

Connecticut General Assembly



OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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February 1, 2012

Senator Toni Harp, Co-Chair
Representative Toni Walker, Co-Chair
Senator Robert Kane, Ranking Member
Representative Craig Miner, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
Room 2600
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sen. Harp, Rep. Walker, Sen. Kane, and Rep. Miner:

This is the third quarterly status report for the on-line searchable database required by PA 10-155, subsequent to its going live on 6/29/11. PA 10-155 requires quarterly reports to the Appropriations Committee on its progress beginning 11/1/10 and thereafter. This communication is intended to satisfy the 2/1/12 requirement.

The site, which is located at <http://www.transparency.ct.gov>, went live June 2011 with the inclusion of Fiscal Year 2010 data. In the Fall of 2011, FY 2011 data was added, so that two fiscal years are now available. A linkage to the site is currently provided via the homepage of the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Since the site went live, there have been 54,589 visits with 7,219 unique visitors from at least 75 countries; the sources for a majority of these visits have been the U.S. (53% of the total) and China (31% of the total).¹ The most active date thus far remains Friday, July 8th with 631 visits. Active employee compensation has been the most frequently viewed subpage on the site, with nearly three times as many visits as Pensions, which is the next most visited subpage followed by Expenditures, Payments, Contracts and Grants.

¹ This appears to be due to the location of search engines where the access passes through.

In previous quarterly reports we have indicated that data from “limited scope” agencies may be incomplete in CORE-CT, which is the basis for the transparency site. The table below summarizes the impacts these data limitations have on the transparency site.

We are planning to review options to address these data challenges in calendar year 2012, including working with state agencies directly to acquire datasets that conform to the transparency site’s data structure, scope and confidentiality. A Memorandum of Understanding is in effect between the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and President of the University of Connecticut to increase by July 2013 the use of CORE-CT by the University of Connecticut, including the Health Center. It is anticipated that this change will substantially increase the data currently within CORE-CT and reflected on the transparency site.

Tab	Data Limitations Attributable to Limited Scope Agencies' Use of CORE-CT	Limited Scope Agencies Involved	Explanation
Expenditures	None	N/A	Limited scope agencies load General Ledger expenditure information (Fund, Agency, Department, SID, Account) by period. These figures are complete and reconcile to reports by the State Comptroller.
Compensation	Position titles lack meaning	Judicial Department, Office of Legislative Management, African-American Affairs Commission, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Asian-Pacific American Affairs Commission, Commission on Aging, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission	Agencies use generic position titles (e.g., "Judicial Employee" or "Permanent Employee").
Contracts	No contract spending information is available	The entirety of the list below.	Purchases made by limited scope agencies do not reference contracts.
Grants (a subset of Payments)	No payment (e.g., grants) information is available	UCONN, UCONN Health Center, CSU, Community Colleges	These agencies cut checks to payees from checking accounts (i.e., these payments are not processed through CORE); in addition, these limited scope state agencies do not load payment details into CORE-CT after the fact (other state agencies like DCF maintain separate checking accounts but pass along payment details after the fact).
Payments	No payment information is available	UCONN, UCONN Health Center, CSU, Community Colleges	Id.
Pensions	N/A	N/A	Data are sourced from the State Comptroller, only.

Limited Scope Agencies:

Legislative Branch

- Office of Legislative Management
- African-American Affairs Commission
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
- Asian-Pacific American Affairs Commission
- Commission on Aging
- Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
- Auditors of Public Accounts

Judicial Department

- University of Connecticut
- University of Connecticut Health Center
- Connecticut State Universities
- Connecticut Community Colleges

Again, I would like to note that without the assistance of the staff of the CGA's Information Technology Services Dept. as well as the state comptroller's office, this site would not be operative.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Calandro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alan Calandro

cc: Appropriations Committee Members
Tim Kehoe, Senate Clerk
Garey E. Coleman, House Clerk
Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian
Ken Greene, ITS
Susan Marsh, ITS
Dan Jalbert, ITS
Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller
John Clark, Office of the State Comptroller
Mary Yabrosky, Department of Administrative Services
D'Ann Mazzocca, OLM
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