



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
CYNTHIA P. EISENHAUER, DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 16, 2001

TO: Christina Schaeffer
Legislative Fiscal Bureau

FROM: Cynthia P. Eisenhauer, Director
Iowa Department of Management
Dr. Stephen Gleason, Director
Iowa Department of Public Health

RE: Improving Government

Last spring, Gov. Vilsack and Lt. Governor Pederson asked department directors to take an in-depth look at the way state government does business in the hopes of making it more efficient and effective. They asked Dr. Stephen Gleason, director of the Department of Public Health and Cynthia Eisenhauer, director of the Department of Management to co-chair the initiative.

Each department director was assigned to serve on one of seven teams analyzing different areas of state government: New Economy, Health, Education, Safe Communities, Environment, Accountable Government and Finance. Each team in turn was charged with identifying ways to find substantial general fund savings--\$200 million overall.

Early on, they were encouraged to compile a broad and aggressive list of possibilities that included combining or eliminating programs, controlling the growth of entitlement programs, streamlining bureaucracy, eliminating unnecessary rules and busy work, and finding innovative ways to deliver services.

State employees and union members were asked for their input as well. They submitted more than 250 suggestions over a two-week period. Their suggestions ranged from issuing warrants electronically to consolidating programs. The teams included those suggestions in their evaluation process and began narrowing the list in late summer.

The teams are now in the process of choosing a handful of ideas that hold the most promise for a significant savings. They will make their final recommendations to the Governor and Lt. Governor during a series of public hearings beginning in mid-November. Legislators, key constituencies and the general public will all be encouraged to weigh in and work together to improve state government while preserving the priorities of Iowans.