



LOFT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE OF
FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

2021 – 2022 Work Plan - Program Evaluation Projects

Rapid Response Evaluations *Time Frame: 90 – 100 days*

- Rapid response examinations are prioritized in response to special requests from the Legislative Oversight Committee, with the intent to inform immediate funding or policy decisions.

Priority Program Evaluations *Time Frame: 6 – 8 months*

- Priority program evaluations are undertaken by LOFT as part of its annual work plan. These reports provide a more detailed review of a state program, with an emphasis on assessing program effectiveness and outcomes.

Ongoing Evaluations *Time frame determined by duration of special project*

- Ongoing evaluations are special projects conducted over an extended period as required by the parameters of the project. For example, a multi-year granting period related to the receipt of federal funds.

Future Program Evaluations *1 – 3 year schedule, as workflow allows*

- Future program evaluations are conducted as workflow allows, with review staggered in order of program funding and impact.

Impact Evaluations *6 – 12 months after completion of initial evaluation*

- Impact evaluations examine actions implemented in response to LOFT's initial evaluation of an agency or program, capturing any efficiencies, cost savings, process improvements, or improved delivery of services.

| Rapid Response Evaluations | | | |
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| Program/ Agency Name | Project Description | Scope of Work | Prioritization Ranking |
| Comprehensive Compensation for Oklahoma Teachers | Evaluate total compensation provided to Oklahoma teachers | Examine total compensation for public school teachers, conduct a regional comparative analysis of total compensation, identify policy trends and best practices related to teacher compensation. Provide a competitive analysis on teacher benefits and salary, adjusting for cost of living. | 1 |
| Medical Marijuana Regulation | Evaluate regulation of Oklahoma's marijuana industry | Identify and describe roles of all agencies involved in the regulation of the marijuana industry. Provide an analysis of best practices for the enforcement, regulation, | 2 |

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| | | and integration of the industry into Oklahoma's health care system. | |
| Non-appropriated agencies with authority over professional licenses | Verify the type of fees and amount charged by non-appropriated agencies and evaluate expenditures | Evaluate the fiscal impact of agency fees on Oklahoma citizens, to include an assessment of historical trends. Provide projections of fees and evaluate the volatility of fees charged by non-appropriated agencies. | 3 |
| State Tourism and Economic Impact | Evaluate the economic models of the state's system of parks | Provide an overview of and examine the staffing levels, revenues, and overall economic feasibility of the state's parks. Identify challenges associated with the current operation of state parks, as well as national or regional best practices that could be implemented in Oklahoma. Identify organizational and policy options that the Legislature may consider regarding how Oklahoma operates its state park system. | 4 |
| Priority Program Evaluations | | | |
| Distribution of State funds for K-12 Public Education | Evaluate all funds distributed to the public education system and report on types of expenditures | Map all funding sources and key expenditure categories for the K-12 Public Education system, to include programs funded through Common Education but not delivered by Common Education. Identify expenditures that are directly tied to outcomes. Identify opportunities to prioritize expenditures for the purpose of achieving specific goals. | 1 |
| Performance and Benefits of the State-administered health insurance plan | Evaluate Health Choice | Map coverage and services offered. Compare benefits and costs; benchmark to private industry and neighboring states; explore cost containment strategies. | 2 |
| Business Tax Modernization | Evaluate Oklahoma's current taxes on businesses | Examine the competitiveness of Oklahoma's business tax policies and the types of taxes assessed. Identify tax policy that creates both certainty for businesses and stability of revenue for states. Conduct a regional comparative analysis of other states' tax structures and include fiscal projections of what those structures could look like if implemented in Oklahoma. Examine patterns and trends regarding taxation. | 3 |

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| Operational Assessment of the Department of Corrections | Evaluate the operations of the Department of Corrections | Examine the agency's governance structure, to include capital asset management, personnel, the agency's offender management system, and cost per inmate. Examine current, historical, and projected prison populations as well as review historical funding levels. | 4 |
| Delivery of Mental Health Services | Evaluate Oklahoma's organizational structure for the delivery of mental health services | Identify the agencies involved in the delivery of mental health services and define types of services. Identify any duplication of services across involved agencies and identify best practices for improved outcomes. | 5 |
| Ongoing Evaluations | | | |
| Review Oklahoma's use of federal funds granted under the American Rescue Plan Act | Evaluate the processes used by the State to ensure compliance with federal requirements while achieving measurable benefits to the State. | LOFT will review processes throughout the granting period and provide regular updates to the Committee. LOFT will examine the processes established for providing guidance to governmental entities regarding spending of ARPA funds for the purpose of ensuring compliance and determining priority of expenditures for the greatest benefit to the state. Identify practices for replication for future deployment of federal relief. | 1 |
| Future Program Evaluations | | | |
| Analyze career readiness for Oklahoma students | Evaluate the efficacy of state systems to provide career pathways for Oklahoma's youth. | Identify and forecast critical demand jobs as well as related qualifications, assess gaps in preparedness, and identify best strategies to improve career readiness. | 1 |
| Department of Public Safety Driver's License Process | Evaluate the speed of process and wait times for citizens. | Conduct a review of current processes, including an evaluation of recently implemented improvements, examine opportunities to modernize delivery of driver's license services and identify best practices from other states. | 2 |
| State of Oklahoma Cyber-Security | Evaluate the efficacy of current cyber-security measures | Review the state's cybersecurity defenses, identify any gaps in current architecture, analyze emerging threats, and identify successful strategies for implementation. | 3 |
| Absentee Voting | Evaluate the outcomes and accuracy of absentee voting | Examine the process of the collection, counting and administration of absentee ballots. | 4 |

Impact Evaluations

The scope of work for each Impact Evaluation will be to review outcomes and impact of LOFT's engagement with the agencies, examine implementation of any recommendations within the report, and identify any related savings of cost or efficiency.

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| Board of Equalization | Conduct a post-report follow up with the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the State's budget office to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: September 2021 |
| Oklahoma Employment Security Commission | Conduct a post-report follow up with the agency to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: October 2021 |
| Oklahoma's Promise | Conduct a post-report follow up with the Regents for Higher Education to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: November 2021 |
| Contact Tracing | Conduct a post-report follow up with the State Health Department to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: December 2021 |
| TSET | Conduct a post-report follow up with the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: February 2022 |
| County Improvements for Roads and Bridges | Conduct a post-report follow up with the State Department of Transportation to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: February 2022 |
| APAC | Conduct a post-report follow up with the agencies engaged through APAC to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: March 2022 |
| Early Childhood | Conduct a post-report follow up with the State Department of Education to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: April 2022 |
| DHS Waiver | Conduct a post-report follow up with the State Department of Human Services to review any related changes to statutes and administrative code. | Estimated completion: June 2022 |