

2021-2022 Work Plan for OPEGA Evaluations and Related Work

Updated for the GOC: 4/14/2021

Work Plan for OPEGA Evaluations (2021-2022)						
Evaluation Topic	General Scope	Request Presented	Project Approved by GOC	Scope/ Parameters Approved	Target Report Date	OPEGA Work Phase by Year
GOC Approved Projects						
Maine Citizen Initiative Process	Trends in activity and characteristics for people’s veto and direct initiatives; geographic distribution of signatures collected; potential opportunities for improved efficiency, transparency and accountability in the referendum process. (Agencies: Secretary of State, Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices)	10/2/2017	11/9/2017	1/26/2018	2021 Q2	2021: Fieldwork / Report
Seed Capital Investment Tax Credit	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: FAME, Maine Revenue Services)	n/a	n/a	1/24/2020	2021 Q3	2021: Fieldwork / Report
Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS) - Part II: Indigency Determination	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	2021 Q3	2021: Fieldwork / Report [Part II]
Child Protective Services: Follow-up Survey of Frontline Workers at DHHS/OCFS	Perspectives of OCFS frontline staff following implementation of strategic changes and time since first survey; staff views of work load, quality of work, adequacy of resources, job satisfaction and other factors. (Agencies: DHHS/OCFS)	n/a	3/22/2019			TBD
Child Protective Services: 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, and licensing and responsibilities; support provided to foster parents. (Agencies: DHHS/OCFS)	n/a	3/22/2019			Paused pending Follow-up Survey of Frontline Workers (see above)

Prepared by OPEGA

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Upcoming Projects Required by Statute						
Credit for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties		n/a	n/a	Expected 2021 Q2	2021 Q4	2021: Prelim Research / Fieldwork / Report
Research Expense Tax Credit		n/a	n/a	Expected 2021 Q2		
Shipbuilding Facility Credit		n/a	n/a			
Tax Benefits for Media Production Companies		n/a	n/a			
Expedited Tax Expenditure Reviews 2021: Conformity with Internal Revenue Code & Inputs to Tangible Products Exemptions		n/a	n/a	n/a	2021 Q4	2021: Research / Report
Expedited Tax Expenditure Reviews 2022: 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

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Recently Completed Evaluations (2021-2022)					
Evaluation Topic	Report Presented	Public Comment	Work Session	GOC Vote	Follow-up Actions by GOC
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 - 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) 5/28/21 - MCILS first quarterly update to GOC
Pine Tree Development Zones – Limited Scope Review	11/20/2020	2/26/2021	2/26/2021	2/26/2021 Endorsed	2/26/21 – Requested DECD to respond to four questions; sent letter to DECD (3/11/21). 4/13/21 - Responses received from DECD.