



# PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION

## NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 2019–20 Program Evaluation Division Work Plan

Approved by Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee on June 10, 2019

Evaluation Description	Priority
<p><b>State Scholarships and Education Loan Programs.</b> This evaluation will examine the extent to which state funded scholarships, grants, and educational loan programs have met their goals. The evaluation will also examine the educational and vocational outcomes of students who have received this support.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Child Protection Screening.</b> This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the child protective screening process used by county departments of social services and determine whether there are differences in how county departments of social services approach child protection screening and identify the need for a child protection response. The evaluation will also evaluate state supervision and guidelines for child protection screening. In North Carolina, child protective services are state-supervised by the Department of Health and Human Services and county-administered by 100 county departments of social services. Child protection screening is the process used by county departments of social services to determine whether reports of child maltreatment require a child protection response.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Organizational Layers in the Department of Environmental Quality.</b> This evaluation will examine the organizational layers of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by conducting a bottom up review of all supervisory, managerial, and executive positions and examine level of approvals required for issuance of permits for more complex industrial and agricultural activities. The Program Evaluation Division's report <i>Most Departments' Spans of Control and Number of Organizational Layers Do Not Meet Recommended Levels</i> found that DEQ had 10 organizational layers, which exceeded the statewide standard of 7 and was the fourth highest among the 21 principal departments.</p>	<b>3</b>
<p><b>State Ports Authority.</b> This evaluation will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the State Ports Authority and its operation of the Wilmington and Morehead City ports. The State Ports Authority is charged with promoting, developing, constructing, equipping, maintaining, and operating the harbors and seaports within the State. The 2017 financial audit of the Authority showed that its profitability had decreased over the previous year, and the General Assembly has appropriated \$70 million for capital evaluations in recent years.</p>	<b>4</b>
<p><b>Housing Finance Agency.</b> This evaluation will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the NC Housing Finance Agency. The agency's mission is to create affordable housing opportunities for North Carolinians whose needs are not met by the market.</p>	<b>5</b>
<p><b>Diversity in the Teacher Workforce.</b> This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of North Carolina's current efforts to increase diversity in the teacher workforce. It will explore whether other states are engaging in effective efforts and will report on any promising practices applicable to North Carolina.</p>	<b>6</b>
<p><b>Stonewall Jackson School.</b> This study will examine legislative options for disposing of the Stonewall Jackson School campus in Cabarrus County in ways that would ensure historic preservation. This study will be exempt from the mandatory evaluation components in GS § 120-36.14(b).</p>	<b>7</b>

<p><b>NC Innovations Waiver Services (Medicaid).</b> This evaluation will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the NC Innovations Waiver including eligibility determination, plan of care development and approval, development of individual budgets, and LME-MCO management and monitoring of services provided under the waiver. The North Carolina Innovations Waiver Services (NC Innovations) funds services and supports for Medicaid beneficiaries with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities who are at risk for institutional care. NC Innovations is authorized by a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under Section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act. The current waiver was renewed and approved to be effective for five years as of August 1, 2013. Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs) are responsible for certain management and oversight activities for the waiver.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>Regional Councils of Government.</b> This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the 16 Regional Councils of Government in North Carolina including an examination of overall operations, staffing, activities, performance measures, finances, and services provided to local governments. Regional councils of governments are authorized under state law and executive order, and they provide programs and services to their local governments and residents.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>