



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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May 6, 2020

**TO:** Agency Budget Officers

**FROM:** Nona Snell  
Assistant Director for Budget

*Nona Snell*

**SUBJECT: BUDGET FORMAT CHANGE REQUESTS**

I am writing to provide instructions for agencies considering revisions to their budget format reporting structure. As provided in [RCW 43.88.030](#), a “budget format change” requires prior approval from OFM and the Legislative Evaluation & Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee.

A budget format change refers to any of the following changes in budget, allotment, or accounting formats:

- shift of costs between programs (subprograms/categories for the Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Corrections, and Health Care Authority);
- program creation, consolidation, elimination, or division of programs/subprograms/categories;
- title change, if the new title is different from the current program, subprogram, or category name; or
- any other revisions that would affect the comparability of expenditures, revenues, workload, performance and personnel over time.

Agencies proposing any changes must submit a request to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) by **Friday, June 5, 2020**, in anticipation of a *tentatively* scheduled LEAP Committee meeting on June 24. To sign up for updates on legislative committees, schedules, and other information, [follow this link](#).

Even-numbered calendar years are a good time to submit proposals for budget structure changes in anticipation of submitting agency biennial budget requests. However, note that **agencies are not required to submit budget format change proposals**. Please limit changes to those that serve a legitimate business purpose.

Program changes already adopted by legislative action in substantive legislation or an appropriations act do not require LEAP Committee approval; however, **a ten-year history restructure of historical data is still required** ([RCW 44.48.150](#)). For information on the type and format of the data required, please contact Mike Schaub in OFM Statewide Accounting at (360) 725-0225 or [michael.schaub@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:michael.schaub@ofm.wa.gov).

### **Required Elements of Program Structure Change Request**

Agency submittals must provide a thorough description and explanation of each proposed budget format change. Include the elements on the following page to ensure that your agency submittal is complete.

1. **Narrative Description of Change** should focus on the following questions (see Tab A of Program Structure Change Example linked below):
  - What purpose is served by the change?
  - How will this change affect the availability and understanding of budget and accounting information for policymakers and the public? For example, if programs are being consolidated, explain how this change would affect the availability and understanding of data from formerly independent programs.
  - The name, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative(s) who will testify regarding the proposed changes at the LEAP Committee hearing. All agencies with program structure change requests must have a representative available to testify.
2. **Crosswalk** should display details within the affected programs in the existing structure compared to the proposed structure. (See Tab B of Program Structure Change Example.)
3. **Comparison of Current Structure to Proposed Structure** should compare the total estimated current biennial expenditures and FTEs for all programs before and after the proposed changes. (See Tab C of Program Structure Change Example.)

[Program Structure Change Examples, Templates and FAQs](#)

After conferring with legislative staff, OFM will communicate its recommendations to the LEAP Committee. Do not forward program structure change requests directly to LEAP; it will only consider requests recommended by OFM.

Accounting-related program restructure requests recommended by OFM and approved by the LEAP Committee are approved contingent upon OFM and LEAP Committee staff's receipt of the reconstructed ten-year operating and capital expenditure and FTE history that reflect the revised structure. This information will be used to update OFM's historical database. **No accounting-related program restructure may be instituted prior to validation of the ten-year reconstruction of data by OFM and LEAP Committee staff.**

Only budget-related program restructure requests recommended by OFM and approved by the LEAP Committee may be included in 2019-21 agency budget request proposals.

Please email your agency program structure change requests, as editable source documents (e.g., Excel, Word), not .pdf files, to [Budget.Operations@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Budget.Operations@ofm.wa.gov).

Questions should be directed to your [assigned budget analyst](#).

Attachment

cc: Susan Howson, LEAP  
Michael Mann, LEAP  
Mike Schaub, OFM  
Garry Austin, OFM