

January 25, 2018

Mr. Glen Dickinson
Director
Iowa Legislative Services Agency
State Capitol
L O C A L

Office of the Secretary of Senate
Iowa Senate
For Senate Ways & Means Chairpersons and Ranking Members
State Capitol
L O C A L

Office of the Chief Clerk
Iowa House of Representatives
For House Ways & Means Chairpersons and Ranking Members
State Capitol
L O C A L

Dear Mr. Dickinson, Senate and House Chairpersons and Ranking Members:

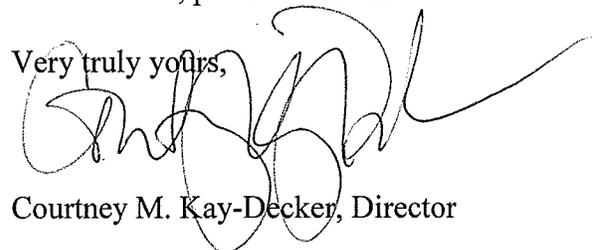
Pursuant to Code of Iowa, Section 421.17(23), please find attached an annual report of costs incurred and paid for services to support the department's Tax Gap Compliance Program for Fiscal Year 2017.

The Code of Iowa, Section 421.17(23) states:

"The Director shall report annually to the Legislative Services Agency and the chairpersons and ranking members of the Ways and Means Committees on the amount of cost incurred and paid during the previous fiscal year pursuant to this subsection."

If you have any questions or further information is needed, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Courtney M. Kay-Decker, Director



Iowa Department of **REVENUE**

Tax Gap Compliance Project Revenue and Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2017 November 2017

Overview

The Iowa Department of Revenue Tax Gap Program (“**Program**”) was established pursuant to Iowa Code § 421.17(23). The Program allows the Department to pay for the costs of closing the “tax gap” from revenues collected through Program activities. The “tax gap” consists of non-filers of tax returns and non-payers of taxes. During the 2015 legislative session, the General Assembly broadened the Program to include identification and prevention of fraudulent and erroneous refunds. *See* 2015 Iowa Acts, 86th G.A. ch. 138, § 105.

This report is required by Iowa Code section 421.17(23) and 2015 Iowa Acts, 86th G.A. ch. 138, § 106. The report contains the costs of the Program, amounts billed and collected under the Program, refund claims reduced or denied under the Program, and general recommendations to facilitate and improve the Program.

Tax Gap Program Results

In fiscal year 2017, the Program produced over **\$37.5 million** in gross revenue, broken down as follows:

FY 2017 Program Revenues:

Corporation Income	\$6,116,240
Individual Income	\$29,485,363
Sales/Use	<u>\$1,888,857</u>
<i>TOTAL Program Revenues</i>	\$37,490,460

The revenues set forth above are reported on a cash basis, meaning that only amounts that have been both billed and paid under the Program are included.¹

¹ During fiscal year 2017, and in response to recent statutory amendments, the Department comprehensively assessed the designation of revenues to the Program to ensure that all revenue that meets the statutory definition are properly reported. After completing this analysis, the Department has updated the Program allocation for fiscal year 2018. Furthermore, the Department will periodically re-evaluate allocations as workflows change to ensure that all appropriate revenues are attributed to the Program. If the Department counted all Program revenue as tax gap revenue in fiscal year 2017, Program revenue would have equaled \$88.4 million.

From these revenues, the Department paid the following expenses to administer the Program:

FY 2017 Program Expenditures:

Professional Service	\$772,456
Outside Service & Repair	\$0
OCIO Reimbursement	\$7,530,534
Data Processing	\$291,216
Salaries	\$8,625,144
Support	<u>\$381,262</u>

TOTAL Program Expenditures \$17,600,612

The expenditures are also on a cash basis. Net revenues transferred to the general fund as a result of the Program totaled over **\$19.9 million** for fiscal year 2017.

In addition to revenue collected from non-filers and non-payers, the Department also works to prevent issuing fraudulent or erroneous refunds.² Refund reductions occur when the Department determines the amount of a taxpayer's refund request is incorrect and reduces the refund amount accordingly. As part of the Program, the Department has a team dedicated to identifying and preventing refund fraud. The work of the Department's fraud prevention and detection team generally results in refund reductions.

FY 2017 Program Refund Reductions:

Fraud Team	\$17,550,266
Other Tax Gap	<u>\$27,077,717</u>

TOTAL Program Refund Reductions \$44,627,983

When the amounts collected under the Program are added to the refunds reduced, the Program produced a total value to the State of nearly **\$64.5 million** after expenses during FY 2017.

² The refund reduction numbers only reflect reductions made to individual income tax returns.