

**The United States
Government Manual
2015**

**Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration**

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Preface

As the official handbook of the Federal Government, *The United States Government Manual* provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. The *Manual* also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations in which the United States participates; and boards, commissions, and committees.

A typical agency description includes a list of principal officials, a summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the Federal Government, a brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority, a description of its programs and activities, and a "Sources of Information" section. This last section provides information on consumer activities, contracts and grants, employment, publications, and many other areas of public interest.

The *Manual* is also available and periodically updated on its own website. The U.S. Government Manual website (usgovernmentmanual.gov) is jointly administered by the Office of the Federal Register (OFR)/Government Printing Office (GPO) partnership. The website offers three ways to find information about Government agencies and organizations by entering a term in the keyword search box, browsing categories, or using "The Government of the United States" site map for an overview of the Government. For more information and to view *The Manual* online, go to www.usgovernmentmanual.gov.

The 2015 *Manual* was prepared by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Office of the Federal Register. Alfred W. Jones was Team Leader; Joseph Frankovic was Managing Editor; assisted by Lois Davis, Joshua Liberatore, Joseph Vetter, Edgar G. Gibbs, Ryan R. Nolan, Andrew Schenk, and Tina Vilca.

THE FEDERAL REGISTER AND ITS SPECIAL EDITIONS

The *Manual* is published as a special edition of the *Federal Register* (see 1 CFR 9.1). Its focus is on programs and activities. Persons interested in detailed organizational structure, the regulatory documents of an agency, or Presidential documents should refer to the Federal Register or one of its other special editions, described below. Issued each Federal working day, the *Federal Register* provides a uniform system for publishing Presidential documents, regulatory documents with general applicability and legal effect, proposed rules, notices, and documents required to be published by statute. For more information and to look at the Federal Register online, go to www.federalregister.gov.

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