

IPERS' State Government Efficiency Suggestions

What are your ideas to reduce costs and increase efficiency in state government?

Allow employees who travel for the state a per diem. The current system for expense accounts is extremely inefficient and time-consuming. If taxpayers realized what it costs to process these claims, they would be shocked.

Itemized meal receipts end up costing more money than if we just stick to the daily allowance. Staff time taping receipts to paper and calculating tips before tax, calling for itemized receipts one was not given, etc., then having all of these receipts checked by the different authorizing agencies so the staff member can get paid and then the costs of having the auditors check to make sure the city, state, time and date are on the itemized receipt is in no way a good use of funds. This is a huge example of stepping over dollars to pick up pennies.

The State's reimbursement process needs to be addressed. I would guess that you are spending three times the money to oversee the process. First, the employee spends at least one extra hour completing the travel payment voucher and receipts and taping them to 8 1/2 x 11 pieces of paper (really). Second, our Supervisor has to review and sign them. Third, the accounting department has to call and verify receipts, and then the accounting supervisor has to review it. Fourth, the travel payment vouchers and receipts have to be sent on up the ladder to have at least one more person review all the information before it can be approved for payment. That's at least 5 people reviewing the travel payment vouchers. The total meal reimbursement for a full day is \$28 (\$5 for breakfast, \$8 for lunch and \$15 for supper) and you are paying an average of maybe \$35 per hour and spending 2 - 3 hours reviewing this process. When traveling is part of our job, and you evidently trust us to do our job and continue to send us out on the road then why don't you trust us and quit nickel and diming us to death. Most of us lose money everytime we travel. Before the new process was established regarding turning in receipts we lost money on every trip now we lose money on every trip but the State loses more by all the time wasted on this process.

The current way we do travel expenses is very inefficient and unfair to employees of the state. We spend about three times the length of time we used to do to complete the process. We tape receipts on paper, we have to have quite a bit of info included so often have to go on internet to get information needed, then send to supervisor who checks it, then take to accounting who has to check make calls see if we are trying to illegally get reimbursed for our expenses. Then it goes to their supervisor to be checked before going to DAS for one more round of checking. As an employee that is required to travel to do my job I don't think I ever go on a trip where I don't lose money due to expense reimbursements, it might be motel is over the 55.00 state rate, it might be I tip 20% instead of 15% on total not the subtotal, it might be cost of meals run over allowable amount, or it could be I made a mistake filling out the mess that is required to get reimbursed for money I spent to do my job.

IT IS VERY INEFFICIENT AND NOT FAIR FOR EMPLOYEES TRYING TO DO THEIR JOBS!

Revamp travel requirements - go back to flat rate reimbursement as they spend way too much with people double checking and it actually is costing the employee.

The state needs various information from cities and counties that is submitted through multiple computer applications and possibly paper forms. State Depts. and cities and counties should get together to determine what the information needs are, whether they overlap, whether a reduction in the number of applications is feasible, and whether such consolidation would produce a net improvement in efficiency among the State and political subdivisions.

Allow employees to work remotely to reduce facility use ultimately reducing facility cost, reducing absenteeism and improving security risks.

- 1.) Systems are being moved to the cloud to reduce on-site storage. The same method should be applied more to employees. Allow them to work from home to reduce on-site costs.
- 2.) Employees working from home will reduce airborne transmitted sickness & improve absenteeism. It will also reduce a weather crisis disrupting operations.
- 3.) Security will be enhanced because all of your employees will not be housed in one location. If a disaster strikes at the primary location, you will still have employees safe in other various locations ready to implement Disaster Recovery.

Have more web meetings and training to reduce travel time and costs.

Instead of trying to spend money because your dept is falling short of the appropriation allow departments to establish a budget and then reward them somehow if they can come in under that budget. This spending at the end of the year to use up the appropriation so it is not lost for the next year is a waste of tax payers dollars. If you need the money fine but otherwise save the money. Don't reward frivolous spending by State Government.

Also making departments purchase from certain companies that are approved is stupid. If I can get a product cheaper somewhere else I shouldn't have to be limited to a list of authorized stores.