



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

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National Academy of Public Administration and the IBM Center for The Business of Government Announce Formation of Agile Government Center
Agile Govt. Center will serve as hub of a collaborative network for Agile Govt. Principles

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Academy of Public Administration (the Academy) today announced the formation of the Agile Government Center ([AGC](#)), in partnership with the IBM Center for The Business of Government, to develop, disseminate, and implement agile government principles around the world. The AGC initially will be led by G. Edward DeSeve, a Fellow of the Academy and a Visiting Fellow of the IBM Center.

“We are excited to launch this initiative, which is especially significant given the Academy’s current focus on identifying and addressing the Grand Challenges of Public Administration,” said Terry Gerton, President and CEO of the Academy. “The Agile Government Center will serve as a practical solution to the challenges of 21st century governance, problems we must address in an innovative and collaborative manner.”

The Agile Government Center will serve as the hub of a network that will bring together governments, non-profits, foundations, academic institutions and private sector partners to assist in developing and disseminating agile government principles and case studies of agile policies and programs. This network will be a source of assistance to those who want to adopt and implement agile to provide public goods and services that fully meet customer needs and build public trust.

“The United States has been beset with significant social, cultural, and technological changes for decades,” said G. Edward DeSeve. “The public sector has been perceived to be slow to adapt to these changes and is often in a reactive mode, not a proactive one. Against this backdrop, trust in the federal government has been declining sharply. As I have said [previously](#), it is critical that we develop a reform agenda to make governments at all levels more agile in the face of rapid change. Success will require a new mindset in government and new organizational models, but agile government can be a new tide that lifts governmental ships around the world.”

Proposed agile government principles include:

- **Mission** should be extremely clear, and the organizational unit/team should be laser focused on achieving it.
- **Metrics** for success should be widely agreed upon, evidence-based, and easily tracked.
- **Customer-driven** behavior, including frequent collaboration with direct and indirect program beneficiaries, should be ingrained in the culture.
- **Speed** should be encouraged and facilitated, including by using physical co-location of teams where possible.
- **Empowered, highly skilled, cross-functional teams** engaging in continual face-to-face communication should replace siloed bureaucratic systems.
- **Innovation**, within the overall framework of existing rules and regulations, should be rewarded—and changes in rules and regulations should be proposed where necessary.
- **Persistence** should be promoted through continuous experimentation, evaluation, and improvement in order to learn from both success and failure.
- **Evidence-based solutions** should be the gold standard for creating program options.
- **Organizational leaders** should eliminate roadblocks, aggregate and assume risk, and empower teams to make decisions.
- **Diversity of thought** should be encouraged in crafting solutions to complex problems.

About the National Academy of Public Administration

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

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