

## [HHS Selects New Chief Information Officer](#)

The position had been open since August 2018.

[Abigail Blue](#)

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The Department of Health and Human Services has chosen Jose Arrieta, HHS associate deputy assistant secretary for acquisition, to fill its CIO role.

Jose Arrieta's new title was confirmed at AFFIRM's May 23 Leadership Awards event.

Although his background is in procurement and contracting, Arrieta is no novice in the tech space. He led the largest IT contract in the world, which averages approximately \$15 billion annually, as director of GSA's Schedule 70 Operations.

Blockchain has been an area of focus for him as well. Arrieta believes that federal IT officials who do not look to adopt the emerging technology are [at risk of becoming irrelevant](#).

In maintaining his relevancy, he “created the first proof of concept of a blockchain-enabled system in the federal government” known as Accelerate while working at HHS. He discussed his attraction to the technology and its potential to modernize business processes at a [GovernmentCIO Media & Research CXO Tech Forum](#).

“Now you have the actual flexibility to, in real time, rebuild an existing business system in a risk-controlled way, one business process at a time off of a data layer,” Arrieta said. “It is not so much about trust in an entity that I’m doing business with. It is more about trust in the set of data that I’ve actually, that I’m actually, receiving, that I’m actually accessing.”

Considering his advocacy for innovation, the new CIO is likely to hit the ground running, finding new applications for emerging technologies along the way.

Beth Killoran had been the incumbent of the leadership position, prior to becoming the General Services Administration’s deputy CIO. HHS Chief Technology Officer Ed Simcox has been serving as acting CIO for the past nine months.

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