

Including \$700,000 in the 2018 supplemental budget will result in more accountability at state agencies.

More resources are needed to provide the accountability and transparency the public demands.

Additional funding will buy almost 8,000 more hours of auditing by approximately six additional auditors, who will go deeper at large state agencies and examine smaller agencies that may have gone up to 10 years without an audit.

This supplemental budget request is the first step in restoring accountability audits to all state agencies at least every four years.

\$700,000
supplemental request



7,865 hours of audit



6.4 additional FTE



Initial progress toward compliance



Additional audit effort at large, high-risk agencies



Some audits of smaller agencies, not audited for 7-10 years

What's at stake if the Legislature doesn't increase funding for these audits?

Public trust and public resources. Fewer audits mean greater risk that public resources will be misused, diminishing overall confidence in state government.

This work is how the public knows their hard-earned tax dollars are being used for their intended purposes. Funding this work emphasizes the state's commitment to accountability to the people of Washington.

ACCOUNTABILITY AUDITS

How do you know state government is running effectively and spending taxpayer money wisely and well? Accountability audits provide an independent, objective review of the operations of state agencies.

Think of accountability audits as the public's flashlight. This work finds areas that are at the greatest risk of fraud, loss, abuse or misuse of public resources – and illuminates them so agencies can improve.



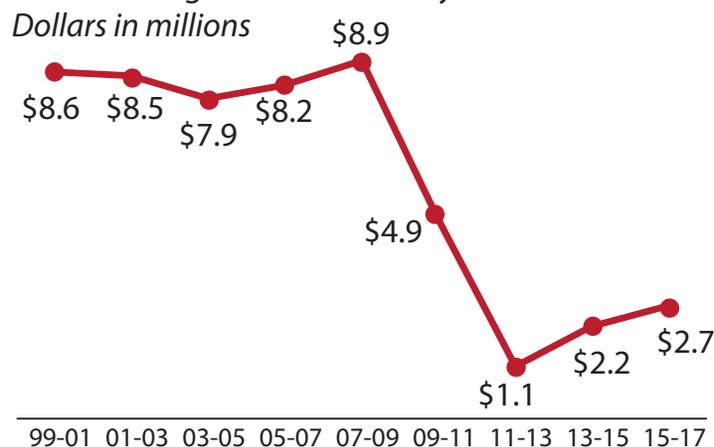
Office of the Washington State Auditor

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Accountability audits are a distinctive part of Washington’s open government culture. The Auditor’s duties, enshrined in the state Constitution and further defined by the Legislature, empower the Office to evaluate aspects of state agencies that go deeper than balance sheets. Accountability audits send auditors into the field, interviewing clients and shining a broader light for the taxpayers.

In the years since the Recession, the Office’s ability to conduct these audits has been hampered. At larger agencies – with the biggest budgets and the deepest responsibilities – the Office has been able to perform only high-level audits. That work shines a light in the largest rooms, but not into the back offices.

State funding for accountability audits



The Recession resulted in a precipitous drop in the amount spent on accountability audits of state agencies. The funding hasn’t recovered. As a result, more than 50 state agencies haven’t been audited in four years.

We don’t know what’s going on there, and because we don’t know, neither do you.

Some recent audit work provides clues:

- People were receiving unemployment benefits while they were in jail.
- A commission hired a private organization to do some of its work, resulting in \$250,000 in public money spent without documentation, or for activities that are not allowed, like offering people \$20 to attend public events.
- Volunteers who drive vulnerable children to various day-to-day appointments were not receiving background checks consistently or, in some cases, not at all. One driver hadn’t had a background check in 10 years.

Reduced funding has led to some local governments receiving more scrutiny than statewide agencies.

The level of reduced funding for state agency accountability audits is starkly revealed when compared with the audits local governments are paying for.

