

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Auditor
Program Contact: LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Auditor's Office promotes honest, efficient, effective, equitable, and fully accountable government. Authorized by the County Charter, the elected Auditor conducts independent, objective performance audits of County government. Our audits examine program performance, service outcomes, management processes, and general operations. Our work provides the public and officials with a means of assessing the quality, effectiveness, and value of County services and identifies opportunities for improvement.

Program Description

Audit reports are the primary product of the Office and provide internal and external accountability. Audits supply analysis to department directors about the programs they manage, to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) about program results, and to the public about how tax dollars are spent. This ensures that County operations are independently reviewed and held accountable.

The Auditor selects and schedules new audit projects annually. New audit projects are selected on the basis of our internal assessment of potential risks and analysis of improvement opportunities for County programs. We also seek input from the BOCC, managers, employees, community groups, and the public at large.

The Office also biennially issues a Financial Condition report that examines ten years of County financial trend data. Beginning in FY08, the Auditor's Office will also manage the contract with the external audit firm that audits County financial statements and will regularly convene the County's Audit Committee. Also in FY08, the Auditor's Office will launch an ethics and fraud information tip line that will be available to the public and to County employees for reporting concerns about ethics violations, fraud, waste, and abuse.

Program Justification

Audit reports are public documents that help the community understand how government works and how well the County is doing in meeting its goals. Our reports also provide independent assurance to the community that the County is managing tax dollars wisely. Audits recommend strategies that lead to improvement of processes and data, as well as maximize the use of existing resources. Each report is released to the public, and audit findings are presented during a televised briefing of the BOCC. All audit reports are published on the Auditor's website and distributed to the public on request.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Number of reports issued	14	14	14	14
Outcome	Recommendation implementation rate -- within 5 years after audit release	91.0%	85.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Efficiency	Reports issued per FTE (also see description below)	2	1	2	2
Efficiency	Average hours per audit issue	1,025	1,200	1,000	1,200

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

(1)"Number of reports issued" is a new measure that quantifies the primary product of our work. (2)"Recommendation implementation rate..." is a gauge of recommendation quality. We measure recommendation implementation by tracking recommendations for five years after an audit is issued; it may realistically take that long for departments to achieve this outcome. (3)"Reports issued per FTE" is now reclassified as an efficiency measure. Depending on the complexity of each audit, different levels of staffing may be required for any given project. This measure is used to track overall office efficiency per FTE. Actual for FY05-06 = 1.94; purchased for FY06-07 = .87; estimated for FY06-07 = 2.0; offered for FY07-08 = 1.9. (4)The Office's historical benchmark for "Average hours per audit issued" is 1200; the goal is to reach an average per project that is at or under that benchmark.

NOTE: "Percent satisfied with Progress Board projects completed" is no longer reported; see Significant Program Changes.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

County Charter 8.10 states "The auditor shall conduct performance audits of all county operations and financial affairs and make reports thereof to the board of county commissioners according to generally accepted government auditing standards. The auditor may also conduct studies intended to measure or improve the performance of county efforts." Government auditing standards outline minimum standards for the planning, conducting, and reporting of audit work. Auditors are required to complete 40 hours of relevant training annually and the Office is required to have a peer review every 3 years to ensure that the office is in compliance with standards.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2007	2007	2008	2008
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$790,019	\$0	\$822,343	\$0
Contracts	\$95,325	\$0	\$181,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$28,250	\$0	\$33,350	\$0
Internal Services	\$93,479	\$0	\$111,958	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$1,007,073	\$0	\$1,148,651	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,007,073	\$0	\$1,148,651	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,007,073		\$1,148,651	
Program FTE	8.30	0.00	8.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was: #10007, Auditor's Office

Beginning in FY08, the Auditor's Office will manage the contract with the external audit firm that contracts to audit the County's financial statements and will regularly convene the County's Audit Committee. Prior to FY08, this contract was managed by the Finance Office. Because the external auditor is essentially responsible for auditing the Finance Office, the Auditor and the Chief Financial Officer agreed to this change in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest. This change represents an increased workload for the Auditor's Office.

The Auditor's Office will no longer publish the Service Efforts and Accomplishments report.

The joint City-County partnership through the Progress Board has been put on hiatus, so the measure, "Percent satisfied with Progress Board projects completed" is not applicable to the County Auditor's Office's budget.