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STATE OF WASHINGTON

“the consolidated technology services agency” RCW 43.105.006

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Under RCW 43.105.054 the Office of the CIO is required to “establish standards and policies to govern information technology in the state of Washington.” In 2015 we adopted a policy requiring all agencies to develop, publish, implement and maintain a plan describing the agency’s “open data” offerings.

The policy allowed agencies until October 2016 to develop their Open Data plans. It has come to my attention that your agency has not completed and published such a plan. These plans are the lowest-impact way we know of to accurately and flexibly represent to the legislature and the public the good work done by agencies on data transparency. My staff have described the importance and function of the policy to the community of agency CIO’s, at Results Washington and through a stakeholder group open to any agency wishing to participate.

Open Data Planning is also a measure under Results Washington Goal 5, where we will report this year on agency compliance with the policy. I hope you will speak with your team and develop a plan by October of this year so that we can include you among the agencies making progress on open data.

Help is available from my office. We have a subject matter expert on staff who has assisted dozens of agencies in the development and publication of open data – in many cases the first draft can be completed in less than 1 hour with members of your leadership team. Since 2009 we have provided an open data portal at data.wa.gov that is available to any agency at no charge. Please ask your team to contact Will Saunders of OCIO (360-407-8693 or will.saunders@ocio.wa.gov) if you have any questions about the policy, the tools, or the concept of open data.

When government makes data available in an open and readily usable format we enable citizens, colleagues, companies and communities to understand and amplify the civic purposes we work on. Open data allows collaboration between private and public organizations dedicated to a common cause; it facilitates transparency in government and supports the state's digital economy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Michael Cockrill,

State CIO