

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE), created in 1994, is a nonpartisan, independent office that serves the Legislature's information needs by conducting performance evaluations of state agencies and programs. The mission of OPE is to promote confidence and accountability in state government through these evaluations. Findings, conclusions, and recommendations from OPE evaluations are used by the Legislature to make policy and budget decisions and by agencies to improve performance.

Performance evaluations include assessing whether

- agencies or programs are complying with applicable laws and legislative intent;
- services are provided efficiently and cost-effectively; and
- programs and services are achieving intended results.

OPE works under the direction of the bipartisan Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC). The office is authorized for eight full-time equivalent positions and has six full-time and two part-time staff.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Authorizing statutes: Idaho Code §§ 67-457 through 67-464

1. Conduct performance evaluations and report each evaluation to JLOC
2. Identify cost savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs
3. Provide useful recommendations to assist the Legislature in making policy and budget decisions
4. Be responsive to the Legislature's information needs

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
General Fund	\$764,070	\$761,600	\$785,285	\$818,800
Dedicated	0	0	0	0
Total	\$764,070	\$761,600	\$785,285	\$818,800
Expenditures	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Personnel Costs	\$600,095	\$659,216	\$694,098	\$683,129
Operating Expenditures*	118,606	113,019	104,513	\$108,973
Capital Outlay	8,600	3,162	854	5,760
Trustee/Benefit Payments	0	0	0	0
Total	\$727,301	\$775,397	\$799,465	\$797,862

* Some operating expenditures were appropriated in prior fiscal year.

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	5	4	6	3
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	7	0	1	5

The OPE workload depends on the number and nature of projects assigned each year by JLOC. Completed reports may be accessed at www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/publications/reports/index.htm.

Performance Highlights

OPE released the following evaluation reports and follow-up reviews in fiscal year 2016:

- Distribution of State General Fund Dollars to Public Health Districts
- Design of the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan
- Risk of Bias in Administrative Hearings
- State Employee Compensation and Turnover–Follow-up review
- Confinement of Juvenile Offenders–Follow-up review

- The State’s Use of Legal Services–Follow-up review
- Challenges and Approaches to Meeting Water Quality Standards–Follow-up review
- Assessing the Need for Taxpayer Advocacy–Follow-up review

OPE received three awards during the fiscal year:

- 2016 Notable Document Award of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Legislative Research Librarians, for the report Risk of Bias in Administrative Hearings.
- 2016 Impact Award of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society for the report Confinement of Juvenile Offenders.
- 2016 Donald C. and Alice M. Stone Outstanding Practitioner Award from the American Society for Public Administration for professional contributions in the field of Intergovernmental Management.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Current Year
Goal 1						
Provide useful recommendations to assist the Legislature in making policy and budget decisions.						
1. Performance is measured by the number of bills and resolutions introduced or enacted in response to OPE recommendations.	actual	4	3	12	4	-----
	benchmark	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Goal 2						
Identify cost-savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs.						
2. Performance is measured by estimated cost savings or cost avoidance as a result of OPE recommendations.	actual	None identified	None identified	None identified	None identified	-----
	benchmark	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Goal 3						
Respond to the Legislature’s information needs.						
3. Performance is measured by the number of “24-hour” limited reviews completed.	actual	1	0	0	2	-----
	benchmark	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4. Performance is measured by the number of evaluation-related presentations made to the Legislature (does not include presentations to JLOC).	actual	4	6	4	7	-----
	benchmark	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Goal 4						
Promote confidence and accountability in state government through education and outreach to interested stakeholders and participation in professional associations.						
5. Performance is measured by the number of evaluation-related presentations made outside of the Legislature.	actual	9	11	11	8	-----
	benchmark	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

Bills introduced

- Senate Bill 1290 clarified Idaho Code on the use of college and career counselors in secondary education and required districts to develop a plan for these counselors in their schools. House Bill 618 appropriated \$5 million to districts for college and career counseling activities. In our 2012 report *Reducing Barriers to Postsecondary Education*, we recommended to districts to employ more college and career counselors.

- The legislature approved administrative rules proposed by the Department of Environmental Quality in direct response to a recommendation from our 2014 report *Challenges and Approaches to Meeting Water Quality Standards*. These rules established state guidelines for conducting use attainability analyses.
- The Supreme Court updated Judicial Rule 19, which specifies criteria that must be met before a juvenile can be committed to the Department of Juvenile Corrections. The new criteria focus on committing only those juveniles who pose a danger to the community. This rule change met the intent of a recommendation in the report *Confinement of Juvenile Offenders*.

24-hour reviews

OPE staff conducted two 24-hour or background reviews for legislators during the 2016 legislative session. Subjects of the reviews were (1) rules and laws of state and local governments' surplus property and (2) Public Law 280 for tribal and state jurisdictions.

Legislative presentations

Staff made seven presentations to legislative committees, not including presentations to JLOC:

- Purchasing Law interim committee for the report *Contract Management in Idaho*
- Two presentations to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee for the reports *Distribution of State General Fund Dollars to Public Health Districts* and *Design of the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan*.
- Two presentations to the Change in Employee Compensation Committee for the reports *State Employee Compensation and Turnover-Follow-up* and *Application of the Holiday Leave Policy*.
- Presentations to both the Senate and House Health and Welfare committees for the report *Design of the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan*.

Presentations made outside the legislature

Staff made eight presentations outside of the legislature:

- Three presentations at the 2015 professional development seminar for the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, a staff section of the National Conference of State Legislatures.
- One presentation each to members and staff of the Cameroon Parliament, American Evaluation Association, Eastern Evaluation Research Society, and political science and public administration classes at Boise State University.

For More Information Contact

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