

The legislature's State Government Efficiency Review Committee, established pursuant to section 2.69, Code of Iowa, requested assistance from agency heads in fulfilling the committee's mission of reviewing the operations of state government with the goal of improving efficiency, modernizing processes, eliminating duplication and outdated processes, reducing costs, and increasing accountability.

The Department for the Blind most recently solicited comments from employees toward the above ends on November 7, 2013 and advised employees their comments could be provided directly to <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/APPS/Feedback/ResponseForm.aspx?qid=2> or submitted to the department's management.

The Department fielded the following suggestions:

- a) Eliminate the RFP requirement for translation services.
- b) With VR & IL staff in the field, couldn't we have some sort of web conferencing system so they can participate from afar, save all that travel, hotel, and meal costs when coming in for in-service training, or other meetings.
- c) Energy savings and going green. Use of solar panels on the roof of the Department to harness sun energy then convert it to help power the building.
- d) Based on income level, allow a buy-in from those blind clients who can afford to pay for some of the cost of their services.
- e) Buy together; can all state government departments all come together to command larger discounts on things like supplies like paper, pens, other operational supplies.
- f) Evaluate how much money is spent on outside consulting firms.
- g) Review and reduce absenteeism and implement some sort of reward system for those who show up on time to work.
- h) Improve the employee leave request procedure.

The Department has begun taking steps to modernize its system used to circulate library materials to patrons and early in calendar year 2014 will begin an effort to reduce the cost of acquiring educational materials in alternative media formats, especially Braille. The Department is also carefully reviewing its staffing requirements as employee turnover occurs, is exploring the use of a third party natural gas supplier, and has reduced the number of telephone lines used by employees.

The Department also periodically reminds employees about procedures for reporting fraud in the administration of its programs.