

2021-2022 Work Plan for OPEGA Evaluations and Related Work

Updated for the GOC: 2/2/2022
(New information noted in red)

Work Plan for OPEGA Evaluations (2021-2022)		Request Presented	Project Approved by GOC	Scope/Parameters Approved	Target Report Date(s)	OPEGA Work Phase by Year	Scope / Parameters
Evaluation Topic	General Scope						
GOC Approved Projects							
Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS) Part II: Indigency Determination	Part I: Effectiveness of financial oversight of the commission and economical use of resources. Part II: Indigency determination. (Agencies: MCILS, Judicial Branch)	2/17/2017 2/22/2019	4/12/2019	12/10/2019	*TBD	2020: Part I Report presented November 2020 2021: Fieldwork <i>*Paused 8/2021 due to Child Protective Services Review approved 7/14/21</i>	Click for Scope
Research Expense Tax Credit	Tax Expenditure Evaluation: fiscal impacts; effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving purposes and goals; extent to which program is coordinated, complementary or duplicative with respect to other programs. (Agencies: Maine Revenue Services)	n/a	n/a	5/14/2021	2022 Q1	2021: Prelim Research / Fieldwork 2022: Fieldwork / Report	Click for Scope
Child Protective Services ¹	(1) Protecting Child Safety through Initial Investigation/Assessment (2) Protecting Child Safety through Reunification Assessment & Permanency Decision (3) Oversight of Child Protective Services (Agencies: DHHS/OCFS; Oversight Panels)	7/14/2021	7/14/2021	8/11/2021	2022 Q1 2022 Q3	2021: Fieldwork 2022: Fieldwork / Report	Click for Scope
CPS Out of Home Placements for Children Removed from Care by DHHS/OCFS	Out-of-home placement options; extent of hoteling; foster parent recruitment, retention, training, licensing and responsibilities; support to foster parents. (Agencies: DHHS/OCFS)	n/a	3/22/2019			<i>On-hold pending completion CPS review approved 7/14/2021</i>	
Upcoming Tax Expenditure Projects							
Deduction for Contributions to Capital Construction Funds for Maintenance or Replacement of Fishing Vessels <i>(GOC recommendation 1/21/22; pending vote)</i>		n/a	n/a				
Tax Benefits for Media Production Companies <i>(GOC recommendation 1/21/22; pending vote)</i>		n/a	n/a				
Information to Support 2022 Expedited Tax Expenditure Reviews: Necessity of Life Exemptions		n/a	n/a	n/a	2022 Q4	2022: Research / Report	

Record of GOC Approvals and Amendments to Work Plan for OPEGA Evaluations

03/26/2021: GOC Approved 2021-2022 Work Plan for OPEGA Evaluations

07/14/2021: GOC Approved Addition of new review of Child Protective Services to Work Plan

¹Child Protective Services: Follow-up Survey of Frontline Workers at DHHS/OCFS (approved 3/22/2019) was incorporated in the CPS Review approved on 7/14/2021

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Recently Completed Evaluations (2021-2022)						GOC Complete	Link to Report
Evaluation Topic	Report Presented	Public Comment	Work Session	GOC Vote	GOC Follow-up Activity		
Child Protective Services Review: Information Brief - Oversight of Maine's CPS System	1/21/2022	2/11/2022	2/25/2022				Click here for report
Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit	11/10/2021	1/21/2022	1/21/2022	1/21/2022 Endorsed	Note: GOC will transmit record of vote and supporting materials (including 1/21/22 meeting summary) to Taxation Committee once 1/21/22 meeting summary approved		Click for Report
Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS)-Part I	11/9/2020	2/12/2021	2/12/2021	2/12/2021 Endorsed	2/12/21 - GOC requested billing data assessment from OPEGA; requested GOC Chairs meeting with State Auditor; requested quarterly reporting from MCILS for rest of 130th Legislature (letter to MCILS 3/10/21) 3/26/21 - Requested OPEGA to coordinate meeting with State Auditor and MCILS to discuss assistance State Auditor may provide (meeting 4/8/21) 6/4/21 - MCILS delivered first quarterly update to GOC; State Auditor also attended and spoke to discussions with MCILS 9/8/21 - MCILS second quarterly update. 2/11/21 - MCILS third quarterly update (scheduled).		Click for Report
Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit	8/11/2021	9/8/2021	9/8/2021 11/10/21	9/8/21 Endorsed	9/8/21 - GOC voted to send a letter to: request FAME provide an action plan to address the Recommended Management Action on pp.28-29 of report; invite FAME to provide comment on defining goals and success as described under Recommended Legislative Actions on pp. 25-27 of report; request FAME follow-up on the requests made by Senator Bennett during Public Comment; and request FAME report back to the GOC at the 11/10/21 meeting. 11/10/21 - Report back from FAME; GOC reviewed FAME materials; GOC Chairs to transmit materials to Taxation Committee; sent letter to Taxation with materials (12/7/21)	✓	Click for Report
Maine Citizen Initiative Process	6/25/2021	8/11/2021	8/11/2021	8/11/2021 Endorsed	8/11/21 - GOC voted to send letter to VLA committee referring the report to them for consideration of the identified opportunities for improvement and submit legislation as deemed appropriate; sent letter to VLA (8/24/21)	✓	Click for Report
Pine Tree Development Zones – Limited Scope Review	11/20/2020	2/26/2021	2/26/2021	2/26/2021 Endorsed	2/26/21 – GOC requested DECD to respond to four questions; sent letter to DECD (3/11/21). 4/13/21 - Responses received from DECD 4/23/21 - Commissioner Johnson presented responses and answered questions	✓	Click for Report

New Requests Reviewed (2021-2022)				
Evaluation Topic	Request Presented	GOC Vote(s)	GOC Activity & Notes	Status
Wild Blueberry Commission	2/26/2021	2/26/2021 5/14/2021	<p>2/26/21 – Request presented; GOC voted to request input and assistance from ACF committee (memo to ACF dated 3/5/21)</p> <p>3/22/21 - Memo received from ACF Committee proposing report back to GOC by the end of April</p> <p>4/13/21 - Wild Blueberry Commission briefing in ACF Committee</p> <p>5/14/21 - ACF reported back to GOC; GOC voted to table the review request for future consideration in consideration of ACF letter and plan for WBC to report back to ACF in the 2nd Regular Session.</p> <p>2/8/22 - Wild Blueberry Commission briefing in ACF Committee (scheduled)</p>	Request open
DAFS, Workday Maine	3/26/2021	3/26/2021 4/23/2021	<p>3/26/21- Request presented; GOC voted to request information and a presentation by DAFS at next meeting of GOC</p> <p>4/9/21 - Presentation from Commissioner Figueroa to the GOC; GOC requested second session with Commissioner on 4/23/21 and asked OPEGA staff to review/summarize documents</p> <p>4/23/21 - Follow-up discussion with DAFS Commissioner; GOC voted to table the review request for future consideration pending outcome of the State's negotiation/litigation regarding Workday Contract.</p> <p>1/18/22 - GOC received letter from DAFS Commissioner with status update.</p>	Request open
RFP Process Administered by the DPS/BHS and associated DAFS procurement policies	5/14/2021	8/11/2021	<p>5/14/21 - Requested presented; GOC deferred action pending further information and consideration</p> <p>6/4/21 - GOC discussion; directed OPEGA to compile certain information for the 6/25/21 meeting and to invite DPS, DAFS and sponsor to respond to questions at that meeting</p> <p>6/25/21 - GOC discussion; agreed to keep as unfinished business and revisit at the August GOC meeting</p> <p>8/11/21 - GOC discussion; voted to send a letter to the SLG committee to share the information the GOC has collected regarding the request for review and suggest that SLG review the statute governing procurement and appeals (no further work assigned to OPEGA). Memo to SLG Committee sent 8/24/21.</p>	<i>Request closed</i>
Child Protective Services, within Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	7/14/2021	7/14/2021	<p>7/14/21 - Requested presented; GOC voted to add to OPEGA work plan. See Work Plan.</p>	<i>Review Added to Work Plan</i>