



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Office of the Governor

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Gov. Beshear solicits employee suggestions for Smart Government Initiative

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 17, 2010)— In an email sent today to all state employees, Gov. Steve Beshear asked state workers for their input on ways to further reduce the government’s operating costs. This call for suggestions will assist with the efforts of the recently announced Smart Government Initiative.

The Smart Government Initiative, launched by Gov. Beshear on Jan. 13, 2010, is a collaborative, statewide, multi-cabinet drive to share ideas and employ cost-saving measures. The program consists of five workgroups charged with conducting in depth reviews of spending in the areas of information technology, transportation services, postal services, state-owned assets and contracts and procurement.

“Input from employees is a vital part of the Smart Government Initiative,” said Gov. Beshear. “We need people from all levels and areas to take a look around and let us know if they think their agency or any other areas of state government could be operating more efficiently. Every dollar we can save through these cost-saving measures will help preserve jobs.”

Gov. Beshear’s recent budget proposal to the legislature includes a projected savings from his Smart Government Initiative of \$77 million over the biennium, including \$33 million in the General Fund. These further reductions in operating costs will be in addition to the 20 to 25 percent budget cuts most state agencies have already experienced over the past two years during six rounds of budget cuts.

The Smart Government Initiative is chaired by the Secretary of the Executive Cabinet Mary Lassiter and staffed by the Finance and Administration Cabinet, whose Secretary, Jonathan Miller, serves as the executive director. A decision-making body with representation from many agencies of the executive branch has been named to implement this comprehensive efficiency initiative.

“Gov. Beshear’s Smart Government Initiative truly empowers state employees,” said Sec. Miller. “Our workgroups will greatly rely upon on their ideas as we continue our mission to make the most lean, efficient government work for the Commonwealth.”

State workers will be able to submit ideas through the Employee Suggestion System (ESS), an online resource administered by the Personnel Cabinet that has been in place since 1981. The system accepts suggestions from merit employees who have proposals for ways to improve government operations and save money. If an employee’s suggestion is implemented, they may be eligible for a monetary reward.

In the past, non-merit employees have not been able to offer comments through the Employee Suggestion System. For the purpose of the Smart Government Initiative, the site will now offer the means to collect input from non-merit employees, although they will not be eligible for cash rewards.

“The state workforce is comprised of employees who care deeply about the efficiency and resourcefulness of their agencies, so who better to ask for input and ideas than our employees,” Secretary of Personnel Cabinet Nikki R. Jackson said. “During the past two years alone, the savings realized by implementing employee suggestions has totaled \$2.1 million.”

Employees can submit their suggestions on line at <http://personnel.ky.gov>.

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