Review of Public Records Training, Consultation, and Grant Programs

Legislative Auditor Conclusion: The Attorney General's Office and State Archives have served at least 420 local governments through their public records programs. Participants report they are satisfied, but the programs have yet to establish a plan to evaluate long-term impacts.
In 2017, ESHB 1594:

Established 3 programs to assist local governments with public records.

Programs were to expire in 2020.

In the 2019 legislative session, the 2020 expiration date of the programs was removed.
In 2017, ESHB 1594:

- Established 3 programs to assist local governments with public records.
- Directed a JLARC evaluation of the 3 programs.
- Created a public records data reporting requirement for all state and local agencies.

- Programs were to expire in 2020.
- Directed JLARC to collect data.

In the 2019 legislative session, the 2020 expiration date of the programs was removed.
AGO and Archives provide programs to assist local governments with public records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attorney General</th>
<th>State Archives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Training &amp; consultation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitigating costs and liability of compliance with the Public Records Act.</td>
<td>Advice, guidance, and support for records management and retention.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Local records grant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding to improve records organization, digitization, and technology tools.</td>
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AGO EMAIL, PHONE & ON-SITE CONSULTATIONS

Number of local governments in each county that received AGO consultation.

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16+

FISCAL YEARS 2018-2019

- 52 in-person consultations to 48 local governments.
- 227 email and phone consultations to 141 local governments.
- 40 trainings with over 1,900 attendees.
297 in-person consultations to 225 local governments.

4,933 email and phone consultations to state and local governments.

137 trainings with 4,873 participants from state and local governments.
160 local government grant recipients.

$2.4M awarded in three rounds of funding.

Grant awards range from $375 to $50,000.
At least 420 local governments received services from one or more programs
76% Reported that programs met their needs

Local governments reporting satisfaction

693 local government program participants responded to JLARC’s survey.
66% Reported that they made changes.

Local governments reporting satisfaction

693 local government program participants responded to JLARC’s survey.

AGO and Archives have yet to develop plans for evaluating long-term program impacts.
Strategic planning can help define program missions, goals, strategies, and performance measures.

- Target service delivery.
- Clarify priorities for awarding grants.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration.
Legislative Auditor’s Recommendation

The Attorney General's Office and State Archives should each produce strategic plans to focus their future efforts and evaluate the effectiveness of the public records training, consultation, and grant programs on response times, costs, and liability.

Attorney General’s Office and State Archives concur