

Connecticut General Assembly



OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Alan Calandro, Director
PHONE: (860) 240-0200
FAX: (860) 240-0052
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

ROOM 5200
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT. 06106-1591
ofa@cga.ct.gov

January 15, 2013

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 first annual status report for the on-line searchable database required under PA 12-1 (JSS) which modified the reporting requirement for the searchable database by making it an annual, rather than quarterly requirement, beginning on January 15, 2013. (The last quarterly report was submitted May 2012.).

The site, which is located at <http://www.transparency.ct.gov>, went live June 2011 with the inclusion of FY 10 data. In the Fall of 2011, FY 11 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. We are reviewing FY 12 data and expect to have these data available on the site by the end of this January.

Since the site went live, there have been over 142,000 visits from at least 90 countries. The most active date thus far was November 29, 2012, with 1,454 visits. Total visits are projected to nearly double from FY 12 (the first fiscal year of operation) to FY 13: in FY 12 there were 69,777 visits; in FY 13 there have been 72,536 visits so far.

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.

Since the May 2012 quarterly report was submitted, enhancements have been made to the fringe benefit amounts shown for employees. These amounts have been adjusted to better reflect the pension costs associated with each employee by excluding the portion of the pension benefit recovery rate applied by the Comptroller to capture unfunded pension liabilities attributable to current retirees. As a result of this change, the site now more accurately depicts the annual cost to compensate each employee.

Also since the May 2012 quarterly report, the method of extracting data from CORE-CT related to payment details has been modified. The end result of this modification is that the State Comptroller's Office has assumed sole responsibility for redacting certain sensitive vendor names in order to preserve confidentiality. Previously, the State Comptroller's Office shared this responsibility with the Office of Fiscal Analysis and the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Information Technology. This measure was taken to ensure that all requests for payment information, including those made by the public, conform to the same standard of confidentiality.

Recently we have contacted the University of Connecticut, University of Connecticut Healthcare Center and Board of Regents for Higher Education to request their assistance in providing payment details for the searchable database. The primary source for the searchable database is the state's accounting system CORE-CT, which does not contain payment details for these agencies.

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,

Alan Calandro

cc: Appropriations Committee Members
Garey E. Coleman, Senate Clerk
Martin Dunleavy, 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
James Tracy, OLM
Michael Murphy, OFA
Don Chaffee, OFA