Open Data Plan

2024

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Message from the PBGC Chief Data Officer

As the Chief Data Officer (CDO), I am introducing our Open Data Plan. It is an exciting time to be working in data governance, especially within the Federal Government. In 2009, the White House issued the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, emphasizing the need to promote efficiency and effectiveness. The memorandum established three guiding principles for the conduct of government activities: transparency, participation, and collaboration. In response, OMB issued the Open Government Directive, M-10-06 to direct agencies to establish deadlines for actionable items to implement these principles. The memo further explains the ideas behind the principles.

PBGC initially developed an Open Government Plan. The plan included digital references to publicly accessible open data sets, how PBGC collaborated with its customers and stakeholders, and different ways to interact with PBGC. The Open Government Plan was reviewed, updated and retitled the Open Data Plan.

The Open Data Plan aims to fulfill our data responsibilities through transparency, participation, and collaboration. Transparency promotes accountability by sharing information with the public. Participation allows our customers, stakeholders, and members of the public to contribute ideas.
Collaboration improves the effectiveness of the government by encouraging partnerships and cooperation across levels of government.

To develop the Open Data Plan, the CDO and the Data Governance Board (DGB) engaged key stakeholders to review and mature the previous plan. The results culminated in a plan that delivers on the requirements established by Evidence Act and OMB M-19-23. As stated in Process Goal 3 of the PBGC IT Strategic plan, the CDO and the DGB will continue to collaborate and coordinate the advancement of data management and evidence-building in accordance with the Federal Data Strategy.

Over the past several years, we have made major strides in strengthening evidence-based policymaking by leading and improving data literacy and acumen within the Corporation. We have dedicated hard work to build our data-driven culture and remain committed to upholding these three guiding principles: transparency, participation, and collaboration.

Melanie Carter

Chief Data Officer

Open Data

The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 ("Evidence Act") was signed into law on January 14, 2019, subsequently M-19-23, **Phase 1 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Leaming Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance** was implemented. As a result, the newly formed Data Governance Board (DGB) led by the Chief Data Officer (CDO), assumed the role of agency-wide data governance to set and enforce priorities for managing data as a strategic asset.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established the **Open Data Policy-Managing Information as an Asset** (M-13-13) requiring federal agencies to share appropriate data sets to increase public participation in government, promote transparency and accountability, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations. In response, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) published high value data sets at **PBGC.gov/open** and at **Data.gov** for public access and developed the Open Government Plan. This plan is designed to provide a structured approach to achieve the desired outcome and guide the process for updating these data sets. The process for updating these datasets was reviewed and updated in June 2024. The Open Government Plan was renamed, the Open Data Plan.

The key criteria for data set evaluation continue to include potential public interest, availability, expected corporate acceptance and suitability to JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format. Each dataset is regularly updated based on a predefined schedule. The data sets below reflect the most valuable to the public.

These datasets and briefs descriptions are accessible and downloadable on the **PBGC's Open Government** site.

> **ERISA 4044 (Immediate and Deferred) Annuities**
> **Financial Assistance Payments to Multiemployer Plans** (Excel)
> **Multiemployer Pension Plans** (Excel)
> **Multiemployer Pension Plan Terminations, Mergers, and Insolvencies** (Excel)
> **PBGC Amount in Pay Per State for US and US Territories Single-Employer Program**
> **PBGC Appeals Board Data**
> **Pension Insurance Data Tables**
> **Single-Employer Pension Plans** (Excel)
> **Single-Employer Plans Trusteed by PBGC** (Excel)
> **Variable-Rate Premium Interest Rates**

PBGC will continue to identify and add data to the listing when appropriate.

Call for Ideas

PBGC periodically reaches out to our customers to engage on the prominent issue of openness and transparency in government. To achieve this goal, PBGC sends via social media channels, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn the following message:

Call for Ideas

PBGC and other federal agencies are working hard to help make government more open and transparent.

Let us know how we can serve you better. You can read about PBGC's initiatives on our Open Government webpage. On this page, you will find important PBGC datasets about our operations and how we carry out our retirement security mission.

PBGC is interested in your ideas on how we make information available. Please consider the following:

What PBGC data or content should be more readily available?
Which PBGC online service or data would you like to be easier to use?
Which PBGC service would you like to use on your mobile device?

You can submit your feedback to Opengov@pbgc.gov. At any time, you can view the status of America's Open Government initiatives by visiting USA.gov National Action Plans*. Stay informed on PBGC's latest Open Government updates, or other agency-related topics, by signing up to receive emails.*

Customer Outreach and Collaboration

PBGC continues to collaborate with its customers and stakeholders using traditional and new media tools. Since 2012, we have used social media to reach our customers in the digital space and to engage with the pension community: workers and retirees, employers and practitioners, stakeholders and the media. PBGC's social media use:

- Positions us as the official vehicle of information in the pension community
- Allows us to share messages more broadly and in real-time

Our approach to social media is threefold:
1. To humanize the agency by making PBGC more relatable or giving the agency a "face."
2. To explain our most complex information in an easily digestible format.
3. To meet our customers where they are on social media and provide the same level of customer service as if they reached us by phone or email.

PBGC works actively on **X (formerly Twitter)**, **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** to connect with our customers.

Additionally, PBGC's Human Resources Department posts job announcements on LinkedIn.

In 2022, PBGC launched a **Retiree Update** page that provides important information and useful tips for retirees who receive monthly pension benefits from PBGC. This page includes the latest information including changes in payment dates, how to make address changes and tax guidance.

In addition, we keep employers and practitioners abreast of recently issued guidance, software updates and more through our "What's New" GovDelivery subscription service.

Ongoing Initiatives

Congressional Requests

The Office of Policy and External Affairs (OPEA) oversees and directs outreach to PBGC external stakeholders, including interaction with Congress, Executive Branch agencies and industry and labor groups, on PBGC issues, and coordinates policy throughout the agency.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

The PBGC is committed to transparency and accountability by ensuring agency-wide compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The PBGC receives thousands of requests each year and makes every effort to respond to FOIA requests as promptly as possible, within the statutory time limit. This is demonstrated by a nine-year history of ending the fiscal year with zero backlogged requests or appeals.

PBGC continues to innovate and foster citizen-centered service by maximizing the use of technology and human capital management to maintain agency transparency. To optimize technological capabilities, in 2023 PBGC implemented the **Public Access Link (PAL)** which enables enhanced public engagement, by allowing requesters to electronically submit requests, check the status, and interact with the FOIA processing staff. Details on PBGC's FOIA program, as well as PBGC's annual and quarterly FOIA reports, are available on PBGC's **FOIA page**.

IT Dashboard

The **IT Portfolio Dashboard** is a website enabling Federal agencies and other stakeholders to view details of Federal information technology investments online and to track their progress over time. To increase transparency into IT spending across the Federal government, PBGC has complied with the annual OMB requirement of reporting the agency's IT portfolio costs. PBGC's IT Dashboard Portfolio is reviewed and assessed by the agency's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and several IT governance boards, such as the IT Portfolio Review Board (ITPRB) to ensure that all PBGC IT Programs are in alignment with corporate strategic goals, IT strategic goals and the agency's enterprise target architecture.

Participation in Transparency Regulatory Initiatives

PBGC's Regulatory Affairs Division, within the Office of the General Counsel, is committed to transparency in rulemaking. All proposed rules, information collection requests and other notices published in the

Federal Register that are open for comment are posted on PBGC's **Federal Register Notices Open for Comment page.**

PBGC's regulatory agenda is posted on PBGC's **Regulatory Agendas/Plans** page. PBGC also posts all Federal Register documents, including proposed and final rules, and all public comments on those documents, at links on PBGC's **Federal Register Documents** page. Information collection requests that are under OMB review are posted on **Information Collection Requests Under OMB Review.**

PBGC.gov

Information Technology Solutions Life Cycle Management (ITSLCM)

The ITSLCM framework on PBGC.gov is designed to manage IT Programs and Projects through the identification, planning, implementation, maintenance, and disposition of IT solutions at the PBGC. The ITSLCM incorporates the requirements of Enterprise Architecture (EA), IT Portfolio Management (ITPM), Enterprise Cybersecurity, Privacy, IT Infrastructure and Operations (ITIO), and Program and Project Management for managing, governing, and supporting the implementation of IT solutions at PBGC. The intent is to promote the sharing of PBGC's IT Program/Investment life cycle management practices with other Federal agencies and to provide insight to private sector companies seeking PBGC IT contract awards.

PBGC Open Government

In FY2019, the PBGC appointed a CDO and established its Data Governance Board to implement the "Evidence Act" and provide ongoing strategic direction per the guidance of the July 10, 2019, OMB Memorandum (M-19-23). PBGC's Open Government page includes information and resources based on the 2020 Data Strategy Plan through coordinated completed actions from Phase 1 of the Evidence Act.

Additional resources include important PBGC datasets and information about how the American public can provide input that will make the work and performance of PBGC even better and more engaging. The data sets listed on PBGC.gov can be used to increase agency accountability, improve public knowledge of the agency and its operations, create economic opportunity, and further the agency's mission. The information on this page complements the many other Federal agency data sets located at Data.gov. These datasets present information in a machine accessible, downloadable format.

Privacy

PBGC has taken positive steps to assure the protection of all Personally Identifiable Information (PII) under our control. We revise various directives and procedures to assure that our safeguards are up to date. PBGC through training ensures our employees and contractors are totally informed as to their responsibility to protect PII in their possession.

Records Management

The purpose of a federal records management program is to provide accountability for federal agencies' actions and decisions. PBGC maintains their records management program in accordance with the relevant government authorities. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) evaluates agency compliance through an annual assessment (https://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/resources/rm-assessments). All PBGC employees complete mandatory training at least annually which provides a basic understanding of their responsibilities under the agency's records management program. PBGC's Records Management program works with the agency's IT departments to ensure electronic records are preserved and accessible in IT systems.

USAspending.gov

PBGC's contract spend data is maintained and uploaded to **USAspending.gov**. The data available include the total number of transactions, total prime recipient transaction amount, total sub-award transaction amount, contracts, grants, loans, and other financial assistance information.

Whistleblower Protection

PBGC notifies employees of their rights under the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA) during No Fear Act training.

Conclusion

PBGC recognizes that transparency, participation, and collaboration are essential goals of this administration. We appreciate that the thoughtful and timely implementation of programs with these goals will help improve PBGC's performance and speed problem resolution. PBGC recognizes the importance of the presumption of openness in its core mission to protect retirement security. PBGC's Open Data program is committed to supporting this goal.

Appendices

Appendix A: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation organization chart