



OBJECTIVE: To provide a framework for federal workforce management and recommendations for an effective transition to the next presidential administration.

OVERVIEW

In his inaugural address on January 21, 1961, President John F. Kennedy inspired a generation of Americans to consider the rewards of public service. More than 45 years later, "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country," is a call to action that is more significant than ever. Since then, however, presidential candidates have often run "against" Washington, highlighting the failings of the federal bureaucracy.

With each new administration, presidents launch efforts to reform the federal government, increase efficiency and reduce waste. President Jimmy Carter reorganized major departments and enacted the first civil service reform in a century; the "Reagan Revolution" aimed to reduce the size of government; and Vice President Dan Quayle led President George H.W. Bush's Council on Competitiveness. More recently, Vice President Al Gore spearheaded the National Partnership for Reinventing Government during President Bill Clinton's administration, and President George W. Bush implemented the President's Management Agenda.

Each of these efforts identified fundamental priorities for past administrations – and offers lessons for the next administration. The *Presidential Management Initiative* explores the path forward for the next president.

GOALS

The *Presidential Management Initiative* will engage leaders from across party lines to gather lessons learned from past reform efforts, craft recommendations for the presidential transition, and establish a framework for effective workforce management in the next administration. Its primary goals are to:

- Contribute reliable data and information to the general election campaign dialogue, positions, and rhetoric
- Publish a viable reform agenda, with transition recommendations for the next administration and Congress
- Directly assist the new administration through its transition
- Provide useful counsel and perspectives to the next generation of political appointees

COMPONENTS	TIMELINE
Background research	Ongoing
Discussions with experts on past reforms and presidential transitions	Ongoing
Human capital forum focusing on central questions for the next president	March 12, 2008
White paper summarizing research and lessons of past plans	April 2008
<i>Presidential Management & Transition</i> thought leader conference	May 5 - 6, 2008
Outreach to presidential campaigns and Congress	July 2008 – January 2009
Publication on framework for reform and transition recommendations	August 2008
Implementation with new administration and Congress	November 2008 →

BACKGROUND

The Partnership for Public Service works to revitalize our federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve and by transforming the way government works. We pursue three strategic goals – building communities of support, securing the right talent, and fueling innovation. Our guiding principles:

- We believe that good government starts with good people
- We live by our name of Partnership – working with others whenever possible
- We exist not to do the job of government, but to help government do its job better
- We work to improve *OUR* government, not *THE* government, focusing on goals that transcend ideology and politics