



Washington State Auditor's Office Program Review

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Low-Income Rental Housing Assistance

Background

Washington has many affordable housing programs that assist the state's low-income households and some provide rental assistance. Rental housing assistance programs span all levels of government, including state agencies, counties, cities, housing authorities and others. In addition to these programs, the federal government provides rental housing assistance for Washington's low-income households. In a recent report, Oregon found that its housing programs could better collaborate and coordinate among different levels of government.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), an independent and nonpartisan federal agency that works for Congress, is undertaking a pilot project to examine intergovernmental coordination and collaboration among rental housing assistance programs for low-income households. Auditors in Washington and other states, including Oregon and Colorado, are participating in the pilot project.

Scope and objectives

We plan to explore low-income rental assistance programs at the state and local levels of government by answering the following questions:

- What are the performance goals for low-income rental assistance at each level of government?
- What programs address or impact those performance goals at each level of government?
- How does each program work, who does it serve, how is it funded, and what government is responsible for its oversight?
- Are there intergovernmental issues related to improving program outcomes?

Next steps

We plan to complete our contribution to this project in summer 2014, when we send the results of our program inventory to the GAO.