

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.



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Directed a JLARC evaluation of the 3 programs.

Created a public records data reporting requirement for all state and local agencies.

Directed JLARC to collect data.



AGO and Archives provide programs to assist local governments with public records.

Attorney General

Consultation

Mitigating costs and liability of compliance with the Public Records Act.

State Archives

Training & consultation

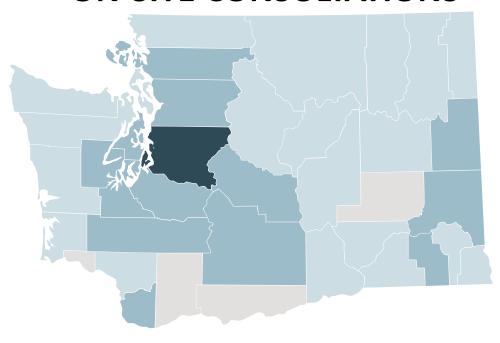
Advice, guidance, and support for records management and retention.

Local records grant

Funding to improve records organization, digitization, and technology tools.



AGO EMAIL, PHONE & ON-SITE CONSULTATIONS



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



0 1-5 6-10 11-15

FISCAL YEARS 2018-2019

52 in-person consultations to 48 local governments.

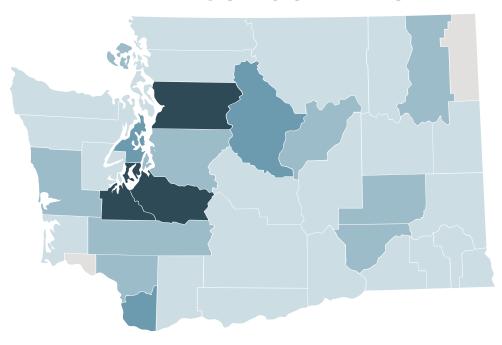
227 email and phone consultations to 141 local governments.

40 trainings with over 1,900 attendees.



ARCHIVES IN-PERSON TRAINING AND CONSULTATION

FISCAL YEARS 2018-2019



Number of local governments in each county that received in-person consultations.

0 1-5 6-10 11-15

-15 16+

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.



LOCAL RECORDS GRANTS

Number of local governments in each county that received a grant.



0 1-5 6-10 11-15



FISCAL YEARS 2018-2019

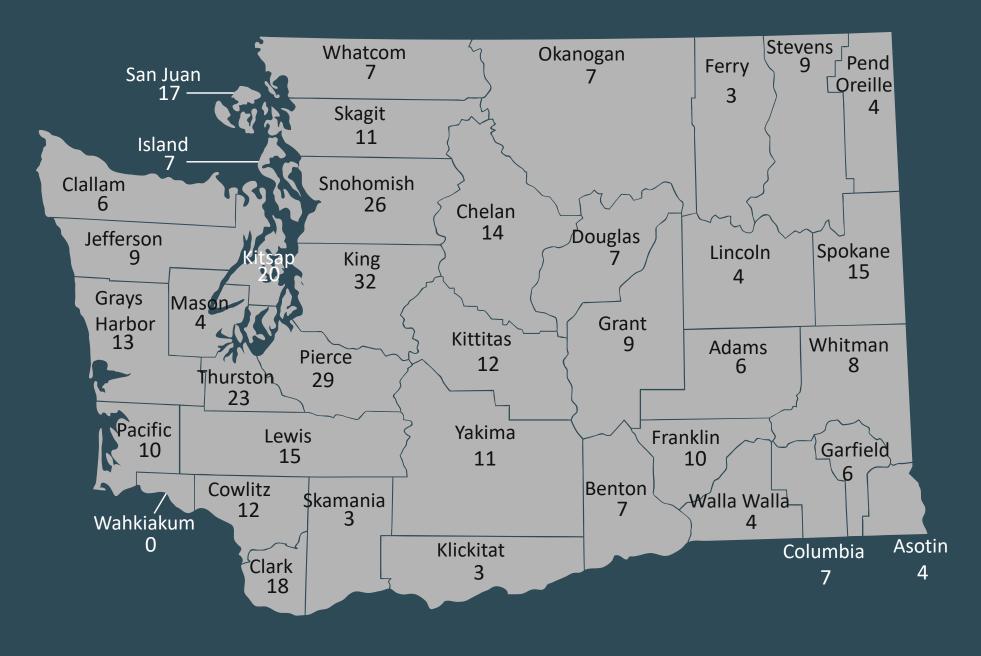
160 local government grant recipients.

\$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



Local governments reporting satisfaction

Reported that programs met their needs

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



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





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