



Dave Yost
Ohio Auditor of State

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TO: All Fiscal Officers

FROM: Dave Yost
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SUBJECT: Leverage for Efficiency, Accountability and Performance Fund

Last week I had the privilege of joining Governor Kasich and legislative leaders for the signing of Senate Bill 4. This legislation, requiring performance audits of state agencies, is an important step toward leaner, more effective government.

Equally important was the inclusion – at my recommendation – of the Leverage for Efficiency, Accountability and Performance Fund (LEAP Fund). This \$1.5 million fund will advance the costs of a performance audit to state agencies and local governments that might otherwise not be able to afford to have one conducted. Costs will be repaid the following year from the savings reaped from the audit's recommendations and sown again into new performance audits.

Ohioans deserve clean, accountable and efficient governments. Performance audits and the LEAP fund can help make that a reality.

Application Process:

Entities that wish to participate in the LEAP Fund will be required to submit an application to the Auditor of State. ~~Applications are available online and due no later than May 31. Loans will be awarded with the start of the new biennium – July 1, 2011.~~

Selection of participants will be based on a number of factors, including financial need, previous actions taken to reduce costs and improve efficiency, and a commitment to implement the recommendations made in the performance audit. It is anticipated that savings identified through the audit process will enable timely reimbursement of the LEAP Fund.

All selected applicants will be required to sign a letter of arrangement with the AOS. The letter outlines the scope of services to be provided, the timing of the audit, and specific payment terms.

In accordance with the provisions of the legislation, recipients of audits funded through LEAP will receive a statement from the Auditor of State indicating the amount due for services performed, as well as the date on which payment is due. The amount due will include interest on the amount advanced from the LEAP Fund, accrued from the date the audit is completed until the date payment is received by the Auditor of State.

Additional information concerning the LEAP Fund, including the application form and instructions, is available on the Auditor of State's Web site at www.auditor.state.oh.us/LEAP.

<https://ohioauditor.gov/performance/leap.html>