

Part 1 – 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. Evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations 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 in a cost-effective manner
- Programs and services are achieving intended results

OPE works under the direction of the bipartisan, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC). It has nine full-time staff, including six evaluators, an administrative coordinator, a research and technology assistant, and a director who serves at the pleasure of JLOC.

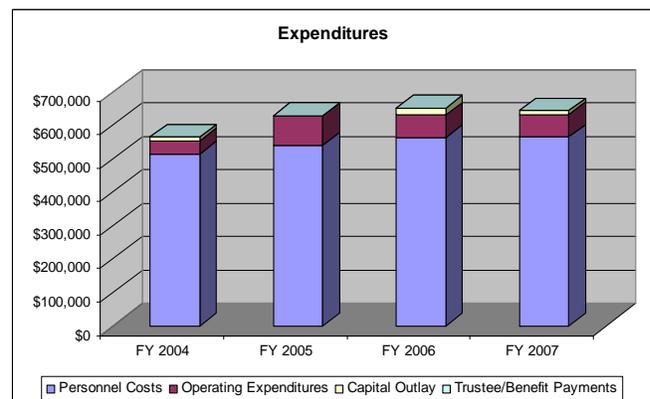
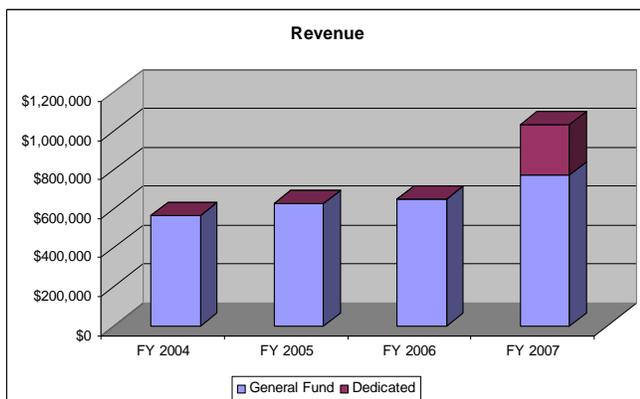
Core Functions/Idaho Code

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 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Fund	\$564,800	\$629,300	\$651,500	\$773,300
Dedicated	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$260,000
Total	\$564,800	\$629,300	\$651,500	\$1,033,300
Expenditure	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personnel Costs	\$514,200	\$540,100	\$563,300	\$564,500
Operating Expenditures	\$39,500	\$89,200	\$67,200	\$67,000
Capital Outlay	\$11,100	\$0	\$21,000	\$11,900
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$564,800	\$629,300	\$651,500	\$643,400



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	3	3	3	3
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	5	1	0	8
Number of federal mandate reviews completed	0	1	0	0

The OPE workload depends on the number and nature of projects assigned each year by JLOC.

Performance Highlights

- List of legislation introduced:
 - HO219 – Higher Education Residency Requirements
 - HO220 – College and University Residency Requirements
 - SCR108 – Independent Review of Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Delivery
 - SCR109 – Standardized Substance Abuse Assessment Tool
 - HO106 – Drug Policy Office
 - HO163 – Daycare Facilities
- Our report, *State Substance Abuse Treatment Efforts*, resulted in the Governor establishing the position of drug czar to improve statewide coordination among substance abuse programs.
- Our report, *Management in the Department of Health and Welfare*, provided information that led the Governor to make organizational and personnel changes in Health and Welfare.
- Our report, *Idaho Students Information Measurement Systems (ISMS)—Lessons for Future Technology Projects*, provided a best practices checklist for state agencies to consider when embarking on new, large-scale information technology projects. The Governor's office sent a letter to state elected officials and department/division heads encouraging them to use our checklist. In addition, the state's Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC) adopted the checklist as a guideline and encouraged state agencies to follow it.
- In response to our report on *Fiscal Accountability of Pupil Transportation*, the Department of Education has taken steps to contain transportation costs: (1) made appropriate rule changes to standardize bus rider counts that are used to calculate reimbursement of district transportation costs, and (2) made rule changes to standardize bus depreciation schedules. In response to one of our recommendations, the Independent Boise School District entered into a new contract for its transportation services that saved the district an estimated \$214,000 in the first year.
- Received the 2007 Impact Award from the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, in recognition for the report *State Substance Abuse Treatment Efforts* documenting public policy impact.
- Received the 2007 Notable Documents Award, National Conference of State Legislatures, Legislative Research Librarians, in recognition of excellence for the report *Use of Average Daily Attendance in Public Education Funding* exploring "topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff by presenting substantive material in an outstanding format."

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2004	2005	2006	2007	Benchmark
1. Provide useful recommendations to assist the legislature in making policy and budget decisions measured by the number of bills and resolutions introduced or enacted in response to OPE recommendations	5	1	5	6	n/a
2. Identify cost-savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs measured by estimated cost savings or cost avoidance reported as a result of OPE recommendations	\$21 million	None identified	None identified	\$214,000	n/a
3. Be responsive to the legislature's information needs measured by number of "24-hours" limited reviews completed	5	0	2	0	n/a
4. Be responsive to the legislature's information needs measured by number of evaluation-related presentations made to the legislature (does not include presentations to JLOC)	6	5	5	0	n/a

Performance Measure Explanatory Note:

Performance Measure #2. OPE measures cost-savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs when conducting follow-up reports of previous evaluations. The dollar amounts are based on actual agency implementation of recommendations.

Benchmarks are not applicable because OPE performance measures are subject to legislative requests, bill or resolution passage, and agency compliance.

For More Information Contact

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