

Overview of Departmental Operations

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Accountability Report for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the third as an official member of the U.S. Chief Financial Officer Council pilot program being conducted under the auspices of the Government Management Reform Act (GMRA) of 1994.

This report covers the period of October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999, Fiscal Year (FY) 1999, and contains a high level overview of

- what we do,
- what we did with the federal funds entrusted to us, and
- how well we managed them.

It is our report to our “stockholders,” the American public, and as such we are accounting for the return on the taxpayer’s investment.

To substantiate what we say the report also contains the Department’s FY 1999 audited financial statements that discuss our financial condition as well as the auditors’ opinion that is an independent, objective assessment of how accurately we have represented our financial condition. Also this comprehensive report contains many other streamlined reports required under various statutes that make us accountable for our financial, management, and program performance. It contains new information that better explains how we managed federal funds and the actual costs of our programs.

By synthesizing all of this information into this single report, we hope to provide a more complete, accurate and useful understanding of the Department. Some of our components also are issuing their own Accountability Reports; these will give the reader more detailed program and finance information.

*Our mission is to enhance
the health and well-being
of Americans
by providing for effective
health and human services
and by fostering strong,
sustained advances in the
sciences
underlying medicine,
public health, and social
services.*