

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
FY 2012 – 13 Performance Oversight Summary Statement
March 14, 2013

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a membership organization of local elected officials from the District of Columbia and 22 other area jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia. The region's state and federal elected delegations also are members of COG. Three independent policy boards direct the Council's work, including the COG Board of Directors, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – which is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization – and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), which prepares the region's air quality plans to comply with federal law. COG's work is funded by government grants, membership dues and private foundations. (NB: The Council of Governments could not supply information on questions directed specifically to city agencies and therefore answered with "not applicable.")

1. The Council's organizational chart is attached.
2. The organization has 128 authorized full-time equivalent employees whose jobs are arranged in a system of grades and compensation levels. Currently, there are 2 full-time staff vacancies. At present, 24 COG employees are DC residents.
3. NA
4. NA
5. NA
6. NA
7. NA
8. NA
9. NA
10. NA
11. We cannot readily respond to this request. Because of the nature of its work, COG is a party to numerous memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with various entities. The MOUs are sometimes entered into by COG as a grant recipient and sometimes with COG as a "pass through" for grant funds. Other MOUs incorporate contractual/procurement arrangements. Further MOUs embody agreements between inter-jurisdictional information for sharing or access to various services or other agreements. The MOUs are not maintained in a separate file which increases the retrieval problem, rather they are largely maintained within the specific department which has responsibility for the subject area of the MOU. If you have a more specific question, we may be able to better respond.
12. NA. The Council of Governments does not submit budget requests to the District of Columbia.
- 13.

DC Budget Question #13	Question #13		
Grant Number	Type of Service	Grant Amount	Multi-yea Yes/No
12UASI117-03	NCR Secretariat Support	\$783,023.00	Yes
12UASI117-04	NCR Health Planning	\$2,062,500.00	Yes
12UASI117-05	NCR Cyber Security Framework	\$410,256.00	Yes
12UASI117-07	Mobile Wide Area Radiation Detection	\$1,750,000.00	Yes
12UASI117-01	Water Agency Response Network	\$5,000.00	Yes
12UASI117-02	Water Security Monitoring Network	\$240,000.00	Yes
12UASI117-06	NCR Hospital Power Resiliency	\$1,190,000.00	Yes
DDOT	Unified Planning Work Program	\$500,000.00	No
	Total	\$6,940,779.00	

14. There are no open capital projects for the Council as of January 28, 2013.
15. There are no pending lawsuits that name the Council as a party.
16. The Council of Governments has received clean audits throughout the time period referenced. There also were no investigations, studies, or reports on the agency or any of its employees during that period.
17. No employee grievances have been filed in fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 to date and no earlier grievances are pending in any judicial forum.
18. The Council of Governments does not use SmartPay credit cards.
19. No DC funds have been used to purchase communications devices. However, some managers and employees with 24/7 responsibilities do use COG-issued mobile devices such as cell phones and PDAs.

20. NA
21. NA
22. The Council of Governments' Chief Financial Officer maintains a travel policy which requires staff members and regional officials to plan travel for the organization in the same economical and expeditious manner as prudent person would plan personal travel. Travel outside of the region requires the pre-approval of supervisors and the executive director, and all travel must be documented by completing a Travel and Related Expense Voucher Form.
23. NA
24. Each staff member receives an annual performance evaluation based on specific measures and core competencies related to the position. The annual evaluations are used to award merit-based salary increases and bonus awards. Given COG and member government funding challenges, 1% merit increases and cost-of-living increases were given across the board to COG employees in FY 2012 to offset pension.
25. **Region Forward** is the Council of Governments' over-arching priority. It is the organization's vision for a more prosperous, accessible, livable and sustainable metropolitan Washington. *Region Forward* is a Planning Guide for the region's growth and development that incorporates all parts of the Council's work program and ties together its 22 member governments in an effort to make this area the best region in the country to live, work and play. Region Forward's goals include: coordinating land-use and transportation plans to reduce suburban sprawl and protect the environment; conserving energy and controlling greenhouse gas emissions; attracting new businesses and skilled workers to the region and providing a quality education for all residents, and ensuring public safety, affordable housing and a healthy environment for all.

The Council of the District of Columbia, and the city's Department of Planning have been among the most active supporters of the Region Forward Initiative. In addition to the current priorities listed, District residents will continue to benefit from other major Council of Governments initiatives such as the Wednesday's Child program and Foster Care and Adoption services, programs supported by the Council's Emergency Preparedness Commission, Public Safety program, the Climate, Energy & the Environment Policy Committee, as well as programs to sustain the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River.

In FY 2013, the Council focused on a key element of Region Forward, an economic growth and competitiveness initiative called **Economy Forward**. The goal is to further develop the region's private sector by building on its competitive advantages, including an educated

workforce, entrepreneurial climate, international connections, vibrant, transit-oriented Activity Centers, and access to the federal government.

The near-term threat of sequestration - or automatic federal spending cuts coupled with tax increases - and the longer-term outlook of decreased federal spending could devastate this region. So much of this past year was dedicated to developing a plan to strengthen our economic competitiveness.

The federal government has provided a solid foundation for this area for decades and will certainly continue to play a major role in the region's economy. But now, the region must get ready for a new era. In addition to the fact that federal spending in our area will be cut significantly, recent data shows that this region ranked 13th of 15 in terms of growth. The region's competitors, other metro areas throughout the country and the world, are examining and implementing strategies to spur economic growth. This region must act or risk being outperformed.

Early in this fiscal year, the Council issued its Economy Forward Report that recommends how area leaders can address the region's urgent economic needs. The major recommendations include:

- Work with senior Administration officials to identify an official to serve as a federal-regional liaison to improve partnership.
- Implement a plan that will guide more efficient investments in the region's Activity Centers so that more of them have the right mix of housing, jobs and access to transit.
- Undertake an industry and labor market analysis to ensure that workforce development programs are training people for current and future growth sectors.
- Use this data to inform the development of a new brand that promotes the region's economic diversity.
- Implement a transportation priorities plan to garner broad-based public support and produce sustainable funding strategies.

The Council of Governments adopted several additional elements of Region Forward for its fiscal year 2013 Legislative Priorities. The Council and its members will support legislative action at the local, state and federal levels that address the following priorities.

Increased Transportation Funding. The current structure and levels of federal and state transportation funding are inadequate for addressing pressing needs for system maintenance,

new infrastructure, and the increasingly urgent problem of congestion on both roadway and transit systems in the Washington region.

Energy Efficiency & Productivity. Implementing large-scale, sustained investments in energy efficiency is needed to improve the region's energy security and promote its economic vitality.

Water Quality Protection. Protecting water quality in metropolitan Washington to achieve the goals of the federal Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts requires that EPA, state regulatory agencies, the state legislatures and United States Congress support actions to: 1) identify local government and utility funding needs and financial impacts, 2) develop feasible implementation schedules, 3) utilize regulatory flexibility such as integrated planning/permitting solutions.