

Project Name

Evaluation of the Agency Performance and Accountability Commission.

21-000-02-APAC-REVIEW

Priority Program Evaluation: the expected completion is six to eight months from the date of written notification to agencies under review, which took place September 29, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description:

Review the performance audits completed by the contracted consultants of APAC.

Scope of Work:

Perform an output analysis on the intended increased performance results stemming from APAC recommendations.

Evaluation Objectives

The key objective of the review is to identify the return on investment in the form of improvements made by audited agencies. The goal is to identify policy, fiscal, or management changes resulting from the audits.

This evaluation seeks answers to the following questions:

1. Which recommendations have been implemented by audited agencies?
2. Has the implementation of recommendations converted into increased performance?
3. How was the increased performance measured?
4. Did agencies submit a recommendations implementation schedule as required by APAC?
5. Did agencies initiate other improvements because of the audits?

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is May 2021.

Project Name

Evaluation of the Board of Equalization
21-000-01-BOE-FORECASTS

Rapid Response Evaluation: It is estimated this evaluation will be completed within 90 to 100 days from the date of the entrance conference, which took place on September 24, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description:

Conduct historical analysis of revenue projections compared to certified funds available for appropriation.

Scope of Work:

Examine the difference between certified revenues and actual revenues; identify trends.

Evaluation Objectives

Through this review, the LOFT evaluation team seeks to provide clarity and understanding of the state's process for forecasting revenue, including identifying the inputs that determine the final figures presented to the BOE for certification. This evaluation seeks answers to the following questions:

1. What is the average range of discrepancies between estimates and actual revenues in the last ten fiscal years?
2. What is the process leading up to the presentation of revenue figures to the BOE?
3. What is the process for declaring budget shortfalls in the state?
4. What opportunities exist to better inform policymakers of revenue trends and economic conditions?

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is January 2021.



Project Name

Evaluation of County Improvements for Roads & Bridges Program
21-345-02-CIRB

Priority Program Evaluation: the expected completion is six to eight months from the date of the entrance conference, which took place October 7, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description:

Review the progress in infrastructure maintenance and repair contributed to the CIRB program.

Scope of Work:

Complete a performance-based review of the CIRB program based on evidence of repaired or replaced county roads and bridges compared to the allocated fiscal funding.

Evaluation Objectives

To accurately capture the severity of Oklahoma roads and bridges associated with the allocated funds awarded, our recommendation is that this process take the following form:

1. Briefly examine the historical context behind the CIRB program including funding reclamations, CED establishment, tax revenue changes, and review of the 5-year Plan process.
2. Examine/analyze the funding provided to various county roads compared to the economic impact and traffic count of the same road.
3. Evaluate the efficacy of having multiple funds that all relate to the maintenance and repair of Oklahoma's roads and bridges (ROAD, CIRB, County Highway fund, CBRI, etc.)
4. Assess the success of the CIRB program based on the objectives originally listed in statute.

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is May 2021.

Project Name

Evaluation of Health Department's Contact Tracing program
21-340-01-Contact-Tracing

Rapid Response Evaluation: It is estimated this evaluation will be completed within 90 to 100 days from the date of the entrance conference, which took place on October 1, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description: Examine the impact of Federal COVID funds on state health programs; examine outcomes of the Oklahoma State Department of Health's (OSDH) contact tracing program for COVID active infections.

Scope of Work: (1) Evaluate efficiency and outcomes of contact tracers related to limiting the spread of COVID and (2) Evaluate categories of reimbursement funds, approval processes, and compliance with Federal reimbursement policy.

Evaluation Objectives

Based on the LOFT evaluation team's prework, this evaluation seeks to:

1. Obtain and analyze output and outcome metrics to determine the effectiveness of the OSDH contact tracing program, including critical decision points within the implementation and reporting process
2. Examine cost savings and offsets identified by OSDH which will be used to shoulder the ongoing costs of the contact tracing program
3. Examine the policies, procedures, mandates, and statutes used, or which can be used, to better enhance project objectives and goals
4. Further examine OSDH's CARES Fund expenditures to ensure compliance and transparency

Timeline

Due to the sensitivity and nature of this report, estimated completion is mid-December 2020.



Project Name

State COVID Relief Fund
21-000-01-COVID-FUNDS

Rapid Response Evaluation: It is estimated this evaluation will be completed within 90 to 100 days from the date of the entrance conference, which took place on September 22nd, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description:

Gather preliminary data on current COVID-19 reimbursements and funding allocation while initiating analysis on state agencies performance.

Scope of Work:

Collect data on funds distributed by the Federal Government in response to the COVID-10 pandemic; identify any gaps in information; present data trends or anomalies.

Evaluation Objectives

Due to the on-going nature of addressing COVID related funding concerns, LOFT recommends the following scope of work to assure that the Legislature is provided with accurate, timely, and relevant data:

1. Briefly examine the historical context behind the COVID-19 pandemic response, including guidance provided to State agencies regarding COVID related purchasing, the establishment of the reimbursement request system, the COVID-19 asset tracking process, and regional comparative analysis.
2. Examine/analyze the finalized reimbursement data and present findings within context of specific purchases, to include COVID relativity, item quantity, locations of item disbursement, purchase price, and level of potential risk.
3. Assess the efficacy/success of CRF fund allocation as defined by the CARES Forward mission statement.

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is December 2020.

Project Name

Evaluation of Oklahoma's Early Childhood Programs
21-265-02-Early Childhood

Priority Program Evaluation: expected completion is six to eight months from the date of the entrance conference, which took place October 6, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description: Evaluate outcomes of the program.

Scope of Work: Examine outcomes of the program and forecast long-term economic impact of state investment.

Evaluation Objectives

Through this evaluation, LOFT seeks to:

1. Provide an overview of all publicly funded early childhood programs, including their funding sources, how they are delivered, and to whom.
2. Identify the respective goals and measurable performance outcomes of programs, their organizational structure, and associated costs.
3. Establish the level of coordination that exists among the various programs and explore potential opportunities to better leverage funds and resources.
4. Determine the effectiveness of early childhood programs, how corresponding outcomes are measured, and whether there are sustained benefits.

Due to the breadth of this topic, the LOFT evaluation team recommends excluding the state's Preschool program from analysis.

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is May 2021.



Project Name

Evaluation of federal CARES act funds utilized by Oklahoma's institutions of higher education
21-000-01-HIGHERED-COVID

Rapid Response Evaluation: It is estimated this evaluation will be completed date within 90 to 100 days from the date of the entrance conference, which took place on October 2nd, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description:

Gather preliminary data on current COVID-19 reimbursement and funding allocation.

Scope of Work:

Ensure transparency and availability of data to analyze institutional cost share expenditures.

Evaluation Objectives

This evaluation seeks to answer the following questions respective to institutions' use of CARES Act funds:

1. Is the data we are getting complete? Are there any missing entries?
2. Is the data we are getting substantive? Do we have the details that we need?
3. Are the institutions compliant with the 50% cost share requirement?
4. What are the trends in macro-level datasets, such as expenditure category, student population served, etc.?
5. Are there any expenditures which require more explanation?
6. For those institutions independent of state funds, what processes exist to ensure compliance?

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is January 2021.

Project Name

Evaluation of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission
21-090-01-OESC

Rapid Response Evaluation: It is estimated this evaluation will be completed within 90 to 100 days from the date of the entrance conference, which took place on September 16th, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

From the workplan approved by the Legislative Oversight Committee:

- Evaluate the efficacy of resources available to the program for delivery of services.
- Examine occurrence of fraudulent filings.
- Examine the rate of unverified Unemployment Insurance and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).
- Assess disaster readiness and process mapping to reduce cycle-time to end-user.

Evaluation Objectives

The LOFT evaluation team recommends that this evaluation take the following form:

1. Briefly examine the historical context behind the COVID-19 pandemic response, including any waived flags and unemployment verification, the possibility of Federal claw back of funds, and regional comparative analysis.
2. Examine the current context of the agency, to include its governance and accountability, such as the Board of Review; processes; IT infrastructure, to include current and planned investments; and other components, as necessary.
3. Assess the potential outcomes from a change management perspective of the top three major strategic initiatives that are being planned by the agency in response to performance challenges.

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is December 2020.



Project Name

Evaluation of Oklahoma's Promise Program
21-605-02-Oklahoma's Promise

Priority Program Evaluation: the expected completion is six to eight months from the date of the entrance conference, which took place September 29, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description:

Evaluate outcomes of the Oklahoma's Promise program (formerly known as OHLAP).

Scope of Work:

Quantify the state-wide economic impact from Oklahoma's Promise; Forecast projected costs and impact of the program over the next decade.

Evaluation Objectives

The LOFT evaluation team will analyze longitudinal performance-based data to determine the impact Oklahoma's Promise is having on providing low-income students an opportunity to earn postsecondary credentials and how this program addresses Oklahoma's critical workforce demands and to what effect impacts the economy.

We believe the findings of our evaluation, based on the scope of work and research questions, will provide the LOC and the Oklahoma State Legislature with:

1. the return on investment for funding tuition for Oklahoma students who qualify for the program,
2. how Oklahoma's Promise addresses the state's critical workforce demands, and
3. the projected cost of continuing the program through 2030.

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is May 2021.

Project Name

Evaluation of the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust fund
21-092-02-TSET Funding

Priority Program Evaluation: expected completion is six to eight months from the date of the entrance conference, which took place October 8, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description: Evaluate program spending and outcomes.

Scope of Work: Examine the percentage of funds going to tobacco cessation and forecast projections on tobacco-using population trends.

Evaluation Objectives

The LOFT evaluation team will provide the LOC with a better understanding of current TSET spending and projected funding needs, performance outcomes metrics for TSET programs and services, a comparison to other states, and an examination of available and applicable federal programs and services.

This evaluation will be structured and guided by six questions:

1. What is the return-on-investment for TSET's programs and services?
2. What are short-term and long-term outcomes for the TSET program? How are results measured?
3. What, if any, related services does TSET fund that might be provided by other sources?
4. How does Oklahoma's tobacco cessation efforts and spending compare to other states and national averages and how does spending relate to smoking prevalence?
5. Which TSET services or sets of services result in the best outcomes?
6. What is the projected budget for TSET should State Question 814 (2020) pass and what are the possible related programmatic changes?

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is May 2021.

Project Name

Evaluation of DHS Waiver Waiting List
21-830-02-Waiver Waiting List

Priority Program Evaluation: expected completion is six to eight months from the date of the entrance conference, which took place October 6, 2020.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description: Evaluate program resources and outcomes.

Scope of Work: Examine expenditures, trends, and forecast projected capacity of the program.

Evaluation Objectives

The LOFT evaluation team will analyze processes and procedures, identify efficiencies, identify funding sources, where applicable, forecast funding needs, explain the needs of families, explain the services received by families, and identify best practices of other states that maintain similar Waiver services wait lists.

This evaluation is structured and guided by six key questions:

1. What resources would it take to serve those on the waiting list right now?
2. What efforts have been made to try serve those on the waiting list?
3. What are the current characteristics and needs of those on the waiting list?
4. How can the state better serve those who are waiting?
5. Are there any additional resources or funding streams that could be used to support families on the waiting list while they are waiting?
6. Do other states have waiting lists? If so, what states and how do they manage those lists and/or serve those on the list?

Timeline

The projected completion date for this evaluation is May 2021.

