

**REPORT ON
INVENTORY OF STATE
INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRAMS**

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Public Funding for Infrastructure

"Infrastructure" can be described as "the basic installations and facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community or state depends."¹ Government agencies at various levels frequently build and operate such infrastructure, such as water systems, roads, and schools.

JLARC's Inventory of State Grant and Loan Programs That Fund Infrastructure

Washington's state government administers a number of grant and loan programs to assist local governments and others develop infrastructure. In 2005, the Legislature passed ESHB 1903, which directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to assemble an inventory of these state grant and loan programs. JLARC has created this inventory in response to the Legislature's mandate.

JLARC's inventory of state grant and loan programs that fund infrastructure includes 75 separate programs. These programs provided more than \$1 billion in grants and loans for infrastructure projects in 2005.

The inventory is organized into three report volumes:

Volume 1 – Basic Infrastructure. This volume describes programs that fund systems to address water and waste; examples include drinking water, wastewater and stormwater, flood and irrigation management, and solid or hazardous waste systems.

Volume 2 – Transportation Infrastructure. This volume describes programs that fund roads and bridges, as well as programs that fund projects featuring other modes of transportation from walking and biking to trains and aviation.

Volume 3 – Other Infrastructure. This volume describes programs that fund buildings, facilities, and recreation such as schools, housing, community facilities, and parks.

An individual program may fund projects in more than one category; for example, some Community Development Block Grants can be used to build drinking water and sewer systems, streets, and child care facilities. In these situations, the program is cross-listed in all of the appropriate volumes.

¹ New World Dictionary of the American Language, Second College Edition, 1979.

Information Included in the Inventory

Each of the three volumes contains **profiles about the individual programs** that fund infrastructure projects in that category. Program profiles include information about:

- Legislative intent;
- Recent budget history;
- Frequency of the grant or loan cycle;
- Maximum dollar amounts for the program and for individual projects;
- Matching requirements;
- Eligible applicants;
- Eligible projects;
- Timing and steps in the application and award process;
- Program goals and performance;
- Any program challenges identified by the agency; and
- A website reference for additional information.

In addition, each of the three volumes contains **summary information at the beginning of the document** to give a sense of the size of each program and what kinds of projects a program funds, and to identify distinguishing characteristics about which jurisdictions and projects are eligible for funding. This summary information is intended **to aid policy makers** as they consider potential program overlaps and distinguishing features. The summary information is also intended **to aid potential applicants** with identifying the programs that fund the types of projects of interest to them. Additionally, information at the beginning of each volume provides more resources for assistance to potential applicants, as well as charts to illustrate the organization and relative size of the various infrastructure programs included in each volume.

Data Caveats

To complete the profiles, JLARC solicited information from numerous state agencies. JLARC staff have verified the language of state laws and rules referenced in the program profiles. JLARC staff have not verified all of the budget, staffing, policy, and performance data supplied by the agencies. In some cases, the budget information supplied by the agencies does not match exactly with the information in the legislative budget tracking systems. Additionally, agencies approached budget reporting for these profiles in different ways, not always consistently with one another. A prudent reader will use the budget information in the program profiles to gain a sense of the relative magnitude and trends in program funding rather than as a precise budget document.

Acknowledgements

Staff from 20 different state agencies, boards, and commissions contributed their time and effort to help create this inventory. JLARC also acknowledges the work of our contractor, Berk & Associates, for work on drafts of the program profiles in Volumes 2 and 3, and for Berk & Associates' work for the Office of Financial Management in 2005, a study on which the JLARC inventory builds.²

Ruta Fanning
Legislative Auditor

On November 29, 2005, this report was approved for distribution by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee.

Representative Ross Hunter, Chair

² "Inventory and Evaluation of the State's Public Infrastructure Programs and Funds." Prepared by Berk & Associates for the Washington State Office of Financial Management, December 16, 2005.