

Priority:	Accountability	Lead Agency:	Auditor
Program Offer Type:	Innovative/New Program	Program Contact:	LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Related Programs:	10005		

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The "Public Safety Specialist" program offer scales up current audit services and adds capacity to the Auditor's Office for additional audits of public safety programs. This will increase transparency and accountability in the area of public safety.

The Auditor's Office sees a need to increase its coverage of public safety programs, without negatively impacting the number of audits of other areas of the County, particularly of human service programs. Public safety programs represent nearly one-third of the County's operating budget, with approximately 60% of funding coming from the County's General Fund. The County's public safety agencies are generally large and complex, and they each carry out multiple functions. In FY06, the County spent approximately \$202 million on its network of public safety programs, services, and jails (Auditor's Financial Condition Report, June 2007).

Program Description

The "Public Safety Specialist" program offer adds a full-time professional auditor with a background in one or more of the following public safety areas: 1) adult and/or juvenile community corrections; 2) law enforcement; 3) jail operations; or 4) prosecution services. The public safety specialist will work with other auditing professionals in the Auditor's Office who have conducted previous audits of the Department of Community Justice, the Sheriff's Office, and/or the District Attorney's Office. The public safety specialist will be assigned audits designed to provide timely assessments of public safety program costs and service outcomes.

See Significant Program Changes Section for examples of previous public safety audits and projects currently underway or planned for the near future.

Program Justification

The Auditor's Office has an important role as an independent watchdog of the County's public safety system. The Office answers directly to the public and brings increased transparency and accountability to the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and the Department of Community Justice.

Overall, the County is responsible for a significant portion of the region's public safety system. In addition, the County will have an increasing role in regional security and emergency preparedness that will increase the County's public profile and the dollars controlled by County public safety agencies. This calls for increased review and analyses by the Auditor's Office.

Audits are public documents that provide the community with information about how the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and the Department of Community Justice are functioning. Audit reports add independent assurance that the public safety programs are making wise use of taxpayer dollars. Audits also recommend strategies that will improve processes and data, encourage data-driven decision-making, and maximize the use of existing public safety resources.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY06-07)	Current Year Purchased (FY07-08)	Current Year Estimate (FY07-08)	Next Year Offer (FY08-09)
Output	Number of public safety reports issued	2	2	2	4
Outcome	Recommendation implementation rate -- within 5 years after audit release	92.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%

Performance Measure - Description

#1) "Number of public safety reports issued." This measures the number of public safety performance audit reports issued in a given fiscal year (includes formal follow-ups of previous audits).

#2) "Recommendation implementation rate -- within 5 years after audit release." To measure recommendation implementation, we track recommendations for five years after an audit is issued; it may realistically take that long for departments to achieve this outcome.

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
Program Expenses	2008	2008	2009	2009
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$121,920	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$3,080	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$125,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

This is a General Fund program.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was:

This is a new proposal.

Examples of public safety audits issued recently include audits of Juvenile Community Justice, Jail Personnel Costs, Public Safety SEA reports, and audits of the DA's Community Court project and the Neighborhood DA program. Public Safety projects currently underway include an audit of the Sheriff's Civil Process function and a formal follow-up of the Jail Personnel Costs audit issued in March 2006.