail at open@treasury.gov. This report, as well as previous reports, can be found on the Department's website, www.treasury.gov/open.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RLaw".

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Introduction

On January 21, 2009, President Obama issued the first executive memorandum of his Administration, entitled “[Transparency and Open Government](#)” (Open Government Memorandum). In it, the President established three guiding principles for the conduct of government activities: Government should be transparent, participatory, and collaborative. On December 8, 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued memorandum number M-10-06, “[Open Government Directive](#),” providing guidance to federal agencies on specific actions they must take to increase transparency, participation, and collaboration in government.

In May 2010, Treasury published its first Open Government Plan, which detailed the Department’s initial efforts to implement the Open Government Directive. In 2012, Treasury released Open Government Plan versions 2.0 and 2.1, which further described Treasury’s efforts to implement the principles of open government in Department operations and activities. In 2014, Treasury released Open Government Plan version 3.0, which described Treasury’s efforts to implement new and expanded open government initiatives.

Treasury continues to embrace the three pillars of open government – transparency, participation, and collaboration – to help further the Department’s mission, vision, values, and goals. Treasury’s Open Government Plan version 4.0 demonstrates this continuing commitment and describes past, ongoing, and future actions to achieve the objectives of the Open Government Memorandum.

Treasury’s Mission and Strategic Goals

Treasury’s open government strategy is aligned with the Department’s mission and strategic plan.¹ Treasury’s mission is to (1) maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting conditions that enable economic growth and stability at home and abroad; (2) strengthen national security by combating threats and protecting the integrity of the financial system; and (3) manage the U.S. government’s finances and resources effectively.

Treasury’s strategic goals are to (1) promote domestic economic growth and stability while continuing reforms of the financial system; (2) enhance U.S. competitiveness and job creation, and promote international financial stability and more balanced global growth; (3) fairly and effectively reform and modernize federal financial management, accounting, and tax systems; (4) safeguard the financial system and use financial measures to counter national security threats; and (5) create a 21st century approach to government by improving efficiency, effectiveness, and customer interaction. Department employees demonstrate the principles of open government on a daily basis in support of Treasury’s strategic goals.

¹ See the Department of the Treasury’s [Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2017](#).

Treasury's Open Government Goals

Goal 1: Increase transparency efforts.

- Increase agency accountability and responsiveness through transparency efforts;
- Improve public knowledge of the agency and its operations;
- Further the core mission of the agency;
- Create economic opportunity; and
- Respond to need and demand as identified through public requests.

Goal 2: Expand participation.

- Promote opportunities for the public to participate throughout the decision-making process; and
- Create an interactive platform for the people who benefit from our assistance.

Goal 3: Expand collaboration efforts.

- Improve technology and tools as enablers of knowledge generation, sharing, exchange, application, and use; and
- Increase innovation as a source of new ideas, new solutions and approaches, and conversations about challenges being addressed.

Treasury's Organizational Structure

Treasury is organized into Departmental Offices (DO), seven bureaus, and three inspectors general.

DO is composed of offices that are responsible for establishing policy and for overall management of Treasury. DO Offices include Domestic Finance, International Affairs, Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Economic Policy, Tax Policy, The Treasurer of the United States, Management, General Counsel, Legislative Affairs, and Public Affairs.

The ***Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)*** collects federal excise taxes on alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and ammunition and is responsible for enforcing and administering laws covering the production, use, and distribution of alcohol and tobacco products.

The ***Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)*** develops and produces U.S. currency notes that are trusted worldwide.

The ***Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)*** safeguards the financial system from illicit use and combats money laundering and promotes national security through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of financial intelligence and strategic use of financial authorities.

The ***Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service)*** – previously the Financial Management Service and the Bureau of the Public Debt – provides central payment services to federal program agencies, operates the U.S. government's collections and deposit systems, provides government-wide accounting and reporting services, and manages the collection of delinquent debt owed to the U.S. government. In addition, the Fiscal Service borrows the money needed to

operate the U.S. government through the sale of marketable, savings, and special-purpose U.S. Treasury securities, and accounts for and services the public debt.

The ***Internal Revenue Service (IRS)*** is the largest of the Department's bureaus and determines, assesses, and collects tax revenue in the United States.

The ***United States Mint (U.S. Mint)*** designs, mints, and issues U.S. circulating and bullion coins, prepares and distributes numismatic coins and other items, and strikes Congressional Gold Medals and other medals of national significance. The Mint maintains physical custody and protection of most of the nation's gold and all of its silver assets.

The ***Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)*** charters, regulates, and supervises national banks and federal savings associations to promote a safe, sound, and competitive banking system that supports the citizens, communities, and economy of the United States. The OCC also supervises federal branches and agencies of foreign banks. Effective July 21, 2011, Title III of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act transferred to the OCC responsibility for the supervision of federal savings associations (thrifts) and rule-making authority for all savings associations.

Inspectors General – Three inspectors general—the Treasury Inspector General, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, and the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program—provide independent audits, investigations, and oversight of Treasury and its programs.

New and Expanded Initiatives

In October 2015, the Administration released the “[Third Open Government National Action Plan for the United States of America](#),” which included 40 new or expanded open government commitments. Treasury’s Open Government Plan 4.0 describes actions it has taken to implement the new and expanded initiatives in open data; proactive disclosure; privacy; whistleblower protection; websites; open innovation methods; and access to scientific data and publications, open source software, and spending information.

A. Open Data

Treasury operates and oversees the government’s central financial accounting and reporting system. This role is critical to helping ensure the proper management of the nation’s finances and public confidence in the U.S. government. In this role, Treasury collects, analyzes, and publishes government-wide financial information, which is used to establish fiscal and debt management policies. The public and private sectors also use this information to monitor the government’s financial status, which in turn informs their business decisions.

By successfully partnering with our government agency customers, Treasury has advanced federal financial management and administrative services across the government. Treasury has made great strides to improve financial accounting and reporting, made Treasury’s collection and payment processes more efficient, and modernized the federal financial management infrastructure.

Treasury’s accomplishments in this area include:

- Implementing the Central Accounting and Reporting System (CARS) as the central accounting system of record for the federal government, with nearly 90% of Treasury-disbursed agencies migrated to full CARS reporting.
- Establishing the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury as a significant reporting entity and beginning quarterly reconciliations with agencies of General Fund intra-governmental transactions.
- Migrating the reporting of trial balance data by all federal entities to the Government-wide Treasury Account Symbol (GTAS) Adjusted Trial Balance System.
- Establishing the initial data standards for federal spending transparency.
- Implementing e-commerce pilots across more than 30 agencies. The expansion of e-commerce is part of an ongoing Treasury initiative to move away from paper-based processes to more efficient and secure electronic transactions for the federal government. E-commerce provides a convenient, simple, and improved customer experience through innovation while achieving cost effectiveness for the federal government.
 - Digital Wallets (PayPal and Dwolla) generated over 30,000 transactions totaling more than \$5,000,000.
 - Online bill payment generated over 370,000 transactions totaling more than \$100,000,000.

- Implementing Executive Order 13681, “Improving the Security of Consumer Financial Transactions,” by replacing or retiring 3,435 standalone point-of-sale payment card terminals with Europay, MasterCard, and Visa (EMV) chip and PIN-enabled terminals.
- Fully or partially converting nine Non-Treasury Disbursing Organizations or Entities to Treasury Disbursed, including alternative payment methods, international services, and phased conversions.

By May 2017, federal agencies must report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards Treasury and OMB established under the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act). When fully implemented, the DATA Act will make federal spending data more accessible, searchable, and reliable, and will make it easier for citizens to understand how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars. Treasury, in collaboration with OMB, provides various tools to assist agencies in the implementation process, and continues outreach efforts to keep public and private stakeholders informed of DATA Act implementation issues and progress.

Additionally, the DATA Act directs Treasury to report to Congress on agency noncompliance with a new administrative offset referral requirement. This new requirement requires agencies to refer to Treasury legally enforceable, non-tax debts that are over 120 days delinquent for the purpose of administrative offset. Previously, agencies were required to refer such debts when they were over 180 days delinquent. To support compliance and the timely collection of delinquent non-tax debts, Fiscal Service has modified the Treasury Report on Receivables (TROR) to automatically capture referral information. Agencies began reporting to the TROR their first quarter 2016 data in January 2016. TROR information is presented to the public through [Treasury's Transparency site](#), a website designed to simplify and streamline the public reporting of the financial data that Treasury receives from federal agencies.

Fiscal Service's Centralized Receivables Service (CRS) pilot improves agencies' management of their current receivables portfolio, reduces the percentage of delinquent receivables, and refers delinquent receivables to Treasury's Cross-Servicing Program for collection. CRS also improves data quality and compliance, promotes efficiency, and enables agencies to focus on their core missions.

Treasury is working with agencies to increase electronic collections and to provide a suite of next generation electronic payment alternatives targeted to provide greater convenience, ease of use, and a better overall customer experience. Treasury is encouraging agencies to take advantage of innovative e-commerce solutions such as online bill payment, digital wallets (PayPal and Dwolla are currently available, and Amazon Payments will be available later in 2016), and the Mobile App Program, which allows agency personnel and the public to use mobile applications on smartphones for federal agency revenue collections.

Treasury took significant steps in 2015 to strengthen the integrity, security, and efficiency of the federal payment process. Improved procedures have enhanced funds recovery efforts and returned nearly \$12 billion in misdirected disbursed funds to federal payment agencies. Our extensive efforts in fraud detection and deterrence led to the recovery of millions of dollars and 138 convictions.

Likewise, the Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 mandates that a review of all payments and awards be conducted through Treasury's Do Not Pay Business Center, which partners with federal agencies to prevent, reduce, stop improper payments, and identify potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The Fiscal Service will continue to enhance the Do Not Pay Analytics Center by deploying a long term analytics solution and working collaboratively with agencies to identify opportunities to expand the services offered to the user community. By the end of FY 2016, we will have implemented a Payment Integrity Program to assist in the prevention, detection, and remediation of improper payments and the reduction of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Treasury will draw on the [U.S. Digital Service's](#) recently released playbook to make USASpending.gov an effective digital services project, including agile approaches to make rapid improvements in two-week sprints for the DATA Act implementation.

Treasury has developed a data-centric, iterative approach for DATA Act implementation to minimize cost and burden. This approach differs from the traditional "system-centric" way of collecting, aggregating, and validating data from agencies. The data-centric approach helps minimize system changes across all agencies to collect information and instead focuses on managing data in a more streamlined way. Data can be collected and compiled from disparate sources and generated into a computer-readable and industry standard format, which makes it portable and easier to extract and analyze.

Treasury has several initiatives underway aimed at improving the quality and integrity of government-wide financial data and reporting, including:

- Leveraging capabilities of both the Intra-governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) system and the Invoice Processing Platform (IPP) to introduce a new "G-Invoicing" solution aimed at improving the quality of intra-governmental buy/sell transactional data.
- Expanding the use of GTAS data in the compilation of the Financial Report of the U.S. Government (FR). This effort should not only improve Treasury's FR compilation process, but also reduce agency reporting burden in the process.
- Aggressively pursuing auditability of the FR. Treasury has established a plan to remediate several material weaknesses contributing to the longstanding disclaimer of opinion on the FR.
- Delivering smarter shared services. The Fiscal Service's shared services provide superior reimbursable administrative and information technology services to over 80 agencies.

Treasury Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

To make Treasury's data more accessible and available to the public, the Department has implemented several APIs and has several more under development:

Existing Treasury APIs:

- [Treasury Auction Announcement and Results](#)
- [Consumer Price Index for Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities](#)
- [Latest Debt to the Penny](#)

- [Treasury Offset Program State Program Data](#)
- [Treasury Offset Program Federal Collections Data](#)
- [Treasury Report on Receivables](#)
- Delinquent Debt (Multiple APIs)
 - Accruals
 - Receivables (Multiple Receivables)
 - [Referral to Treasury Offset Program \(TOP\)](#)
 - Referral to Treasury
 - Collection on Delinquent Debt
- [Annual Debt Outstanding](#)
- [Exchange Rates](#)
- [State and Local Government Securities Data](#)
- [Federal Investment Program Rates and Prices](#)
- [U.S. Government Gold Reserve](#)
- [Revenue Collections Management Collections Information Repository](#)
- [Treasury Data Registry](#)
- [Transparency.Treasury.gov \(Multiple APIs\)](#)

Treasury APIs in Development:

- [Savings Bond Calculator](#)
- [Average Interest Rates on U.S. Treasury Securities](#)
- [Interest Expense on the Debt Outstanding](#)
- [U.S. Government Balance Sheets](#)
- [Unemployment Trust Funds Quarterly Yields](#)
- Gift Contributions to Reduce Debt Held by the Public Statements of Net Cost

Treasury Open Data Events

Treasury holds several forums and conferences each year to increase collaboration and participation by and between its federal and state government partners.

- **Data Transparency Town Hall to Kick-Off DATA Act Implementation**
 With the enactment of the DATA Act, Treasury hosted a Data Transparency Town Hall to kick off the government-wide implementation of the federal financial transparency legislation. Senior officials from the White House, Treasury, and all major federal agencies and non-federal stakeholders participated in the one-day town hall meeting devoted to learning about DATA Act implementation, hearing from members of the public about the importance of federal spending transparency, and learning from experts on what is possible from a technical perspective. This town hall is part of Treasury and the OMB's efforts to foster a two-way communication and collaboration with federal and non-federal stakeholders.
- **Shared Services Workshop**

The Office of Financial Innovation and Transformation (FIT) conducted a Shared Services Workshop. This workshop brought together industry experts in shared services to assist in identifying next steps for federal financial management shared services based upon recent studies conducted by several industry associations. The associations who conducted the studies are the American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council, the Partnership for Public Service, and the Association of Government Accountants. The event provided a venue to discuss the studies and gather stakeholder input.

- **2016 Intragovernmental Transactions (IGT) Day**
The Fiscal Service hosted the 2016 IGT Day for federal agencies.
- **JFMIP Federal Financial Management Conference**
The Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) is a collaborative undertaking of the Department of the Treasury, the Government Accountability Office, OMB, and the Office of Personnel Management. It held a conference to discuss ways to improve and coordinate financial management policies and practices throughout the government.
- **Annual IPP Agency Forum and User Group Meeting**
During the annual Invoice Processing Platform (IPP) meeting, the Fiscal Service IPP team presented new perspectives on how IPP is improving government efficiency and customer service through electronic invoicing.
- **Annual Government-wide Federal Receivables Management Symposium: Milestone Twenty: 1996 - 2016 and Beyond**
During this symposium, federal agency participants learned how the Fiscal Service could help identify, prevent, collect, and resolve an agency's receivables.
- **Pay.gov Forum**
The Revenue Collections Management division of Fiscal Service hosted a Pay.gov Forum.
- **Fiscal Service Advisory Council Payments Forum**
Treasury hosted the Fiscal Service Advisory Council Payments Forum. The forum provided a unique opportunity for federal agencies to hear first-hand updates related to federal government payment products, services, and initiatives.
- **26th Annual Government Financial Management Conference**
This training event covers the latest developments in federal financial management practices, systems, and operations. Federal financial management experts from Treasury, OMB, the Federal Reserve System, and other partners and agents lead all the sessions.

B. Proactive Disclosure

Proactive disclosure is an integral part of Treasury's transparency policy. The Department routinely makes the following types of records and information available:

- Treasury's FOIA offices routinely make records and information available in advance of requests for such information. Treasury's [FOIA Library](#) contains links to each individual Treasury bureau's FOIA library.
- Treasury proactively processes and discloses [FOIA logs](#), which contain information about requests made under the FOIA.

- Treasury posts the [Secretary's calendar](#) in the FOIA Library on a quarterly basis.
- Treasury's [Press Center](#) provides public access to current and historical press releases, speeches, statements, testimony, and op-eds.
- Treasury actively discloses Department news, photographs, and videos through Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, and YouTube. Treasury's social feeds can be accessed on Treasury's [social media page](#).
- Treasury discloses contract award information through the [Federal Procurement Data System](#).
- Treasury posts [a list of payments](#) made under the 1603 program for Specified Renewable Energy Property in Lieu of Tax Credits.
- Treasury has made available dozens of data sets at [data.gov](#), including but not limited to the Treasury Reporting Rates of Exchange, the Monthly Statement of the Public Debt, the Financial Report of the United States Government, and the Daily Treasury Statement. A full list of available Treasury data sets is available at [treasury.gov/data](#).
- Beginning in 2014, FinCEN has made [SAR Stats](#), an annual review of aggregated Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs), available to the public. Additionally, in 2015, in response to a large number of public requests for more current, aggregated SAR data, FinCEN added the [Interactive SAR Stats](#) tool to its website. The tool enables users to search FinCEN's data for aggregated counts of defined suspicious activities, sector by sector, or in combination. FinCEN updates the data monthly, allowing users to access the most up to date information quickly.
- In addition to providing links to published tax guidance, the IRS also provides advance releases of [Internal Revenue Bulletins](#), Proposed Regulations, and weekly compilations of announcements and notices online where the public may proactively weigh in on proposed rulings, guidance, and programs.
- The IRS proactively discloses the following types of frequently requested information:
 - [Active Enrolled Agents Listing](#)
 - [Automated Lien System \(ALS\) Database Listing](#)
 - [Document 6209, ADP and IDRS Information](#)
 - [Document 11734, Transaction Code Pocket Guide](#)
 - [Ponzi Scheme Guidance](#)
 - [Procedures for requesting a private letter ruling](#)
 - [Return Preparer PTIN Listing](#)

Treasury proactively posts records and information concerning ongoing Department initiatives and current events in advance of requests for such information, for example:

- Treasury proactively posts correspondence, reports, statements, press releases, op-eds, and testimony concerning the [debt limit](#).
- Treasury routinely publicly discloses [information about meetings](#) with private sector individuals or entities and nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of discussing policy implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act.
- Treasury publishes [meeting minutes](#) of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.
- TTB regularly updates and publishes a [list](#) of alcohol industry members who hold permits under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act. These permits allow for the production, bottling, importation, or distribution of beverage alcohol products. In addition to making

the list available on our site, TTB distributes weekly updates to more than 12,000 users who have subscribed to receive updates to that page.

- TTB also publishes [monthly statistics and data](#) on the production and operations of the alcohol and tobacco industry members.
- The IRS has made dozens of data sets available through the [Statistics of Income](#) program. The Statistics of Income home page provides a wide range of tables, articles, and data that describe and measure elements of the U.S. tax system.

C. Privacy

Treasury prepares and publishes various privacy compliance reports, including the Chief Privacy Officer Annual Report to Congress, the Senior Agency Official for Privacy reporting required under the Federal Information Security Management Act, the Federal Agency Data Mining Report, the Privacy and Civil Liberties Assessment required under Executive Order 13636, and the Biennial Computer Matching Activity Report. These reports are available on [Treasury's website](#).

A list of Treasury's Privacy Act System of Records Notices, which includes links to the notices published in the Federal Register, are also available on [Treasury's website](#).

[31 CFR, Subtitle A, Part 1, Subpart C, Sections 1.26 and 1.27](#) govern how an individual can request access to an amend their records under the Privacy Act. Information and instructions on submitting a request can be accessed on [Treasury's website](#).

Treasury's online privacy policies can be accessed at the links below:

- DO, <http://www.treasury.gov/SitePolicies/Pages/privacy.aspx>
- TIGTA, <https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/important.shtml>
- Mint, <http://www.usmint.gov/policy/>
- IRS, <http://www.irs.gov/privacy/index.html>
- BEP, <http://moneyfactory.gov/privacystatements.html>
- OCC, <http://www.occ.gov/about/policies/web-privacy-policy.html>
- Fiscal Service, <http://www.fms.treas.gov/privacy.html>
- TTB, http://www.ttb.gov/about/privacy_policy.shtml
- FinCEN, <https://www.fincen.gov/privacy-security>

D. Whistleblower Protection

The Department recognizes that the effectiveness of its whistleblower protection program is critical to transparency in government operations. The Department does not tolerate retaliation against whistleblowers. Consistent with the amendments to the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA), Treasury has implemented a number of measures to strengthen whistleblower protections, including:

- Providing notice and training for its employees of their rights and responsibilities under the WPA;

- Posting information on Treasury’s internal and external websites advising employees of their rights under the WPA, including those governing disclosures to Congress;
- Proactively updating the Department’s non-disclosure agreements through an addendum to the SF-312,² informing employees with security clearances that these agreements do not supersede their right to disclose information lawfully to Congress;
- Circulating the revised addendum to the SF-312 directly to all employees holding security clearances and mandating that the employee review, sign, and return the addendum to the Office of Security Programs;
- Revising the Department’s security directive, consistent with the requirements of the recently issued Presidential Policy Directive 19,³ to provide for a fair and expeditious process for reviewing retaliation claims that relate to determinations of eligibility for access to classified information;
- Designating an ombudsman within the office of the [Inspector General](#), [SIGTARP](#), and [TIGTA](#) to further educate employees as to their rights, responsibilities, and remedies under the anti-retaliation laws, under the WPA;
- Working, through the ombudsman, to inform employees who disclose information of their rights, responsibilities, and remedies under the anti-retaliation laws, and provide advisory services and support to whistleblowers, which may include a formal investigation by an Inspector General investigation; and
- Making access to Whistleblower Ombudsmen easier for employees and contractors by posting the contact information on the Office of Inspector General’s [website](#).

On October 31, 2016, Treasury received official notification that the Office of Special Counsel’s 2302(c) certification program approved our application. Qualifying for the certification was another part of Treasury’s efforts to inform employees of their rights and remedies under the WPA, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, and the Civil Service Reform Act.

These actions reflect Treasury’s continued commitment to protecting employees’ rights to make lawful disclosures without fear of reprisal. For more information, please refer to Treasury’s [Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman site](#).

E. Websites

As part of its [Digital Government Strategy](#), Treasury has implemented the Google Analytics tool and ForeSee customer survey tool on most of its public facing websites. The metrics collected by these tools are being used to improve the content of Treasury’s websites. Treasury contributes to the [Analytics.USA.gov website](#) through its participation in the federal-wide Digital Analytics Program (DAP), where Treasury currently reports on 37 domains.

In addition, Treasury is working diligently to make its services and publications available anytime, anywhere, and on any device. The following mobile applications and open data

² The SF-312 is a non-disclosure agreement that restricts disclosure of classified information.

³ Signed by the President on October 10, 2012, PPD-19’s requirements include strengthening whistleblower protections for employees holding security clearances.

services or APIs reflect Treasury's ongoing commitment to align public-facing government services with 21st century expectations:

- Treasury is making its publications available in mobile formats. For example, the [2014-2017 Treasury Strategic Plan](#) and [Treasury 2001-2017 Budget in Brief](#) are available in EPUB format and are accessible on most mobile devices and e-readers.
- Treasury unveiled its new *Treasury Mobile Tour and History App*, designed for smartphones and other small handheld devices. The app gives the public access to photographs and a detailed history of the historic Main Treasury building.
- *Direct Express*, a free mobile app developed by the Fiscal Service that is rich with financial capability and literacy tools. This app is especially vital to those who depend on monthly federal benefit payments as a primary or sole source of income, because it delivers essential financial tools for individuals to take charge of their own finances.
- *IRS2Go*, a free mobile app developed by the IRS, provides access to tax tips, news, and the relevant tools to help navigate taxes and the IRS. The app also allows individuals to check on the status of their tax return and request a transcript of their return. *IRS2GO* is currently supported on Apple and Android devices and is available in English and Spanish.
- *EyeNote*, a free mobile app developed by the BEP, identifies denominations of U.S. currency as an aid for the visually impaired and works with or without network connectivity or equipment modification. *EyeNote* is currently supported on most Apple devices and is available in English and Spanish.
- The OCC and TTB have optimized their public facing websites for customers using mobile devices.

F. Open Innovation Methods

In June 2016, the IRS completed a crowdsourcing competition, the Tax Design Challenge, under the authority of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. No. 111-358). As part of a broader effort to plan for the future of tax administration, the three-week competition invited the public to imagine the taxpayer experience of the future and specifically design an online experience that better organizes and presents a person's tax information. The goal was to make it easier for a person to manage their tax responsibilities, and use their own tax data to make informed and effective decisions about their personal finances.

Out of 48 submissions, winners from California, Minnesota, and Washington, D.C., were among those selected in categories covering overall design, taxpayer usefulness, and best financial capability.

The competition engaged teams of designers, developers, and innovative thinkers across the country to envision options for taxpayer interactions. The Mortgage Bankers Association funded the monetary prizes, and winners were recognized at an event in Washington.

H. Open Source Software

Treasury is committed to providing the public with software and coding concurrently as it is in development by publishing data in a CSV format this eases the analysis and automation process for developers when using government data, in line with the [Open Data](#) initiative.

Treasury has published more than 238 data sets on [data.gov](#), the centralized platform to find open data from federal agencies. Treasury's open data catalog also is available in machine readable format, which uses the [common core metadata schema](#) for federal agency open data listings.

Treasury's datasets include:

- **Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List, [OFAC SDN List](#) and [XSD](#)**
As part of its enforcement efforts, Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control publishes a list of individuals and companies owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of, targeted countries. It also lists individuals, groups, and entities, such as terrorists and narcotics traffickers, designated under programs that are not country-specific. Collectively, such individuals and companies are called "Specially Designated Nationals" or "SDNs." Their assets are blocked and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from dealing with them. More information on Treasury's sanctions programs is available [on Treasury's website](#).
- **Auction Schedule of U.S. Treasury Securities, [Debt Auction Schedule](#) (XML) and [XSD](#)**
Treasury sells bills, notes, bonds, FRNs, and TIPS at regularly scheduled auctions. The schedule of Treasury securities auctions is released at the Treasury's Quarterly Refunding press conference, usually held on the first Wednesday of February, May, August, and November. The [Auction Query](#) also is available to download data in CSV, JSON, TSV and XML formats.
- **Daily Treasury Yield Curve Rates, [XSD](#)**
This curve, which relates the yield on a security to its time to maturity, is based on the closing market bid yields on actively traded Treasury securities in the over-the-counter market. These market yields are calculated from composites of quotations obtained by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. For information on how the Treasury's yield curve is derived, visit our [Treasury Yield Curve Methodology page](#). This is also made available through [Federal Reserve System \(H.15\)](#) & [Federal Reserve Economic Data](#).
- **Daily Treasury Bill Rates, [XSD](#)**
These rates are composites of closing market bid quotations on recently issued Treasury Bills in the over-the-counter market as obtained by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at approximately 3:30 PM each business day. Rates are also made available through [Federal Reserve System \(H.15\)](#) & [Federal Reserve Economic Data](#).
- **United States Mint Product Information Updates, [Product Information Updates](#)**
This lists United States Mint's products and their descriptions.
- **Tax Preparation Software Developers**
IRS requires all tax preparation software used for preparing electronic returns to pass the requirements for [Modernized e-File Assurance Testing \(ATS\)](#). The [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) User Guides & Publications](#) provides general information and technical guidance for Electronic Return Originators, Software Developers and Transmitters who participate in [MeF](#). [MeF](#) provides general information and technical guidance for Electronic Return

Originators, Software Developers and Transmitters who participate in [Modernized e-File \(MeF\).MeF](#).

I. Spending Information

Treasury continues to work as the lead agency in the USASpending.gov initiative. To read more about the progress of this initiative, please see our flagship initiative titled, [Public Participation in the Development of USASpending.gov](#).

Ongoing Initiatives

Treasury continues to work on open government initiatives identified in its previous plans.

A. Participation in Transparency Initiatives

To read more about progress Treasury has made toward increasing transparency, please see our flagship initiatives below titled [The New 10](#), [Creating Transparency by Proactively Releasing Nonprofit Tax Filings](#), [Developing Transparency.treasury.gov](#), [Public Participation in the Development of USASpending.gov](#), [Increasing Transparency by Promoting Feedback to Stakeholders](#), [Increasing Transparency of Legal Entities Formed in the United States](#) and [Meaningful Access](#).

B. Public Notice

Treasury uses a variety of resources to keep the public informed of significant actions and business of the Department.

Treasury publishes on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, and other social media to share the Department videos, photographs, and news with the public. Treasury's social feeds are on Treasury's [social media page](#). Notice of public meetings, press conferences, and daily schedules are available in Treasury's [Press Center](#). Video and webcasts are available in Treasury's [Webcast Center](#).

C. Records Management

Treasury continues to promote openness and accountability through compliance with the Federal Records Act, Presidential Memorandum on [Managing Government Records](#), and [OMB Memorandum M-12-18](#) (Managing Government Records Directive). Treasury is committed to developing policy, educating Treasury personnel, and modernizing compliance processes to reflect the evolving nature of records management in the digital age.

Treasury continues to provide tailored, online records training for employees and contractors. Treasury has augmented these efforts by developing mandatory records training for incoming and departing personnel. Treasury records schedules are publicly available at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) [website](#).

During FY 2014, Treasury conducted a triennial assessment of its bureau records management programs. The assessment identified opportunities to enhance compliance with generally accepted recordkeeping principles; assessed risks based on identified gaps; and assisted bureaus in developing priorities and assigning accountability for further program improvements.

To comply with OMB Memorandum M-12-18, and specifically its requirement that agencies manage email records in an accessible electronic format by December 31, 2016, Treasury is in the process of adopting NARA's Capstone approach to email management. Under this approach, Treasury will manage all email messages electronically in a manner that complies with applicable law, policy, and OMB and NARA guidance. Furthermore, Treasury will manage email messages based upon the user's role or position, rather than the content of individual email messages.

As part of this effort, Treasury is developing department-wide policy, including a Treasury Directive and related guidance on email management. Treasury is also in the process of obtaining NARA approval to adopt the General Records Schedule for email managed under Capstone. Implementation efforts to date include drafting IT policies that will govern Capstone and non-Capstone accounts, developing rules on applying litigation and other administrative "holds" to email records, and establishing human resources processes to identify new and legacy Capstone employees. The Department is also developing Capstone training and awareness to educate senior leadership and employees in DO and serve as a model for Treasury bureau training.

To comply with the OMB Memorandum M-12-18 requirement that agencies manage all permanent electronic records in an electronic format by December 31, 2019, Treasury has championed the adoption of electronic content management platforms capable of carrying out critical records management functions. Treasury continues to provide training on records management capabilities and making the transition to an all-electronic records management system. Treasury has also introduced digitization initiatives to migrate paper-based records to digital records centers.

D. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

Treasury is committed to applying the President's directive regarding the presumption of openness to all FOIA decisions, including increased proactive disclosures and discretionary releases consistent with the Department's responsibility to protect national security, personal privacy, privileged records, and other interests.

Treasury's Annual Chief FOIA Officer Report assesses the Department's capability to process and respond to FOIA requests effectively, efficiently, and in a timely manner. Copies of this report are available on [Treasury's website](#).

Although Treasury does not have a significant backlog of FOIA requests, the Department continues to focus its efforts on responding to requests in a timely manner.

During FY16, Treasury implemented an online status check tool that allows FOIA requesters to check on the status of their requests online. During FY17, Treasury will conduct a full review

and update of the Department's FOIA websites, update Treasury's FOIA regulations, and revise Treasury Directive 25-05, "The Freedom of Information Act" to incorporate changes to the FOIA in light of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016.

E. Congressional Requests

Treasury's [Office of Legislative Affairs](#) continues to serve as the principal contact and coordinator for all Department interaction with Congress and the Congressional relations offices in the White House and other Departments and agencies. Legislative Affairs develops strategies to implement initiatives that require legislation, communicates Treasury's positions to Congress, and keeps the Department informed of Congressional objectives, concerns, activities, and interests. In addition, Legislative Affairs responds directly to Congressional inquiries and facilitates replies from other offices in the Department, monitors the flow of Congressional correspondence to ensure accurate and prompt response, coordinates officials' testimony before Congressional Committees, and advises the Department on Congressional concerns during policy formation.

F. Declassification

Treasury Order 105-19, "Delegation of Original Classification Authority; Requirements for Downgrading and Declassification," was updated in 2011 to reflect delegations of both original classification authority and downgrading and declassification authority. Treasury has completed significant declassification activities over the past several years, including allowing, with certain exceptions, classified information to be automatically declassified after 25 years. Declassification activities are ongoing. Treasury follows NARA's guidelines for declassification. More information is available at [NARA's declassification website](#).

G. Public Participation

Treasury continues to promote opportunities for public participation in its decision making processes. As described below, Treasury routinely seeks the public's feedback and input.

In 2015, Treasury decided to engage the public in the currency redesign process. Treasury turned to the Public Participation playbook on how best to engage the public in the development of the new currency. Treasury decided to use a multi-tiered path approach to involving the public in the decision making process. Treasury launched the website [Modern Money](#) to provide the platform for communicating with the American people during the redesign process. During this process Secretary Lew, Deputy Secretary Raskin, Treasurer Rios, and other Administration officials reached out to the public through roundtables, town halls, and other meetings to collect input. Treasury also identified what channels people were most likely to use and devised a large social media campaign to be incorporated in the awareness plan. This push allowed Treasury to review comments submitted via the [website](#), as well as those posted on various social media outlets, including Facebook and Twitter, using the "TheNew10" hashtag, or #TheNew10. The use of hashtags was a creative approach for Treasury to enhance public engagement, while making engaging an easier process for the public. By creating numerous avenues for public response, Treasury was able to foster broad participation and involve more citizens in the decision-making process. The success of the public participation campaign led Secretary Lew to

direct Bureau of Engraving and Printing to work closely with the Federal Reserve to accelerate work on the new \$20 and \$5 notes. To read more about the progress Treasury has made with this initiative please see our flagship initiative titled, [*The New 10 – Using Public Participation to Develop United States Currency*](#).

Treasury is committed to designing responsive, accessible, intuitive, mobile-ready tools that can be rendered in multiple formats on a wide range of platforms. Please see our [Website](#) section, above, for more information on the progress Treasury has made with our mobile-ready tools.

Since Congress passed the DATA Act in 2014, OMB and Treasury have engaged with the communities that create and use government data and taken important first steps towards creating a more data driven government and making federal data more transparent and available to the public. As a result of input from our partners in Congress, industry stakeholders, federal agencies, and taxpayers through feedback on our public [GitHub collaboration space](#), all agencies will use [57 final data standards](#) for all federal spending data posted on USAspending.gov, the federal government's one-stop shop for spending data. Conversation and collaboration with the public has been key to our progress thus far and we encourage you to visit our online [collaboration space](#) on GitHub for more information on these proposed standards. In addition to data standards, we have been testing new formats for exchanging data across the federal government. In particular, Treasury's pilots have demonstrated how we can digitally tag award data through the extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) format. Treasury released the DATA Act Information Model Schema (DAIMS) version 1.0 in April 2016, to include data elements that capture account-level outlays and the schema will continue to be refined with public input. To read more about the progress Treasury has made with this initiative please see our flagship initiative titled, [*Public Participation in the Development of USAspending.gov*](#).

The public can engage in existing agency participatory processes through [Regulations.gov](#) and [USA.gov/developer](#). Treasury continues to look for ways to include public participation in policymaking.

H. Collaboration

Treasury collaborates with a range of partners and continues to expand its collaboration efforts as described in the initiatives below.

North American Tobacco Regulatory Network Technical Forum

In 2012, TTB's Tobacco Laboratory organized and helped to establish the first annual North American Tobacco Regulatory Network Technical Forum, NATRLIN. The second forum was held on September 19, 2013, at the National Laboratory Center in Beltsville, MD. The discussions included tobacco related issues such as (1) current or emerging issues in Tobacco Regulation and Research; (2) challenges in Tobacco Regulation, Enforcement and Analysis; and (3) collaboration and alignment of Tobacco Laboratory Research Activities. The discussions also included regulatory and enforcement challenges of emerging products such as electronic cigarettes, shisha, herbal, and tobacco free products. Forty scientists and regulators representing 11 federal agencies from the United States, Canada, and Mexico participated in the second NATRLN forum. More information can also be found in [TTB's annual report](#).

Collaboration with the University Community - Student Employment Program

Treasury continues to expand its collaboration efforts with college and university student employment programs. Treasury's Student Employment Programs provide an opportunity for students to gain professional experience and build leadership skills while contributing significantly to the Treasury mission.

Vendor Outreach Sessions

Treasury's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Programs counsels small businesses of all types (including small disadvantaged business, women-owned small businesses, veteran owned small businesses, service disabled veteran owned small businesses, and small businesses located in historically underutilized business zones) on procedures for contracting with Treasury and conducts monthly vendor outreach sessions.

I. Flagship Initiatives

The New 10 – Using Public Participation to Develop United States Currency

Treasury uses social media websites and applications to engage in dialog with members of the public to promote transparency, improve public access to government information, and encourage public participation and collaboration. In accordance with the President's Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government⁴ and the Director of OMB's Open Government Directive Memorandum,⁵ Treasury upholds the three principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration to foster a culture of open government throughout the Department. Treasury is dedicated to being an agency that seeks out public participation and believes that engaging the public enhances effectiveness and improves the quality of the decision making process.

In 2015, Secretary Lew announced with a [press release](#) that the U.S. Department of the Treasury would be asking the American people to share ideas, symbols, and designs for the new \$10 note that would reflect what democracy means to them. Treasury launched the website <https://modernmoney.treasury.gov/> to provide the platform for communicating with the American people. Historically, the Secretary has relied on the BEP to provide advice on themes, symbols, and concepts to be used on currency. However, for the newly redesigned \$10 note, the Secretary sought input from the public about what qualities best represent democracy to help guide the design process for the next generation of notes.

Treasury officials conducted roundtables, town halls, and other meetings to collect input from the public. Treasury also reviewed comments submitted via the [website](#) as well as those posted on social media using "TheNew10" hashtag, or #TheNew10. Numerous Americans participated in a robust national discussion about what unique American stories should be told on the new currency.

⁴ Transparency and Open Government Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies https://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/TransparencyandOpenGovernment

⁵ OMB Memorandum M-10-06, Open Government Directive https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-06.pdf

The success of the public participation campaign has led Secretary Lew to direct the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) to work closely with the Federal Reserve to accelerate work on the new \$20 and \$5 notes. The press release can be viewed [here](#). Treasury's goal is to have all three new notes go into circulation as quickly as possible, while protecting against counterfeiting through effective and sophisticated production.

Creating Transparency by Proactively Releasing Nonprofit Tax Filings

Tax filings for nonprofit organizations contain data that is legally required to be publicly released (pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6104). Accessing the filings generally requires a request from the public, which can include a FOIA request, and results in more than 40 million pages provided in a non-machine-readable format. The IRS launched a new process that removed personally identifiable information before proactively releasing the public information within electronically filed nonprofit tax filings. The electronically filed Form 990 tax filings were released as open, machine-readable data within [Amazon Web Services' public data sets](#), allowing the public to review the finances and other information of more than 340,000 American nonprofit and charitable organizations. The IRS search for Forms 990-N (e-Postcard) filed by small tax-exempt organizations can be found [here](#).

Developing Transparency.Treasury.gov

[Transparency.Treasury.gov](#) is developed with the Open Government Policy goals in mind: transparency, participation, and engagement with the public. Transparency.Treasury.gov is a website that supports transparency, openness and accessibility by providing easier access to the government's publically available financial information. The website promotes accountability, enhances the Treasury's effectiveness, and actively engages the public in the Treasury's mission.

The website is designed to simplify and streamline the public reporting of the financial data that Treasury receives from federal agencies. It provides the public with usable, easy-to-understand, summarized federal agency financial management data. The website allows users to analyze financial data trends, patterns, and insights about federal government payments, revenue, debt management, accounting, and open data through interactive reports, APIs, and descriptive articles and images.

The website aims to improve Treasury operations by providing user-friendly public access to the federal government's financial information to promote transparency and accountability. To aid in public engagement the website also serves as a social platform for exchanging ideas and soliciting public input. Allowing the public to collaborate with Treasury improves customer service while providing Treasury insights that might not have been learned without data sharing.

To aid in collaboration the site also offers a "Contact Us" feature, which provides opportunities for the public to pose questions, offer feedback, and interact with Treasury. Real-time usage statistics are tracked by the team to identify trends in subject areas, search terms, browser characteristics, and geographic information.

During the initial phases of the initiative, the team engaged with an outside consulting firm to tailored website functions to address public user transparency needs and expectations, to ensure

the design would meet public user web interface needs, and to ensure outreach plans were effective for increasing awareness of the website.

Through this research process, which included online quantitative surveys, expert interviews, focus group conversations, and an online bulletin board, several ideas and concepts were presented. The primary output included the identification of user groupings, which helped to define the personas (or descriptions of user types) that were then used to help redesign the website interface and functionality

In FY2017, the team plans to conduct more targeted research and development to gather insights from people through understanding their attitudes and motivators, which will shape the future direction of the site. This will include interviews, direct networking, and participation in conferences.

Future plans include further developing a separate, stand-alone understanding of the citizens who make up the potential user base, through interviews, direct networking, and participation in conferences. This will be followed by an evaluation of the website and services (comparing what we offer to what the citizens want and need).

The user research and subsequent development of the website will be done iteratively to ensure continual enhancements and ongoing assessments are part of the website service offering. Future plans also include the addition of site surveys to gather real-time user feedback as they navigate the site's features and functions.

Public Participation in the Development of USASpending.gov

Treasury leads the government-wide implementation of the DATA Act in collaboration with OMB and has also been working to improve the USAspending.gov site to better meet stakeholder needs since assuming responsibility for it in February 2014.

Once implemented, the DATA Act will make federal spending data more accessible, searchable, and reliable. The purpose of the DATA Act is to establish government-wide financial data standards and increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of federal spending information across financial management, procurement, grants, and loans. By increasing the transparency and accessibility of this information, the DATA Act seeks to enhance oversight and decision-making in the federal government, while generating innovation in both the private and the public sectors. It will not only make it easier to understand how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars but will also serve as a tool for better oversight, data-centric decision-making, and innovation both inside and outside of government. The DATA Act implementation includes several key work streams that Treasury is leading, including the DATA Act Schema, the DATA Act Broker, Treasury Platform Development, and Data Publication.

On April 29, 2016, Treasury released the DATA Act Information Model Schema (DAIMS) version 1.0. This technical guidance is the result of work led by Treasury, in collaboration with agencies and the broader federal communities, over the past year to iteratively develop the DATA Act reporting requirements. The DAIMS captures the data elements needed, their

relationships, and the overall context of how they fit together. It also provides clarity, guidance, and instruction on the need, submission, and use of the DATA Act elements.

Treasury continues to develop the DATA Act Broker, the online tool agencies will utilize to submit and validate their data to Treasury. The Broker is being developed using open source code, which can be accessed on the Federal Spending Transparency Collaboration Github site. On June 29, 2016 Treasury released the beta version of the DATA Act Broker for agency testing and review.

[OpenBeta.USAspending.gov](https://openbeta.usaspending.gov), our beta site obtains feedback from the American people on the design of the future USAspending.gov site. This site allows the public to review, test, and provide feedback that will advise Treasury of the needs of data users. Treasury continues to add new features and functions for the public to review on a rolling basis in preparation for the launch of the new USAspending.gov site in May 2017. Treasury continues to maintain and update the Federal Spending Transparency GitHub site. Treasury uses comments received through these sites to inform its efforts to support data users' needs.

Treasury established a series of six performance measures to track the progress of participation and collaboration through the DATA Act implementation. The measures include communication with federal agencies, engagement of Treasury executives in the process, requesting and obtaining public feedback during the decision making process, and engagement with external stakeholders. These metrics are tracked on a quarterly basis.

The data-centric approach allows agency data to be structured at the source and then published or used for internal analysis, as this data will be linked and standardized and disseminated in a way that is consumable. When the data are accessible, they can then be used to create value internally and externally.

Increasing Transparency by Promoting Feedback to Stakeholders

In 2015, FinCEN began a program to recognize criminal cases where Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) data, filed by financial institutions, plays a significant role in successful prosecutions. There are two primary goals of the program: (1) to recognize law enforcement agencies that made effective use of financial institution reporting to obtain a successful prosecution, and (2) to demonstrate to the financial industry the value of their reporting to law enforcement. Six award categories recognize achievements in combatting significant threats to the integrity of the financial system and the safety of our communities. Every May, FinCEN holds a ceremony at Main Treasury to present the awards for each category.

FinCEN's Law Enforcement Awards promote feedback to FinCEN's stakeholders, applaud the transparency efforts of financial institutions under FinCEN's regulations, and celebrate the collaboration involved in achieving successful prosecutions and safeguarding the financial system.

FinCEN has an obligation to ensure that information reported under the BSA is properly collected, securely maintained, and appropriately disseminated. The Law Enforcement Awards emphasize FinCEN's unique role as the bridge between law enforcement and the financial industry, and highlight that a strong public/private partnership is critical to FinCEN's efforts to administer the BSA effectively. As the financial system faces evolving threats, the input FinCEN receives from law enforcement, its regulatory partners, and the financial industry is vital to staying one step ahead of illicit actors.

Increasing Transparency of Legal Entities Formed in the United States

Treasury is committed to strengthening financial transparency and combatting the misuse of companies to engage in illicit activities. Treasury is focused on countering money laundering and corruption, cracking down on tax evasion, and hindering those looking to circumvent our sanctions. Building on years of important work with stakeholders, on May 5, 2016, FinCEN implemented the Customer Due Diligence (CDD) Final Rule requiring financial institutions to know and verify the identities of the natural persons who own, control, and profit from companies when those companies open accounts. This rule amended existing regulations under the Bank Secrecy Act that have allowed Treasury to enhance transparency and protect the integrity of the financial system by clarifying and strengthening the customer due diligence obligations of financial institutions.

The CDD Final Rule makes available to law enforcement valuable information needed to disrupt illicit finance networks. This has increased financial transparency and augmented the ability of financial institutions and law enforcement to identify the assets and accounts of criminals and national security threats. This has also facilitated compliance with sanctions programs and other measures that cut off financial flows to these actors.

The CDD Final Rule became effective July 11, 2016. Covered institutions have until May 11, 2018 (two years from the date the final CDD Rule was published in the Federal Register) to implement and comply with the rule. Shortly after the rule became effective, FinCEN issued

FAQs to assist covered financial institutions in understanding the scope of the CDD requirements. FinCEN will issue additional FAQs or guidance as appropriate.

Meaningful Access

As an update to the Open Government Plan 3.0, Treasury continues to improve on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's (BEP) Meaningful Access initiative. This initiative will allow for the blind and visually impaired community the means of denominating U.S. currency by locating the raised tactile feature and being able to identify the note's denomination independently. The BEP implemented the U.S. Currency Reader Program nationwide in 2015, and to date, nearly 44,000 iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier devices or currency readers have been requested and distributed. As of September 2016, there have been approximately 29,000 downloads of the EyeNote® mobile application launched in 2011 and more than 8,000 downloads of the Ideal Currency Identifier® mobile application launched in 2012. Both mobile applications are available for free for Apple and Android smartphones.

In addition, significant progress continues in developing tactile features. The BEP anticipates that the next redesigned denomination will contain a tactile feature and large, high-contrast numerals, along with new security features.

Throughout the development and implementation of this initiative, BEP has made significant efforts to be transparent and to provide the public access to information. BEP created Moneyfactory.gov webpage for the initiative that contains up-to-date information about the status of the project.

To make information readily available regarding the U.S. Currency Reader Program, there is a dedicated call center to field requests and comments regarding the iBill currency reader. There is also a dedicated webpage that contains application information in Spanish and English. There are video and audio instructional guides for the iBill® currency reader device, brochures for both print and in Braille, and a press kit that can be used by organizations and media to help promote the program and notify their customers about currency reader device availability. The press kit contains recorded public service announcements, images, general FAQs, sample newsletter articles, and social media posts.

Obtaining feedback from users over the years also resulted in the upgrading of the EyeNote® mobile application in December 2013. The updated version, EyeNote® 2.0, utilizes a continuous scan function with no need to hold the device still or capture a photo. Once it scans the note it denominates the currency. EyeNote® 2.0 also utilizes Voiceover for vocal and gesture feedback if it is turned on for the target iOS device. The press release announcing Version 2.0 can be viewed [here](#).

As development of the raised tactile feature continues, Treasury has sought feedback actively from two key stakeholder groups, the blind and visually impaired community. Both groups are looking for an independent means of denominating U.S. currency by locating the raised tactile feature and being able to identify the note's denomination, and the cash-handling community, which includes the Federal Reserve System as well as the Banknote Equipment Manufacturer

(BEM) community. BEP has engaged in dialogue and some testing with these two stakeholder groups since the very earliest part of the process.

A thorough needs assessment of the BEM community has been integrated into BEP's technical requirements for the tactile feature and is considered in all testing that is done. This type of engagement will allow BEP to identify major red flags with features as they pertain to cash handling equipment until the down selection process is complete for the final optimized tactile feature and application method. BEP has engaged individuals from many different blind organizations in dozens of end-user testing sessions to help narrow in on effective options for a raised tactile feature. Another round of end-user testing with the blind and visually impaired community and preliminary process and handling tests for prototypes with BEMs are anticipated to take place sometime in 2017.

The BEP collaborated with the Department of Education in developing the IDEAL Currency Identifier, a free downloadable application to assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired to denominate U.S. currency with Android mobile devices. The application was created by IDEAL Group, IQ Engines, and the Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) at the Georgia Institute of Technology through a grant from the Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), a component of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

In 2014, the BEP launched the U.S. Currency Reader Pilot Program in partnership with the Library of Congress's National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In 2015, The U.S. Currency Reader Program launched nationally. The NLS administers a free library program providing Braille and audio book materials available to more than 400,000 U.S. residents and citizens living abroad whose low vision, blindness, or physical handicap makes it difficult to read a standard printed page. The NLS assists the BEP with the administration of the program by processing applications and shipping currency readers to all eligible applicants through an interagency agreement. Utilizing the NLS's extensive, nationwide distribution system, allows the BEP to have direct access to the members of the blind and visually impaired community

All U.S. citizens who are blind or visually impaired can obtain an iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier device at no cost to them.

Treasury continues to promote the principles of open government as it relates to the meaningful access initiative. Not only is public outreach efforts and awareness vital to the continued success of the U.S. Currency Reader Program, but also in the development of effective and high tech currency features for future currency. In addition to building or modernizing information resources to maximize interoperability and information accessibility, Treasury will continue to develop, maintain, and supplement internal and external data inventories, enhance information safeguards, engage with internal and external customers and users, and clarify information management responsibilities.

Conclusion

The Department of the Treasury continues to promote open government. In addition to building or modernizing information resources to maximize interoperability and information accessibility, Treasury will continue to develop, maintain, and supplement internal and external data inventories, engage with internal and external customers and users, and clarify information management responsibilities.