

MAJOR BUDGET POLICIES 2015-17

BUDGET TARGETS

- Agencies should prepare their 2015-17 biennial budget requests based on 100 percent of their fiscal year 2014-15 adjusted base.
 - All agencies should assume there will be zero growth in overall GPR appropriations in each fiscal year during the 2015-17 biennium, and specific program needs should be managed within this general constraint.
 - Exceptions will occur only for K-12 school aids; required basic cost-to-continue needs for the state's institutions, i.e., the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health Services institutions; entitlement and related assistance programs in the Department of Health Services (e.g., Medical Assistance), the Department of Children and Families' Division of Safety and Permanence, and the Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and housekeeping adjustments like standard budget adjustments, fuel and utilities, and debt service.
- Agencies are reminded that, under 2013 Wisconsin Act 20, Section 9252(1)(a), many agencies were required to lapse or transfer, from PR or GPR appropriations, a total of \$38.3 million annually to the general fund in the 2013-15 biennium. This lapse requirement was extended to include fiscal year 2015-16 by 2013 Wisconsin Act 145, Section 44m. Agencies should plan accordingly to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet this lapse requirement.
 - Agencies should not submit any request to remove or modify this requirement as part of their biennial budget request.
- The zero growth policy will also apply to the SEG-funded administrative operations appropriations in all agencies that are supported by the transportation fund, the conservation fund, the environmental fund and the lottery fund.
- Funding requests for other types of appropriations and other funding sources in both years should be limited to revenue availability and only the highest priority programmatic needs.
- Except for standard budget adjustments, routine budget items should be handled in agencies' base budgets regardless of fund source.
- Agencies should not submit requests related to anticipated changes to existing systems or processes that may result from the State Transforming Agency Resources (STAR) project.
- In developing their biennial budget requests, agencies should fundamentally review missions and priorities, exploring opportunities to reallocate resources, integrate programs and consolidate functions.
- Any areas needing additional staff must be met through base reallocations.

Note: Agencies must receive approval from the State Budget Office before proposing to use funding sources in another agency to stay within budget targets, to absorb operations' reductions or to fund any new initiatives.

- Proposals that transfer functions or programs, including related costs and staff, between agencies should result in zero growth in overall state appropriations (i.e., the transferring agency should have lower overall appropriations to offset the increase at the receiving agency). All agencies involved in the transfer should notify the State Budget Office during the initial stages of considering any such proposal to facilitate review of the request and allocation of any projected savings between the agencies.
- Where reductions and efficiencies in state operations result in reductions in positions, agencies should make all efforts to accomplish the reductions without layoffs.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS IN BUDGETING

- Agencies need to report on the performance measures they identified for previous biennial budgets. These measures should relate to agencies' broad Chapter 20 budget programs. If needed to capture significant shifts in agency function, additional measures could be added; however, only a few measures should be presented so there is a clear focus on results.
- For the 2015-17 budget, agencies need to report actual outcome measures through fiscal year 2012-13 and fiscal year 2013-14. Planned outcome measures should be listed for fiscal year 2014-15, fiscal year 2015-16 and fiscal year 2016-17. Agencies should track and maintain data going forward to present actual performance data for a fiscal year compared to planned performance. (A calendar year may be used if data is collected on that basis. Please note where calendar years are used.)
- The State Budget Office will include performance measures developed by an agency in the Executive Budget Book, and agencies should reference measures in decision items, where relevant.
- Agency descriptions and performance measures will be included in the state budget system and must be updated in that system. It is important for agencies to follow the prescribed format to ensure consistency and compatibility.

BUDGETING FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Requests for funding of information technology projects should identify the link between the project and the state's business goals, conformity to the Department of Administration's Policies and Procedures for Information Technology Management, and provide specific information about each project, including executive sponsorship. Consistent with information technology strategic planning, project definitions must include a standard return on investment (ROI) calculation.

BUDGETING FOR DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION RATE CHANGES

Agencies should not reflect anticipated rate changes from the various divisions within the Department of Administration in their 2015-17 budget requests. Forecasting of rates and impacts on individual agency budgets will be addressed by the Department of Administration in developing the Governor's 2015-17 budget.

FEDERAL FUNDS

The state has a goal of increasing the ongoing receipt of federal funds where the use of federal funding is consistent with state program goals. In order to increase the amount of federal funds received, agencies should conduct the following review:

- Examine existing grant awards to ensure that they are fully utilized and consistent with agency priorities. If unexpended grant authority is available, the agency should reallocate the funds to other activities to the extent possible under state and federal rules.
- Agencies may also identify, in the form of a policy paper submitted on September 15, additional federal grant opportunities that were not included in the agency's request. Such opportunities may be considered for funding by the State Budget Office during budget deliberations.

STATUTORY LANGUAGE GUIDELINES

- Agencies should seek to limit policy items unrelated to appropriation changes for inclusion in the Governor's budget.

Note: Please contact your State Budget Office analyst to discuss whether a particular initiative is appropriate for submission as a budget request.

- Agencies should not submit extensive lists of technical or housekeeping changes for inclusion in the Governor's budget. Proposed changes for separate nonbudget legislation can be submitted to the State Budget Office for review and approval, separate from the budget request.

Note: Please contact your State Budget Office analyst if these types of changes are sought.

- As in past budgets, prior to September 15, agencies may work directly with the Legislative Reference Bureau in preparing statutory language items related to the budget. After September 15, all drafting and redrafting requests related to the budget must come from the State Budget Office.
- The Legislative Reference Bureau strongly discourages agencies from submitting budget bill drafts that agencies have drafted. Instead, agencies should submit memoranda identifying what they are seeking to accomplish.
- The detailed budget instructions will provide more information on statutory language submittal requirements.

BUDGET SUBMITTAL DUE DATES AND PROCEDURES

- Formal budget requests are due Monday, September 15, 2014. Send four (4) copies to the State Budget Office and two (2) copies directly to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.
- State Budget Office staff will be available to meet with individual agencies to explain budget policies and procedures, and discuss any agency concerns.
- Implementation of the new budget development system may result in changes in policies and procedures. Additional information will be forthcoming on any changes.

INFORMATION ON THE WEB

- The Budget Instructions will be available on the State Budget Office Web site at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Budget-and-Finance/Biennial-Budget>.
 - Periodic information updates will be posted to this Web site and the State Budget Office SharePoint site, so agencies should check these sites regularly.