

2021-2022 Work Plan for OPEGA Evaluations and Related Work

Updated for the GOC: 11/3/2021

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 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 <i>(Note: Paused as of 8/2021 due to CPS Review)</i>
Credit for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties	Tax Expenditure Evaluation: 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: Maine Historic Preservation Commission; Maine Revenue Services)	n/a	n/a	5/14/2021	2021 Q4	2021: Prelim Research / Fieldwork / Report 11/10/21 Presentation of OPEGA Report to GOC
Research Expense Tax Credit	Tax Expenditure Evaluation: 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: Maine Revenue Services)	n/a	n/a	5/14/2021	2022 Q1	2021: Prelim Research / Fieldwork 2022: Fieldwork / Report <i>(Note: Progress delayed due to CPS Review)</i>
Child Protective Services	1) Protecting Child Safety through Initial Investigation/Assessment 2) Protecting Child Safety through Reunification Assessment & Permanency Decision 3) Oversight of Child Protective Services (Agencies: DHHS/OCFS; Oversight Panels)	7/14/2021	7/14/2021	8/11/2021	2022 Q1 and 2022 Q3	2021: Fieldwork 2022: Fieldwork / Report
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			<i>To be incorporated in the Child Protective Services review approved on 7/14/2021</i>
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			<i>Paused pending completion Child Protective Services review approved on 7/14/2021</i>

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Upcoming Projects - Tax Expenditure Review						
Shipbuilding Facility Credit		n/a	n/a			
Tax Benefits for Media Production Companies		n/a	n/a			
Information to Support 2021 Expedited Reviews by Taxation Cmte: Conformity with Internal Revenue Code & Inputs to Tangible Products Exemptions		n/a	n/a	n/a	2021 Q4	2021: Research / Report
Information to Support 2022 Expedited Reviews by Taxation Cmte: 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

07/14/2021: GOC Approved Addition of new review of Child Protective Services to Work Plan

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Recently Completed Evaluations (2021-2022)						
Evaluation Topic	Report Presented	Public Comment	Work Session	GOC Vote	Follow-up Actions by GOC	Link to Report
Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS) – Part I	11/9/2020	2/12/2021	2/12/2021	2/12/2021 Endorsed	<p>2/12/21 - GOC 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)</p> <p>3/26/21 - Requested OPEGA to coordinate meeting with State Auditor and MCILS to discuss assistance State Auditor may provide (meeting 4/8/21)</p> <p>6/4/21 - MCILS delivered first quarterly update to GOC; State Auditor also attended and spoke to discussions with MCILS</p> <p>9/8/21 - MCILS second quarterly update.</p>	Click for Report
Pine Tree Development Zones – Limited Scope Review	11/20/2020	2/26/2021	2/26/2021	2/26/2021 Endorsed	<p>2/26/21 – GOC requested DECD to respond to four questions; sent letter to DECD (3/11/21).</p> <p>4/13/21 - Responses received from DECD</p> <p>4/23/21 - Commissioner Johnson presented responses and answered questions</p>	Click for Report
Maine Citizen Initiative Process	6/25/2021	8/11/2021	8/11/2021	8/11/2021 Endorsed	<p>8/11/21 - GOC voted to send letter to VLA committee referring the report to them for consideration of the identified opportunities for improvement and submit legislation as deemed appropriate.</p>	Click for Report
Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit	8/11/2021	9/8/2021	9/8/2021	9/8/21 Endorsed	<p>9/8/21 - GOC voted to send a letter to FAME to: request FAME provide an action plan to address the Recommended Management Action on pp.28-29 of report; invite FAME to provide comment on defining goals and success as described under Recommended Legislative Actions on pp. 25-27 of report; request that FAME follow-up on the requests made by Senator Bennett during Public Comment; and request FAME report back to the GOC at the 11/10/21 meeting.</p>	Click for Report

New Requests under Consideration (2021-2022)			
Evaluation Topic	Request Presented	GOC Vote(s)	Activity and Status
Wild Blueberry Commission	2/26/2021	2/26/2021 5/14/2021	<p>2/26/21 – Request presented; GOC voted to request input and assistance from ACF committee (memo to ACF dated 3/5/21)</p> <p>3/22/21 - Memo received from ACF Committee proposing report back to GOC by the end of April</p> <p>4/13/21 - Wild Blueberry Commission briefing in ACF Committee</p> <p>5/14/21 - ACF reported back to GOC; GOC voted to table the review request for future consideration (WBC to report to ACF in January 2022)</p>
DAFS, Workday Maine	3/26/2021	3/26/2021 4/23/2021	<p>3/26/21- Request presented; GOC voted to request information and a presentation by DAFS at next meeting of GOC</p> <p>4/9/21 - Presentation from Commissioner Figueroa to the GOC; GOC requested second session with Commissioner on 4/23/21 and asked OPEGA staff to review/summarize documents</p> <p>4/23/21 - Follow-up discussion with DAFS Commissioner; GOC voted to table the review request for future consideration (pending outcome of negotiation/litigation regarding Workday Contract)</p>