

Cabinet Agencies' Performance Audit Action Item(s) & Status

Performance Measures in Economic Development Programs: Opportunities to enhance transparency and improve processes

(See also [cabinet agency response](#) for full context to Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) [report](#), October 2014)

Agencies included in the performance audit: the Department of Commerce.

SAO Findings Summary:

1. Commerce cannot measure Associate Development Organizations (ADO) impact.
2. The performance measurement system is not working as intended.
3. The performance measurement system is partially aligned with leading practices.

SAO Recommendations (Rec):

1. The Legislature establish clear goals for the program in consultation with Commerce and ADOs.
2. The Legislature reform reporting requirements for both Commerce and the ADO program.
3. Commerce and ADOs improve performance measures based on clarified program goals.

The table below shows the current status of action items the agency initiated to address issues identified in the performance audit report. Please see the [cabinet agency response](#) for additional context and any additional steps already taken.

For an explanation of the columns below, [see the legend](#).

Rec	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources ?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
3	Deferred	Upon the completion of legislative clarification of the program's goals, Commerce will implement the recommendations.	COM	*	Yes	No	Yes	(*)Due date is dependent on Legislative action. During the 2015 Legislative Session Commerce worked with a group of interested ADOs on a drafting a bill that would streamline reporting as well as provide a mission for contracting ADOs. We found out that a Senator was also working on a bill regarding the ADO program. Neither bill was introduced during the 2015 Legislative Session. We will revisit the bills for the 2016 Legislative

Rec	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources ?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
								Session For the 15-17 contracting period we have streamlined the target output reporting to make it consistent among the ADO Network. 2016 Update: We had a change in leadership in December 2015; neither bill was introduced during the 2016 Legislative Session 2017 Update: No legislative action was taken
3	Completed	Examples associated with the successes and trials of implementing economic development strategies will be included in Commerce’s next legislative report.	COM	12/31 /2016	Yes	No	No	Commerce has shared the SAO report with the ADOs and will coordinate with them at the Spring/Summer 2016 ADO Best Practices Meeting for examples to include in the 2016 Legislative Report. 2016 Update: New leadership. This wasn’t done at the 2016 best practices meeting. ADOs are turning in their reports now that will be used for the 2016 Legislative Report. We will take into account this action step as the report gets drafted and when the kick off meeting for the report occurs. 2017 Update: Examples can be found in the legislative report Appendix A where each ADO provided a “Summary of Best Practices Shared and Implementation.”