Cross Agency Priority Goals are a management tool used to accelerate progress on a limited number of crosscutting priority areas that require both senior leadership focus and the coordination of multiple agencies to achieve the end result. CAP Goals are four-year outcome-oriented goals that are aligned to the term of an administration.

While interagency processes already exist to coordinate policy, budget, and legislative issues, the CAP Goal mechanism was put in place to coordinate the achievement of mission and mission support outcomes through improved cross-agency collaboration and implementation. The Government Performance Results Act Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRAMA) is the law that authorizes CAP Goals and sets out a small number of reporting requirements. These requirements are further clarified in OMB A-11 guidance.

Each CAP Goal has designated Executive Office of the President (EOP), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and/or Agency Goal Leaders supported by career staff deputies and an implementation team comprised of subject matter experts from across Government. Progress reviews are chaired by the Director of OMB and supported by the inter-agency Performance Improvement Council (PIC) staff which provides assistance in the goal planning and implementation phases in a consultative and coordinating role.

The CAP Goal framework was built to maintain focus and ensure accountability over the goal period through four key routines:

1. Regular reviews of progress
2. Deep dives with senior management officials
3. Brief-outs at the President’s Management Council (PMC)
4. Quarterly public reporting on Performance.gov