

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 seven full-time and one 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. Make recommendations to agencies for program improvements
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 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
General Fund	\$785,285	\$818,800	\$889,200	\$886,200
Dedicated	0	0	0	0
Total	\$785,285	\$818,800	\$889,200	\$886,200
Expenditures	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Personnel Costs	\$694,098	\$683,129	\$788,925	\$821,736
Operating Expenditures*	104,513	108,973	116,665	\$102,659
Capital Outlay	854	5,760	9,842	0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	0	0	0	0
Total	\$799,465	\$797,862	\$915,432	\$924,395

* 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 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	6	3	3	3
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	1	5	2	0

The OPE workload depends on the number and nature of projects assigned each year by JLOC. Completed reports may be accessed at <https://legislature.idaho.gov/ope/reports/>.

FY 2018 Performance Highlights

OPE released the following evaluation reports in fiscal year 2018:

- Residential Care
- Representation for Children and Youth in Child Protection Cases
- Child Welfare System: Reducing the Risk of Adverse Outcomes

OPE received two awards during the fiscal year:

- 2018 Impact Award of the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, for the report *Child Welfare System*.
- 2018 Notable Document Awards of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Legislative Research Librarians, for the report *Residential Care*.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
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	12	4	7	9	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Goal 2						
Respond to the Legislature's information needs.						
2. Performance is measured by the number of "24-hour" limited reviews completed.	actual	0	2	1	1	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
3. Performance is measured by the number of evaluation-related presentations made to the Legislature (does not include presentations to JLOC).	actual	4	7	12	5	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Goal 3						
Promote confidence and accountability in state government through education and outreach to interested stakeholders and participation in professional associations.						
4. Performance is measured by the number of evaluation-related presentations made outside of the Legislature.	actual	11	8	15	19	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

Bills enacted

- Senate Bill 1341 was a wide sweeping piece of legislation addressing the child welfare system in Idaho. This legislation reflects recommendations made in the reports *Child Welfare System*, *Representation for Children and Youth in Child Protection Cases*, and *Child Welfare System: Reducing the Risk of Adverse Outcomes*. House Bill 716 provided necessary funding for the changes made in Senate Bill 1341. In addition, Senate Bill 1362 provided supplemental and new appropriations to the Department of Health and Welfare to support the changes made in Senate Bill 1341.
- House Bill 562 amends existing law directing the board of trustees of district boards of health to develop a formula for distributing state appropriations among the health districts and not alter any formula in use for at least two years. We recommended in the 2015 report *Distribution of State General Fund Dollars to Public Health Districts* that as trustees consider any future changes to the distribution formula phase those changes in over several years to avoid any unforeseen consequences.
- House Bill 632 amended existing law to increase the minimum distribution public school districts receive for college and career counseling support. The 2012 report *Reducing Barriers to Postsecondary Education* highlighted the need for more counselors specifically focused on college and career readiness to increase the number of high school graduates that enter postsecondary education institutions.

- House Bill 695, the appropriations bill for the Division of Medicaid, addresses access issues through an increase in reimbursement for services in assisted living facilities. In the *Residential Care* report, we identified access issues for Medicaid clients in assisted living facilities. Assisted living facilities faced increasing requirements and a reimbursement structure that had been unchanged for a decade.

24-hour reviews

OPE staff conducted one background review for legislators about the Public Defense Commission.

Legislative presentations

Staff made 5 presentations to legislative committees, not including presentations to JLOC:

- Two presentations to the Foster Care Study Interim Committee on the reports *Representation for Children and Youth in Child Protection Cases* and *Child Welfare System: Reducing the Risk of Adverse Outcomes*.
- Two presentations to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on the reports *Representation for Children and Youth in Child Protection Cases* and *Residential Care*.
- One presentation to the Idaho Council on Indian Affairs on the report *State Jurisdiction in Indian Country*.

Presentations made outside the legislature

Staff made 19 presentations outside of the legislature to the following organizations: Idaho Council for International Visitors, American Evaluation Association, American Society for Public Administrators, Association of Local Government Auditors, guardian ad litem subcommittee, child protection committee, and child protection advisory team of Idaho Supreme Court, Idaho Multi-System Integration Certification Program, and Boise State University.

For More Information Contact

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