

**Priority:** Accountability

**Lead Agency:** Citizen Involvement

**Program Offer Type:** New Program

**Program Contact:** Kathleen Todd

**Related Programs:**

**Frameworks:**

### **Executive Summary**

Provide electronic mailing list and other electronic services for citizen boards, commissions and advisory committees to improve communications between members, citizens and county government and reduce the risk of open meeting violations. Establish a citizen advisory committee to identify other ways to use new technology to improve communications between citizens and county government.

### **Program Description**

This program would purchase and install software to allow the county to easily establish email mailing lists for each citizen advisory group in the county. It would give members of those committees the ability to communicate electronically about decisions with one another while complying with the open meeting laws by allowing the public to subscribe in read-only form. It could also be used as a seamless way of providing members and the public with meeting notices, agendas and minutes. In addition, an advisory group of citizens and county staff would be established to advise on implementing the program and to identify other appropriate new technologies for improving communication with citizens.

### **Program Justification**

Electronic communication is becoming the norm. However, it is easy for county advisory groups to inadvertently violate the public meeting law when using email to communicate with one another about decisions. The purpose of this proposal is to provide an easy and natural way for members of boards and commissions to communicate with one another while reducing the risk of a violation of open meeting laws. The program will also allow them to provide busy citizens with easy electronic access to meeting notices, agendas and minutes improving public knowledge and understanding of county decisions.

From the CIC's assessments interim report issued in 2004:

"Committees which directly advise the Commission are covered by the open meetings laws. So are any sub-committees which make recommendations to these groups. (According to the County Attorney's office) this includes communication by email which involves a quorum of a board, commission or sub-committee — for instance an email reply that goes to all members of the group. The county needs to provide clear support for these boards and commissions to stay in compliance with the open meetings laws ..."

### **Performance Measures**

Number of committees which make use of the mailing list service.

Number of members of the public who make use of the mailing list service.

### **Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results**

**Program Mandate: 4 Program and Funding Level Choice****Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2005	2005	2006	2006
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$14,800	\$0
<b>Subtotal: Direct Exps:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal: Other Exps:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total GF/non-GF:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$14,800</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Explanation of Revenues****Significant Program Changes**