

**Agency Programs/Activities: Inventory and Key Data
Authority Budget Office**

Relation to Core Mission (H/M/L)	Program/Activity	Spending Category (SO, ATL, CAP)	3/31/09 FTEs (All Funds)	General Fund Disbursements (\$000s)				State Special Revenue Funds Disbursements (\$000s)				Capital Projects Funds Disbursements (\$000s)			
				2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
				Actual	Actual	Plan	Projected	Actual	Actual	Plan	Projected	Actual	Actual	Plan	Projected
H	Authority Budget Office (ABO)	SO	8	0	0	0	0	376	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	0

Authority Budget Office
PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Program: Authority Budget Office (ABO)

Mandate: Chapter 766 of the Laws of 2005 (Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005), Section 27.

Mandated Funding Level: None.

Brief Description/History/Background:

The purpose of the ABO is to study, review and report on the operations, practices and finances of State and local public authorities, promote adoption of effective principles of model governance and provide the Governor and the Legislature with conclusions and opinions regarding the performance of those public authorities. In this capacity, the ABO:

- Collects, analyzes and disseminates information on the structure, operations, finances, compliance status and practices of public authorities for the purpose of making recommendations concerning opportunities to improve the performance, reporting, structure and oversight of public authorities;
- Evaluates and assures the compliance of public authorities with the requirements of Chapter 766 and other applicable State laws and advises and guides public authorities in their compliance activities, including improving management practices and the procedures by which the activities and financial practices of public authorities are disclosed to the public;
- Acts as the point of contact for public authorities on matters relating to Chapter 766, including receipt of annual budgets, audits as well as other reports submitted to the State by public authorities pursuant to the statute;
- In cooperation with the State Comptroller, maintains a comprehensive database that can be used for research and analysis and to provide information of interest to the Executive, Legislature and the public on the activities and practices of public authorities;
- Issues guidelines and standards that serve as the framework for accepted public authority governance principles, financial disclosure practices and implementation actions; and
- Provides the Governor, Legislature, State Comptroller, Attorney General and the public with an annual report of its findings, recommendations and activities.

The ABO is housed within the Division of the Budget with independent functions and responsibilities. The Division of the Budget provides administrative and finance support to the ABO, and uses its institutional and statutory authority to assist the ABO in the effective and efficient execution of its powers and duties.

Issues:

1. The ABO is currently responsible for oversight of 279 State and local public authorities; that number will likely grow in 2009 as they expand their oversight to include local development corporations.
2. The ABO and OSC will continue to invest in the maintenance and support of the Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS) and the ABO will continuously evaluate the need for enhancements to PARIS that could support additional public authority reforms.
3. Over the past three years, the Legislature and the Executive have discussed a number of additional reforms that could impact the current structure, role and capacity of the ABO.

Population Served:

Governor's Office, Legislature, State and Local Public Authorities, Office of the State Comptroller, Office of the New York State Attorney General, the Inspector General, good government groups, and the general public.

Performance Measures:

The ABO makes public its accomplishments in its Annual Report on Public Authorities in New York State and provides the public with comprehensive information on public authority finances via its official website. In addition to more than 134,000 visits to the website in 2007-08, as compared to 50,000 in the prior fiscal year, the ABO responded to approximately 1,000 phone calls and an additional 1,000 emails from public authorities requesting assistance with their legal obligations and reporting requirements.