

Evaluation and Investigative Services

Program Description & Goals

The Auditor's Office will establish Evaluation and Investigative Services to conduct independent program and policy evaluations and administrative investigations under the authority of the City Auditor. The division will promote evidence-driven policy decision-making, results-based program adjustments, and sound complaint investigations. It replaces Independent Police Review, which will cease operations by June 30, 2022, when it completes the transfer of its police accountability responsibilities to a voter-approved community oversight board or a designated interim agency.

Explanation of Services

Program evaluations are systemic studies that use research methods to address specific questions about programs and strengthen performance. They are designed to meet decision-makers' information needs for program planning, management, and oversight.

The concept behind Evaluation and Investigative Services is to fill an existing need in the City of Portland for relevant, independent analyses of policy outcomes and program design as it tries to address overlapping emergencies with finite resources.

Developing an independent in-house capacity for policy and program evaluation will help the City assess its own as well as the investments it makes jointly with other governments to solve problems.

No one government can by itself resolve issues of sheltering people living outdoors, providing enough affordable housing, reducing gun violence, finding alternatives to jail, combatting climate change, or eliminating systemic racism. As the complexity of the problems grow across the Portland region, the City finds itself increasingly partnering with other governments to address them. Those partnerships, however, often undergo less scrutiny because of limited analytical resources, jurisdictional constraints, and time needed to evaluate them effectively.

Effective program evaluation can help policymakers, managers, and the public understand whether investments of tax dollars effectively solve the problems they are intended to solve, and if programs are designed appropriately. The Auditor's Office will look to the guiding principles of the American Evaluation Association while developing the new division.

The Auditor's Office has a core of investigative expertise the City needs in its existing capacity until the end of the fiscal year to meet obligations in Code and the City's settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice for police misconduct complaints. The investigative team gradually will transition in Fiscal Year 2021-22 to focus on administrative complaints received by the Auditor's Office, including those related to the fraud hotline, campaign regulations, and lobbyist and political consultant regulations. The Auditor's Office will look to investigative models in Offices of Inspectors General and other municipalities while developing the new division.

Equity Impacts

A priority of the elected Auditor is to incorporate equity analyses in all audits conducted by Audit Services and policy and systemic reviews conducted by the City Ombudsman and Independent Police Review. That will apply to Evaluation and Investigative Services. Principles of the American Evaluation Association provide that evaluators 'strive to contribute to the common good and advancement of an equitable and just society.'

Changes to Program

Program will be established during Fiscal Year 2021-22 in anticipation of being fully operational in Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Program Budget

	Actuals FY 2018-19	Actuals FY 2019-20	Revised FY 2020-21	Requested No DP FY 2021-22	Requested FY 2021-22
Requirements					
Bureau Expenditures					
Personnel Services	0	0	0	658,840	658,840
Bureau Expenditures Total	0	0	0	658,840	658,840
Ending Fund Balance					
Requirements Total	0	0	0	658,840	658,840
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.75	4.75

Budget Narrative

Resources	This program is currently funded through the City’s discretionary General Funds totaling approximately \$658,000.
Expenses	Expenses are budgeted primarily for personnel and internal materials and services. External materials are funds used for professional development, education, and training; analytical software, and consultant contracts.
Staffing	The division’s budget will consist of two existing full-time equivalent positions, an Analyst I and Analyst III, to establish the division and plan future work. Eleven full-time equivalent positions will divide resources between independent Police Review (75 percent) and Evaluation and Investigative Services (25 percent) during the transition year. An outreach and Communication position will divide resources between Independent Police Review (75 percent) and Operations Management (25 percent), which provides shared communication services officewide.
Assets & Liabilities	N/A

Program Information

Program Contact:	City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero
Contact Phone:	503-823-4082
Website:	A program specific website will be established and posted on the Auditor’s Office website in FY2021-22.