

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 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 has nine full-time authorized positions.

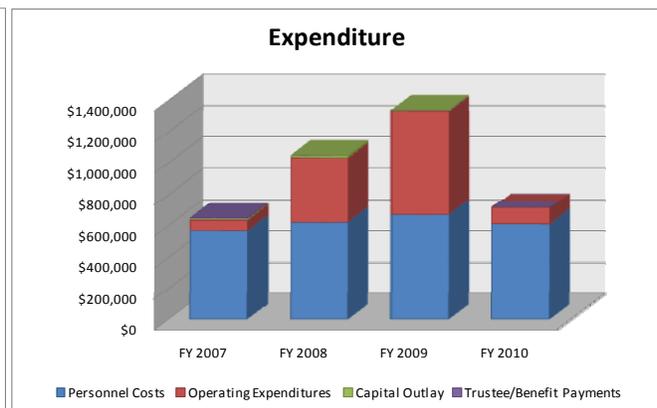
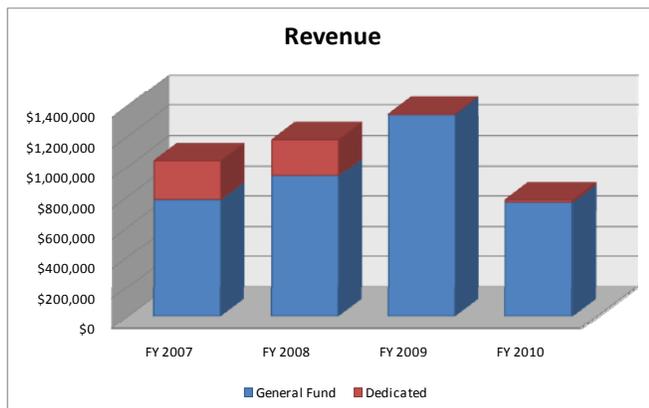
Core Functions/Idaho Code

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 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
General Fund	\$773,300	\$931,000	\$1,333,800	\$756,600
Dedicated	<u>\$260,000</u>	<u>\$239,200</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$14,200</u>
Total	\$1,033,300	\$1,170,200	\$1,333,800	\$770,800
Expenditure	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personnel Costs	\$564,500	\$618,900	\$665,800	\$609,900
Operating Expenditures	\$67,000	\$411,100	\$660,900	\$100,800
Capital Outlay	\$11,900	\$14,000	\$6,700	\$0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$643,400	\$1,044,000	\$1,333,374	\$710,700



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	3	6	3	2
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	8	9	7	1
Number of federal mandate reviews completed	0	0	0	0

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

Performance Highlights

- Legislation introduced relating to OPE findings and recommendations:
 - S1367 Amends existing law to provide resident student status to certain veterans and their dependents.
 - H 457 Delays changes to the Highway Distribution Account and delays changes to the distribution of revenues from the tax on gasoline.
- IDAPA Rule 08.01.04 was revised to align with 2009 statute changes for higher education residency requirements. OPE recommended the statute changes in a 2003 report.
- OPE received two awards from the National Conference of State Legislatures' National Legislative Program Evaluation Society:
 - 2010 Excellence in Research Methods Award for the report *Public Education Funding in Idaho*
 - 2010 Impact Award for the report *Idaho Transportation Department Performance Audit*, which documents programmatic improvements and public policy impact
- The National Conference of State Legislatures' Legislative Research Librarians awarded OPE the 2010 Notable Documents Award for the report *Increasing Efficiencies in Idaho's Parole Process*, recognizing the report's "excellent executive summary and attractive formatting."
- OPE staff and consultants presented findings and recommendations of its two reports on corrections to the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission: *Increasing Efficiencies in Idaho's Parole Process* and *Operational Efficiencies in Idaho's Prison System*.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2007	2008	2009	2010	Benchmark
1. Provide useful recommendations to assist the Legislature in making policy and budget decisions. Performance is measured by the number of bills and resolutions introduced or enacted in response to OPE recommendations.	6	8	29	3	n/a
2. Identify cost-savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs. Performance is measured by estimated cost savings or cost avoidance as a result of OPE recommendations.	\$214,000	None identified	None identified	None identified	n/a
3. Respond to the Legislature's information needs. Performance is measured by the number of "24-hour" limited reviews completed.	0	2	2	5	n/a
4. Respond to the Legislature's information needs. Performance is measured by the number of evaluation-related presentations made to the Legislature (does not include presentations to JLOC)	0	5	10	5	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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