

33) The Office of the State Comptroller began operations in January of this year. The office is divided into three functions. First, a group responsible for conducting audits. Second, a group responsible for analyzing the performance of government programs. And third, a group responsible for monitoring government procurement.

To this point, the office's efforts have focused on hiring, specifically staffing up an office that ultimately will have nearly 60 employees. At this stage the hiring efforts have focused on the recruitment of senior-level employees. The office has hired 14 employees, including a Director of Audits, a Deputy Director for Audits, a Deputy Director for Program Analysis, a Director of Procurement, and two former FBI agents who have joined the office as investigators.

Now that the recruitment of senior staff is nearly complete, the Office is turning its focus to filling entry-level and mid-level staff positions. It is expected that this staffing process, which is well under way, will be complete by the end of this calendar year at the latest.

The office projects that, ultimately, the audit group will consist of 34 employees, most of whom will be Audit Specialists with varying levels of experience. The performance review group will have 13 employees and will be comprised primarily of Program Analysts. The procurement group will have 8 employees and will be comprised primarily of attorneys. The front office staff consists of 4 employees.

The office is now beginning to take on the substantive work of its statutory mission. As part of the effort to develop leads to pursue, the office has set up a toll-free hotline to accept tips from the public. Numerous tips have been received.

The office is conducting preliminary investigations on a number of matters to determine in which instances a full audit or performance review is warranted.