

Connecticut General Assembly



OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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Senator Toni Harp, Co-Chair
Representative Toni Walker, Co-Chair
Senator Robert Kane, Ranking Member
Representative Craig Miner, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
Room 2600
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sen. Harp, Rep. Walker, Sen. Kane, and Rep. Miner:

This is the fourth quarterly status report for the on-line searchable database required by PA 10-155, subsequent to its going live on 6/29/11. PA 10-155 requires quarterly reports to the Appropriations Committee on its progress beginning 11/1/10 and thereafter. This communication is intended to satisfy the 5/1/12 requirement.

The site, which is located at <http://www.transparency.ct.gov>, went live June 2011 with the inclusion of Fiscal Year 2010 data. In the Fall of 2011, FY 2011 data was added, so that two fiscal years are now available. A linkage to the site is currently provided via the homepage of the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Since the site went live, there have been 49,064 visits with 9,880 unique visitors from at least 75 countries. The most active date thus far remains Friday, July 8th with 631 visits. Active employee compensation has been the most frequently viewed subpage on the site, with nearly three times as many visits as Pensions, which is the next most visited subpage followed by Expenditures, Payments, Contracts and Grants.

As a consequence of establishing the TransparencyCT.gov site, Connecticut's spending transparency ranking by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group improved from 41st to 12th among the states. According to the U.S. PIRG, "Connecticut's website excels in searchability, one of the most important elements of Transparency 2.0. The specific payments made to vendors can be found through searches by vendor, paying agency, short description of the good or service, year or amount." The U.S. PIRG's main criticism of TransparencyCT.gov is that it lacks of copies of contracts. It is important to note, however, that links to copies of contracts are provided through the Resources and Links area of TransparencyCT.gov.

See this link for a copy of the 2012 report by the U.S. PIRG:

<http://www.uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/Following%20the%20Money%20vUS%20WEB.pdf>

Again, I would like to note that without the assistance of the staff of the CGA's Information Technology Services Dept. as well as the state comptroller's office, this site would not be operative.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Alan Calandro

cc: Appropriations Committee Members
Tim Kehoe, Senate Clerk
Garey E. Coleman, House Clerk
Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian
Ken Greene, ITS
Susan Marsh, ITS
Dan Jalbert, ITS
Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller
John Clark, Office of the State Comptroller
Mary Yabrosky, Department of Administrative Services
D'Ann Mazzocca, OLM
Michael Murphy, OFA
Don Chaffee, OFA