

RESULTS-BASED BUDGETING

Mandated by the 1993 Budget Accountability and Planning Act, Results-Based Budgeting (RBB) provides a concise overview of the progress that state programs are making in addressing the economic, education, social, and service needs of the citizenry. Results-Based Budgeting reports on the impact of state programs. This information enables state policy-makers, agency managers, the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), and the public to identify effective program strategies and those strategies that need improvement or total revision.

Now in its sixth year of implementation, RBB offers decision-makers, program managers, and provides OPB with trend data that can be used to assess the outcomes of programs financed by Georgia's taxpayers. These trends in program outcomes help "red flag" programs for further review so that the reasons for substandard performance can be identified and corrected. Thus, policymakers can determine whether the apparent lack of program impact has resulted from such problems as: poor planning; faulty program design; ineffective management; inadequate resources; missing, inaccurate, and/or noncurrent data; or extraneous conditions outside the program's control.

Results-Based Budgeting information allows the Governor, the General Assembly, program managers, and the public to relate program results to program expenditures. This information will assist the Governor and the General Assembly in allocating scarce resources to best benefit the citizens of Georgia by:

- Focusing the legislative process upon the policy implications of funds spent in state agency programs and services.
- Determining when environmental influences indicate changes in program strategies because current strategies no longer meet existing needs.
- Enabling programs to be evaluated and funded according to their actual benefit to program customers and taxpayers.
- Enhancing the ability of the Office of Planning and Budget to track funding in policy areas across agency boundaries.
- Enabling program managers to compare the results of different strategies and program sites to identify superior performance, ascertain the reasons for the enhanced performance, and transfer successful strategies to other sites throughout the state.

For the FY 2001 and FY 2002 Budget Reports, many programs began compiling and using results data for the first time. This process has resulted in significant changes in the types of data collected and the methods for compiling, verifying, analyzing, and reporting information. For the FY 2003 RBB submission, agencies were required to turn in detailed data reporting and disclosure information. Consequently, the actual result data should be more reliable. Although, the data agencies provide is not verified at the agency or collection-source level by auditors.

By focusing on outcomes, RBB has encouraged state government to be more accountable to Georgia's citizens. Taxpayers can now see how public policy is implemented via state government programs, and how well these programs are serving their customers. Program managers are using RBB information to better plan, set priorities, manage, and provide services to the public. Thus, Results-Based Budgeting has not only made government more accountable to its citizens, but also has had a positive impact on program management.

The FY 2003 Budget Report's Results-Based Budget section includes a comparison of FY 1999 - 2000 desired results and actual performance. It also shows actual result data for FY 1998 through FY 2001. Consequently, this RBB trend data can be used as a "report card" on government performance. This coming year, OPB also will use RBB information to identify programs for more intensive evaluation. In addition, the agency RBB information is separated from the other information in this year's Budget Report and presented as a stand-alone section.

It is the intention of the Office of Planning and Budget to display the RBB information on our web page (<http://www.opb.state.ga.us/>) in early 2002. This will allow for the following:

- Inclusion of any omissions and timely data updates;
- Addition of detailed notes and other information;
- Links to similar measures in different agencies; and
- Links to the policy areas of the State Strategic Plan.

OPB is committed to providing the most useful RBB data possible. Accordingly, we would like to answer any questions about the RBB programs, goals or measures that might arise. For additional information, please contact the Office of Planning and Budget at rbb@mail.opb.state.ga.us.