Sharing Quality Services: 
*The Road to Transformation*

Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness of Mission Support Services Across Government

(As of April 2019)
Sharing Quality Services: The Road to Transformation

Federal employees underpin nearly all operations of the Government, ensuring the smooth functioning of our democracy. Over successive generations, the Federal Government has evolved by expanding in scope and complexity to meet Americans’ needs. However, the organizational structures, management functions, and personnel practices that underpin the Executive Branch have not always kept pace.

The President’s Management Agenda (PMA) lays out a long-term vision for modernizing the Federal Government in key areas that will improve the ability of agencies to deliver mission outcomes, provide improved services, and effectively steward taxpayer dollars. One of the primary PMA focus areas is centered around the Sharing Quality Services initiative. This initiative seeks to eliminate outdated processes, manual data entry, duplicative work, and customized IT that is decades old. Sharing services can help agencies save time and money and create a more nimble workforce focused on higher value work. The transition to quality services in many areas will take multiple years. The knowledge and expertise of federal employees will be critical to its success. As consolidation occurs over time, agencies have many tools available to help optimize, reskill, and shift resources to higher value work. As legacy providers and future customers design their transformation strategy, it is helpful to think about it as a phased effort, as outlined below:

**The Challenges**

In today’s resource constrained environment, the rising costs of support services may require mission related trade-offs.

**Duplication:**

Today agencies largely deliver these services internally resulting in significant duplicative efforts (e.g., contracts, human resources, technology) across hundreds of locations.

**Low Satisfaction:**

38% of Federal leaders report low satisfaction with mission support.

**$25B+ Annually:**

Estimated cost of common mission-support services such as processing hiring transactions or managing Federal finances, travel, and/or payroll costs.

**Benefits**

- Increase quality and consistency of mission-support services
- Reduce waste and redundancy
- Improve effectiveness of controls and compliance
- Enhance customer service
- Achieve a flexible and sustainable cost management structure
- Align service delivery strategy with facilities and location strategies
- Provide additional business value to the mission
- Optimize the workforce by shifting resources to higher value work

**Specific Activities**

- **Assess**
  - Determine vision/strategy and assess impact to current people, process and technology
- **Design**
  - Design future process: who will do what, where they will do it, and how
- **Implement**
  - Implement future state model including technology, concept of operation and workforce design
- **Optimize**
  - Analyze operations for continuous process improvement
- **Helpful Tools**
  - Real Property Dashboard
  - FedScope Data
  - Risk Assessment Tool
  - Organization Design
  - Implementation Roadmap
  - M3 Playbook*
- **Service Level Agreements**
  - Federal Benchmarking
  - Risk Assessment Tool
- **Benefits**
  - Share services
  - Standardize processes
  - Reduce costs
  - Mandate
  - Align
  - Streamline

*Source: Modernization & Migration Management (M3) Playbook developed by GSA OSSPI in 2016
Workforce Management and Change Management are two sides of the same coin. Both are needed to maintain employee effectiveness, while limiting any negative outcomes, when responding to drivers of change. Regardless of where the immediate impacts of a particular change are felt, planners should examine and manage their effects across the various efforts that ultimately translate workforce attributes into agency goal achievement. The Workforce Planning Logic Model provides a high level overview and starting point for exploring such efforts.

**Data is key to workforce planning. Potential data sources include:**
- Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey
- Competency Assessments
- Performance Reviews
- Agency Personnel Data
- Future Talent Needs

Source: OPM Executive Playbook for Workforce Reshaping
# Modernize Your Workforce for the 21st Century: Embracing Change for the Future

The following plays represent key Human Capital Strategies that agencies can use to shape and build a modern workforce of the 21st century. It is common to use a combination of plays to reshape a workforce.

## Select this play if...

- Your current structure does not support new agency mission/processes
- Your workforce analysis/workforce planning is pointing you in a new direction
- Your organization will have a new structure (reform plan)
- Your agency’s mission/work has changed
- Your current workforce/skills are not relevant to new work
- You have more people than work (supply > demand)
- Your talent has shown aptitude and interests to learning new occupations
- Your agency has resources to invest in training/certification programs
- Your seasoned talent can serve as mentors to employees undergoing development
- Your current workforce does not have the right skills, or skills are outdated
- Your organization does not have enough people (i.e., you need more talent)
- Your talent needs new perspectives, skills, and ideas
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- You have more people than work

## Key Terms

- **Organization Design** is the process of aligning the organizational and position structures with the strategic mission and objectives of the organization. An organization’s structure should also reflect position design best practices while taking into consideration human factors to maximize effectiveness.

- **VERA/VSIP authorities** encourage more voluntary separations and help the agency complete the needed organizational change with minimal disruption to the work force, which may alleviate the need for a Reduction in Force (RIF).

- **Reskilling** is training individuals who have shown they have the aptitude to learn in a completely new occupation.

- **Upskilling** is training individuals in the same occupation but in new ways. (i.e. if automation overtakes certain job duties, training that individual in new work that has more value to the organization, but they are still in the same occupation).

## Things to Consider

- Is the current structure the best structure to meet the needs of the organization?
- How does the organization need to respond to environmental demands to be successful?
- What type of leadership and culture are required to achieve the valued structure?
- Which organizational practices are required to reinforce the organization’s purpose?
- How can a revamped structure optimize talent, functions, and real estate opportunities in field office locations?
- What are the agency’s emerging priorities?
- Does your talent have the skills required to meet those emerging priorities?
- What are the agency’s short-term and long-term project budget considerations?
- Does your organization have a large population of retirement-eligible employees?
- What types of talent do you need to achieve your mission and goals?
- Can you design training programs for your organization’s current talent to develop skills/competencies needed to meet emerging priorities?
- Do you know if your current workforce has the capability to develop new abilities?
- Could you minimize recruitment costs through employee development and retention?
- Does your organization have the right information technology (IT) systems in place to ensure continuity of services?
- What types of talent do you need to achieve your mission and goals?
- Does your organization have an established pipeline to recruit talent with the necessary skills?
- What hiring authorities and assessments are best to recruit employees with the necessary skills?

Contact OPM for policy guidance, resources, and promising practices

humancapital@opm.gov
The table below includes existing resources to help agencies plan for and maximize the benefits of the Sharing Quality Services initiative when considering how to align their workforce to best meet their missions, better service the American people, and maximize the value of tax dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transformation Support</strong></td>
<td>Guidance, tools, and templates, based on migration lessons learned, to help customer and provider organizations successfully modernize/migrate to a shared system and/or service.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ussm.gov/M3">www.ussm.gov/M3</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industry Support</strong></td>
<td>Inventory of existing contracts to support assessment and implementation of transformation projects, focused mostly on modernization of mission support functions.</td>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:ussmteam@gsa.gov">ussmteam@gsa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Workforce Assessment and Retention</strong></td>
<td>Comprehensive data set on the federal workforce and includes reporting capabilities by agency, job series, geographic location, hiring/attrition trends, demographics.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.fedscope.opm.gov/">https://www.fedscope.opm.gov/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Career Transition Support</strong></td>
<td>Comprehensive guidance to employees on career transition services. In addition, individual Federal agencies are required to provide career transition services to surplus employees, giving them skills and resources to help them find other employment.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/ctap_guideline.pdf">https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/ctap_guideline.pdf</a></td>
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<td><strong>Recruitment, Relocation &amp; Retention Incentives</strong></td>
<td>Learn how to use recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives (3Rs) to recruit and retain top talent.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/recruitment-relocation-retention-incentives/#url=Overview">https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/recruitment-relocation-retention-incentives/#url=Overview</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Employee Incentives and Services</strong></td>
<td>Agencies have authority under 5 CFR 575.200 to offer relocation incentives to individual employees or groups. Agencies are authorized to pay for certain relocation services for Federal employees. GSA helps to connect agencies to “best value” relocation service providers.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/recruitment-relocation-retention-incentives/fact-sheets/relocation-incentives/">https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/recruitment-relocation-retention-incentives/fact-sheets/relocation-incentives/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Government to Citizens Playbook (G2C)</strong></td>
<td>The G2C playbook provides guidelines for conducting dialogue and planning about decentralization that focus on long-term agency vision, communications, innovations in organizational operations, workforce talent, and geography.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/G2C%20Playbook.pdf">https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/G2C%20Playbook.pdf</a></td>
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<td><strong>Hiring Excellence Mythbuster</strong></td>
<td>Avoid practices that stem from common myths about the Federal hiring process, and learn about helpful techniques, such as including specialized skills in job announcements, engaging in strategic recruitment, and using Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) outside of HR to rate and rank applicants.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/hiring-excellence/tools-resources/hiring-excellence-mythbusters.pdf">https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/hiring-excellence/tools-resources/hiring-excellence-mythbusters.pdf</a></td>
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<td><strong>Hiring Information</strong></td>
<td>Guidance describing the competitive hiring process; hiring authorities available to agencies to hire veterans, students, interns; and information for current and former Federal employees such as reinstatements or transfers.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/hiring-authorities/">https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/hiring-authorities/</a></td>
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