

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 eight full-time equivalent 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. 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 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
General Fund	\$818,800	\$889,200	\$886,200	\$899,500
Dedicated	0	0	0	0
Total	\$818,800	\$889,200	\$886,200	\$899,500
Expenditures	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Personnel Costs	\$683,129	\$788,925	\$821,736	\$801,529
Operating Expenditures*	108,973	116,665	\$102,659	\$71,426
Capital Outlay	5,760	9,842	0	\$4,315
Trustee/Benefit Payments	0	0	0	0
Total	\$797,862	\$915,432	\$924,395	\$877,270

* 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 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	3	3	3	4
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	5	2	0	2

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/>.

Red Tape Reduction Act

Each agency shall incorporate into its strategic plan a summary of how it will implement the Red Tape Reduction Act, including any associated goals, objectives, tasks, or performance targets. This information may be included as an addendum.

	As of July 1, 2019
Number of Chapters	N/A
Number of Words	N/A
Number of Restrictions	N/A

OPE does not have any administrative rules.

FY 2019 Performance Highlights

OPE released the following evaluation and follow-up reports in fiscal year 2019:

- Pardons and Parole: Program Improvements and Statutory Changes
- Southwest Idaho Treatment Center
- Impact of State Mandates on County Governments
- Court-Ordered Fines and Fees
- Design of the Idaho Behavioral Health Program follow-up review
- Residential Care limited follow-up review

OPE received two awards during the fiscal year:

- 2019 Impact Award of the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, for the report *Residential Care*.
- 2019 Notable Document Awards of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Legislative Research Librarians, for the report *Impact of State Mandates on County Governments*.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
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	7	9	8	-----
	target	n/a	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	2	1	1	1	-----
	target	n/a	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	7	12	5	7	-----
	target	n/a	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	8	15	19	11	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

Bills enacted

- House Bill 151 provided clarification on licensing fees associated with food establishments and gradually increases food licensing fees for public health inspections. In the 2015 report *Distribution of State General Fund Dollars to Public Health Districts*, OPE found that regulatory, fee-based programs are subsidized to varying degrees by state general fund dollars and county funds because the revenue generated by fees do not cover the cost of these programs, specifically licensing and inspection fees for food establishments. OPE recommended the Legislature consider developing a separate funding mechanism to make regulatory, fee-based programs administered by districts more self-supporting, which may include increasing regulatory fees.
- Senate Bill 1096 authorized assisted living facilities to be accredited by a third party and forego their state relicensing survey. The bill's statement of purpose noted that the OPE report *Residential Care* "identified the potential need for licensing fees to keep up with growing number of assisted living facilities." This bill, an alternative to licensing fees, resulted from a workgroup to address our recommendation. By allowing accreditation from a third-party, the bill may lead to a decrease in workload for the state survey team.

24-hour reviews

OPE staff conducted one background review on the minimum wage.

Legislative presentations

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

- Three presentations on performance evaluation measures to the Senate and House Agricultural Affairs, and House Business committees.
- Two presentations to the Senate and House Health and Welfare committees on the *Southwest Idaho Treatment Center* report.
- One presentation to the Child Protection Legislative Oversight committee summarizing three reports OPE completed on child protection.
- One presentation to the House Local Government committee on the report *Impact of State Mandates on County Governments*.

Presentations made outside the legislature

Staff made 19 presentations outside of the legislature to the following organizations: American Evaluation Association, American Society for Public Administration, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, Idaho Association of Counties, Southwest Idaho Treatment Center Advisory Board, Eastern Evaluation Research Society, Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk, Cornell University's Institute for Public Affairs, and the Regional Parliamentarians Forum in the Kyrgyz Republic.

For More Information Contact

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