

**Agency Programs/Activities: Inventory and Key Data
Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform**

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 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Plan	2009-10 Projected	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Plan	2009-10 Projected	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Plan	2009-10 Projected	
High	Regulatory Review/Reform (Attorneys and Analysts)	SO	22.4	\$1,784,475	\$1,708,588	\$2,105,102	\$2,088,179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	Business Assistance (Permit Assistance and OPAL)	SO	8.3	\$1,425,971	\$1,195,402	\$835,567	\$970,763	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
High	Administrative (Support Staff and IT Staff)	SO	4.6	\$413,181	\$758,362	\$466,331	\$461,058	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Low	Temporary Support for Local Government Efficiency Commission	SO	1	0	0	\$27,880	\$69,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			36.3	\$3,623,627	\$3,662,352	\$3,434,880	\$3,589,000									

Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform
PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Program: Agency Rules/Programs/Efficiency

Mandate:

1995 Executive Order No. 20, as continued by 2008 Executive Order No. 9.

Mandated Funding Level:

None

Brief Description/History/Background:

In 1984, legislation created a review program for proposed rules, run by the predecessor agency to GORR. In subsequent years, executive orders created review programs in GORR for existing rules. In 1995, the statutory agency was allowed to sunset and EO 20 was issued, creating regulatory review and reform programs for new and existing rules in GORR, and authorizing it to provide permit assistance. Executive Order No. 20 has been continued, most recently by Governor Paterson's Executive Order No. 9.

GORR has been tasked by the Executive Chamber with roles in several cross-agency initiatives and other efficiency projects. For example, GORR is providing significant professional staff support for the Commission on Real Property Tax Relief, and it provided extensive professional staffing for the Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness Commission. It undertook studies on State land acquisition efficiencies and Brownfields regulatory reforms at the request of the Chamber. It is currently participating in the Commission to Modernize the Regulation of Financial Services and is working with the Insurance and Labor Departments and the Chamber to implement workers' compensation reform. It also participates in the Governor's Task Force to Halt Abusive Lending Transactions. Based on works in progress with the Executive Chamber, GORR expects to receive at least two more very significant assignments from the Chamber in the current fiscal year. GORR recently issued a rigorous Cost Benefit Guide for agencies so as to implement a more analytical approach to agency rule making. As an example, it is working with the Department of State to develop a cost benefit analysis of updating the Uniform Building Construction and Energy Codes.

Finally, GORR has several statutory responsibilities, including SAPA §202-b(8) which requires it to produce a quarterly report identifying whether agencies build flexibility into regulations affecting small businesses and local governments, and, as enacted in August 2008, Economic Development Law §100(46) requiring GORR to provide assistance to Empire State Development in compiling an annual report on key legislation and regulations affecting small businesses.

Issues:

These expanded program efforts require staff support.

Population Served:

The business community, especially small businesses; not-for-profit entities; property owners; local governments; state agencies and public authorities; and the general public.

Performance Measures:

GORR tracks, on a quarterly basis, the number of rules reviewed, the number of rules sent to the Chamber for approval or disapproval, the number of rules approved, and the number of emergency adoptions by agencies. However, GORR's most reliable performance measure is the fact that its services are increasingly sought by the Chamber, the Legislature, other agencies, and interested parties on a routine basis.

Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform
PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Program: Business Assistance

Mandate:

1995 Executive Order No. 20, as continued by 2008 Executive Order No. 9.

Mandated Funding Level:

None

Brief Description/History/Background:

GORR began providing permit assistance in 1978. Initially, the program operated as a call center where people interested in opening or expanding a business could find out what State permits and licenses would be required to operate, what the fees would be and where to submit applications. Over the years, the permit assistance program became more sophisticated. In the early 2000s, we began enabling people to research on our internet site which of the 1,200 State-required permits they would need to start a business; to build individualized Permit Assistance Kits containing the required applications; and, to receive information about business structures, workers' compensation, UI and other matters. The permit assistance program is staffed by trained permit coordinators who can help the inquirer directly or answer questions about using the permit assistance website. GORR also supports several other business assistance services, including Build Now NY and Shovel Ready NY, which encourage pre-permitting to the extent possible for sites for business development. Chapter 427, Laws of 2008, requires Empire State Development, in cooperation with GORR, to provide an annual report on new laws and regulations that are key to small businesses. Since November 2007, GORR has assisted the New York City Business Express web portal by providing expertise on state permitting and licensing requirements related to businesses in the retail, restaurant, arts/entertainment, health care, and service sectors. Business Express will make starting, operating and expanding a business in New York City clearer, faster and simpler by providing a comprehensive online service to manage businesses' interactions with the City.

Issues:

GORR has always depended on a single contractor, IBM, for the design and maintenance of the Permit Assistance System (PAS) and on-line permitting and licensing (OPAL) system. Both badly need to be re-built and modernized. GORR has had insufficient funding even to develop an RFP to design and build a modern system, and does not expect to have sufficient funding in the coming fiscal year. It may be that an agency with greater resources, including sufficient technological expertise and hardware, such as the Department of Taxation and Finance (which already manages the credit card permit fee allocations among the OPAL participating agencies) or ESDC would provide a more suitable home for the PAS and OPAL.

Population Served:

Business start-ups and expansions, particularly small business operations.

Performance Measures: Most recent quarter

Number of telephone inquiries: 4,400

Number of PAKS sent to customers: 5,000

Number of Online Applications: 16,900

Revenue Generated by Online Applications: \$681,000

OPAL Customer Inquiries: 10,800

Number of Unique Visitors to OPAL Website: 44,500

Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform
PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Program: Administration

Mandate:

1995 Executive Order No. 20, as continued by 2008 Executive Order No. 9.

Mandated Funding Level:

None

Brief Description/History/Background:

Administration comprises personnel and fiscal matters, information technology services and administrative support for the Director.

Issues:

Population Served:

GORR staff.

Performance Measures:

OPAL generates at least as much in fees to the state as it costs.

**Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform
PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET**

Program: NYS Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness-temporary staff support

Mandate:

Created by 2007 Executive Order No. 11, continued by 2008 Executive Order No. 9.

Mandated Funding Level:

None.

Brief Description/History/Background:

The Commission was established to recommend efficiency and competitiveness measures for local governments.

Issues:

None

Population Served:

The Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness.

Performance Measures:

None