

Office of Policy and Management (OPM)  
 Appropriations Subcommittee  
 3-8-23 Work Session  
 Questions

Question #	Topic	Question(s)	From/Date received from OFA
1	Property Tax Relief for Veterans	How many people does the Veteran's Property tax exemption apply to and what does that exemption mean?  How do we get the Veteran's property tax to mean something (how can we bring this number up to be a real property tax abatement)?	Lauren Goulet on 2/17/2023
2	Tax Relief for Elderly Renters	Provide how many renters that received funding by town.  Include ethnicity data, if available	Lauren Goulet on 2/22/2023
3	Property Tax Relief Elderly Freeze Program	Elderly tax freeze, what towns are these reflective of and what is the demographic/ethnic breakdown?  How old are the people in this program?	Lauren Goulet on 2/17/2023
4	Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund	Will have additional questions relative to the MRSF process (not yet specified the exact questions).  Concerned that it is not easily seen when you are looking at the budget.	Lauren Goulet on 2/17/2023
5	Autism Spectrum	How many people are there on the waitlist for individuals on the Autism spectrum?	Lauren Goulet on 2/17/2023
6	State Colleges & Universities	Bring to the committee the analysis you did on UConn and colleges and state universities bringing off the liabilities? (no verbiage, just an excel sheet)	Lauren Goulet on 2/17/2023

7	Justice Assistance Grants	Can we have a breakdown of the justice assistance grant, who receives those funds?	Lauren Goulet on 2/17/2023
8	Headcount Questions	<p>1. What is the authorized headcount, the funded headcount and the filled headcount for your area?</p> <p>2. If there is change in headcount (either up or down) please provide an explanation of the change.</p> <p>a. If there is a positive change in headcount, please explain why these positions are needed</p> <p>b. If these adds are legislatively driven, what piece of legislation is driving the increase?</p>	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests
	Vacant Positions	<p>3. Are there any vacant positions in your headcount?</p> <p>a. If yes, how are they budgeted into your plan? (as a full year FTE or partial? Are they fulltime or part time?)</p> <p>b. What is the anticipated start date of your vacancies? Are they staggered throughout the year, or all anticipated to start on July 1?</p>	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests
	Vacant Positions at 6/30	<p>4. How many vacancies did you have at year end on 06/30?</p> <p>a. How many vacancies did you have throughout the year last fiscal year?</p> <p>b. How many new hires did you have in the same time period?</p>	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests
	Cost of FTE's	5. What is the average cost of an FTE for your area?	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests
	Fringe Cost	6. What is the average fringe cost of an FTE in the comptrollers area?	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests
	Lapse Questions	<p>1. Were there any lapsing accounts on 06/30?</p> <p>a. If yes, what were the accounts?</p> <p>b. If yes, what was the lapse balance?</p>	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests

		<p>c. If yes, what drove the lapse? What spending didn't occur that was planned to occur?</p> <p>2. If there is a lapsing balance, do you anticipate it carrying forward?</p> <p>a. If yes, how do you propose to use that lapse?</p> <p>b. Will it be for one-time expenses?</p> <p>If so, what are those one-time expenses?</p> <p>c. If ongoing expense is that expense built into this budget in FY 25?</p>	
	ARPA	<p>1. Did you receive any ARPA funding in your department?</p> <p>a. If yes, have you assumed the programs/staffing established with the ARPA funding is now in your General Fund budget as an ongoing expense?</p> <p>i. If not all, how much?</p> <p>b. Are there still ARPA funds included in this budget?</p> <p>i. If yes, how much of this budget is continuation of ARPA funding?</p> <p>ii. How much ARPA do you still have in the budget that may need to be picked up as ongoing expenses in out years?</p>	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests
	General Questions	<p>1. Is there anything you would change about this budget?</p> <p>2. Is there anything you would add to this budget?</p> <p>3. Is there anything you would remove from this budget?</p> <p>4. Is there any legislation that was passed you feel you are not adequately prepared to enforce?</p> <p>a. If so, what would we need to change to make it administer-able?</p>	Susan Keane on 2/23/2023 - Rep. Nuccio Requests

## **Office of Policy and Management (OPM)**

### **Question 1**

#### **Property Tax Relief for Veterans**

**How many people does the Veteran's Property tax exemption apply to and what does that exemption mean?**

OPM RESPONSE:

10,004 for FY22; 9,380 for FY23

Eligibility for the Additional Veterans' Exemption is any person entitled to a Veterans exemption in accordance with subdivisions 19 through 26 of CGS Section 12-81 and who also meets certain income limits. Those who meet the income requirements under 12-81g(a) and who file for an additional exemption receive an additional exemption equal to double the amount of the basic Veterans exemption. Payments are made to reimburse towns, cities and boroughs that provide additional property tax relief for veterans and certain survivors who are already receiving exemptions/tax relief under the Veterans' Program provided for in the Connecticut General Statutes: Section 12-81 (19) through (26).

Those who do not meet the income requirements under 12-81g(a) are entitled to an additional exemption equal to one-half the amount of the basic Veterans exemption. However, the one-half additional exemption is not reimbursed by the state.

Full program details are available at: [Veterans Additional Exemption Tax Relief Program \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/departments/office-of-policy-and-management/veterans-additional-exemption-tax-relief-program).

**How do we get the Veteran's property tax to mean something (how can we bring this number up to be a real property tax abatement)?**

OPM RESPONSE:

State law provides a basic \$1,000 property tax exemption for certain honorably discharged veterans who actively served at least 90 days during war time, or their survivors. State law also provides an additional exemption for veterans and disabled veterans who are eligible for the basic exemption and who can meet certain income limits. This grant does not reimburse the towns for this local exemption.

The purpose of this Additional Veterans Program is to reimburse towns, cities and boroughs that provide additional property tax relief for veterans and certain survivors who are already receiving exemptions/tax relief under the Veterans' Program provided for in the Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81 (19) through (26). Under this grant program, those veterans meeting

specified income limits may apply for an additional state exemption totaling up to 200% of the local exemption. Any change to the \$1,000 local exemption limit will change the additional veterans benefit level and entail a corresponding state cost.

## **Question 2**

### **Tax Relief for Elderly Renters**

**Provide how many renters that received funding by town**

OPM RESPONSE:

See attached *Legislative Report FY2021-2022* of Adjusted Payments Regarding Connecticut Programs of Tax Relief for Elderly Homeowners and Grants to Elderly Renters for 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

**Include ethnicity data, if available**

OPM RESPONSE:

OPM does not collect this data.

### **Question 3**

#### **Property Tax Relief Elderly Freeze Program**

**Elderly Tax Freeze, what towns are these reflective of and what is the demographic/ethnic breakdown?**

OPM RESPONSE:

See attached *Legislative Report FY2021-2022* of Adjusted Payments Regarding Connecticut Programs of Tax Relief for Elderly Homeowners and Grants to Elderly Renters for 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

**How old are the people in the program?**

OPM RESPONSE:

There are three (3) people remaining in the program, ages: 90, 98 and 99.

#### Question 4

##### Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund

**Will have additional questions relative to the MRSF process (not yet specified the exact questions). Concerned that it is not easily seen when you are looking at the budget.**

##### OPM RESPONSE:

In FY 2023, these grants are funded from: 1) the General Fund, 2) a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund - the Municipal Revenue Sharing account, or 3) the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund. In some cases, multiple funding sources jointly support the same program. This level of complexity does not provide any benefit to the municipalities receiving state support. Distributing so much state money from multiple interconnected funding sources only makes it more difficult for lawmakers, municipalities, and citizens to understand the state's policy for supporting local governments. Currently, municipalities receive multiple payments for some grants depending on their funding source. For example, PILOT is paid from both MRSA and General Fund. OPM frequently receives inquiries from municipalities that they were not fully paid, as they do not see the grant payment total. The proposal to bring all of the Tiered PILOT program together into one on-budget place provides transparency to the municipality. Municipal grants will not be consolidated into a single payment, and will remain the same and paid out as specified. For example, while the Mashantucket Pequot Fund would no longer appear as a separate fund within the appropriations act, a distinct amount would appear as an appropriation line item that reads "Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Grants." Currently, this amount is appropriated within the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund, but the line item associated with the amount of funding simply reads "Grants to Towns."

The Governor's budget proposes consolidating all of these grants under a single fund: the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund, but retaining the distinct identity of each individual grant. This new appropriated fund will receive the same 0.5 percent of the sales and use tax that is currently being diverted to the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account, and will additionally receive a transfer of revenue from the General Fund to maintain grant formulas and payment lists at current statutory levels. By appropriating these grant payments as distinct line items under a single fund, the Governor's budget adds transparency and simplicity to our municipal aid programs while still honoring the formulas and payments in current statute. One significant way in which this proposal would improve transparency is that all payments would continue to appear as appropriations in budget documents. Under current statute, over \$400 million in Tiered PILOT and motor vehicle tax grants that are due to be paid off-budget out of MRSA would not appear at all in the budget bill or associated tables, such as those in section C of the Governor's recommended budget. Unlike the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account, appropriating the grants

from a separate fund also expressly allows OPM to process payments to municipalities early in the fiscal year before sales tax revenues accrue, ensuring that municipalities receive this support from the state in time to make necessary payments throughout the fiscal year.

## Question 5

### Autism

**How many people are there on the waitlist for individuals on the Autism spectrum?**

OPM RESPONSE:

As of January 2023, two-thousand and seven (2,007) individuals are on the waitlist.

WAIVER	AUTHORITY	OPERATING AGENCY	TARGET POPULATION	NUMBER ENROLLED	WAITING LIST	LENGTH OF WAITING LIST
Autism Lifespan Waiver	1915 c	DSS	Persons with diagnosis of Autism, age 3 and up with IQ of 70 or greater	219	Yes	2007

## Question 6

### State Colleges & Universities

**Bring to the committee the analysis you did on UConn and colleges and state universities bringing off the liabilities? (no verbiage, just an excel sheet).**

OPM RESPONSE:

See attached *Higher Ed Reallocation* Excel file.

It is worth noting that OPM has been in communication with CSCU regarding factual and calculation errors contained in their portrayal to the Appropriations Committee the fringe benefit proposal. It is our expectation that CSCU will correct the record with the Committee; should that not occur, OPM will supply such information to the Committee and to OFA.

## Question 7

### Justice Assistance Grants

**Can we have a breakdown of the justice assistance grant, who receives those funds?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) administers several United States Department of Justice (US DOJ) Grants. Three of these grants require a state match or cost sharing, whereby a portion of the project costs must be covered by the state. OPM budgets for the matching funds requirement in the General Fund in the Justice Assistance Grants account, SID 12251.

**Table 1** FY 2023 Justice Assistance Grants (State Match) Budget and Expenditures (as of February 17, 2023)

**FY 2023 Justice Assistance Grants Report as of 2/17/2023**

Project Description	Project Number	Approved Budget	Expense	Projected Expenditures to End of Fiscal Year	Remaining Balance
NCHIP	OPM000000002441	285,468.29	83,382.38	202,085.91	-
RSAT	OPM000000002461	64,137.04	25,500.00	38,637.04	-
VAW STOP Grants	OPM000000002491	371,669.62	193,745.59	177,924.03	-
VAW STOP Admin	OPM000000002492	24,503.31	10,599.39	13,903.92	-
VAW STOP State Agencies (DCJ)	OPM000000002496	68,166.74	65,842.08	2,324.66	-
	Total	813,945.00	379,069.44	434,875.56	-

The following describes in more detail each of the programs listed in the table above and who received the state matching funds in fiscal year 2023.

#### **I. National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)**

The US DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics, through NCHIP, provides direct awards and technical assistance to states and localities to improve the quality, timeliness, and immediate accessibility of criminal history records and related information. Complete records require that data from all components of the criminal justice system be integrated and linked, including law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and corrections. NCHIP assists states to establish an integrated infrastructure that meets the needs of all components.

- NCHIP requires a 10% cash or in-kind match for all federal funds expended through this program.

- In FY 2023, the Judicial Branch and Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) have received state match funds through NCHIP.

**Table 2** FY 2023 Current NCHIP Justice Assistance Grants (State Match) Expenditures

Recipient	FY 2023 Expenditures as of 2/17/23
Judicial Branch	\$57,500.00
DESPP	\$25,882.38
Total	\$83,382.38

## II. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program (RSAT)

The objective of the RSAT grant program is to enhance the capabilities of state, local, and Indian tribal governments to provide residential substance use disorder treatment to adult and juvenile populations during detention or incarceration; prepare them for their reintegration into a community by incorporating reentry planning activities into their treatment programs; and assist them and their communities throughout the reentry process by delivering community-based treatment and other broad-based aftercare services.

- RSAT requires a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement for all federal funds expended through this program.
- In FY 2023, the Department of Correction was the sole recipient of state match funds through RSAT.

**Table 3** FY 2023: Current RSAT Justice Assistance Grants (State Match) Expenditures

Recipient	FY 2023 Expenditures as of 2/17/23
Department of Correction	\$25,500.00
Total	\$25,500.00

## III. The Services Training Officers Prosecutors Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAW STOP)

The VAW STOP Formula Grant Program supports community efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement responses, victim services and prosecution strategies in cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- VAW STOP requires a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement for all federal funds expended through this grant program not qualifying for an exemption.
- In FY 2023, the Judicial Branch, Division of Criminal Justice, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and the Hispanic Health Council were recipients of state match funds through the VAW STOP formula grant program.
- As the recipient of the federal award, OPM is allocated up to 10% of the total federal award to use for administration purposes. The federal funds used for administrative purposes must be matched at 25%.

FY 2023 current VAW STOP Justice Assistance Grants (State Match) Expenditures appear in Tables 4–6 below.

**Table 4** VAW STOP Grants

Recipient	FY 2023 Expenditures as of 2/17/23
Judicial Branch	\$35,492.00
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence	\$53,720.34
Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence	\$58,184.90
Hispanic Health Council	\$46,348.35
Total	\$193,745.59

**Table 5** VAW STOP Admin

Recipient	FY 2023 Expenditures as of 2/17/23
OPM Administrative Costs	\$10,599.39
Total	\$10,599.39

**Table 6** VAW STOP State Agencies (DCJ)

Recipient	FY 2023 Expenditures as of 2/17/23
Division of Criminal Justice	\$65,842.08
Total	\$65,842.08

**Office of Policy and Management (OPM)**  
**Representative Nuccio - Requests for Information for the Subcommittee Work Sessions**

**Headcount questions:**

- 1. What is the authorized headcount, the funded headcount and the filled headcount for your area?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

Fund (Name/FUND Number)	Authorized Headcount (FY23)	Funded Headcount	Filled Headcount (As of February 28, 2023)
General Fund/Fund 11000	182	168	147
Insurance Fund/Fund 12004	2	2	2
Special Transportation Fund/Fund 12001	7	7	6
Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund/Fund 12006	2	2	2
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>157</b>

- 2. If there is change in headcount (either up or down) please provide an explanation of the change.**

- a. If there is a positive change in headcount, please explain why these positions are needed**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

The Governor's recommended budget proposes an increase in position count in the Insurance Fund by one (1) position, with PS funding to remain level as a result of savings from attrition related to a prior position. Recent expansion of statutory responsibilities for the division has led to the need for an additional position to analyze Insurance data and target policy interventions to help reduce long-term care costs and expand long-term care insurance coverage. Additionally, the position will enable the division's staff to focus on other new statutory requirements, such as leading a newly created Children's Behavioral Health and Policy Oversight Committee, implementing new Sodium Chloride Policy and Planning Requirements, and providing administrative support for the newly reconstituted Tobacco and Health Trust Fund.

- b. If these adds are legislatively driven, what piece of legislation is driving the increase?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

- (i) A newly created Children's Behavioral Health and Policy Oversight Committee pursuant to Public Act 22-47.
- (ii) Implementation of new Sodium Chloride Policy and Planning Requirements pursuant to Public Act 22-118 Sec. 141.
- (iii) Support Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment workgroup pursuant to Public Act 22-118 Secs. 149-153 and Public Act 22-49 Secs. 1-5.
- (iv) Provide administrative support for the newly reconstituted Tobacco Settlement Fund and Health Trust Fund pursuant to Public Act 22-118 Sec. 196-197

**3. Are there any vacant positions in your headcount?**

- a. If yes, how are they budgeted into your plan? (as a full year FTE or partial? Are they fulltime or part time?)**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

OPM has 36 vacancies as of February 28, 2023; all are full-time equivalent positions. 22 of the 36 vacancies are funded full-time positions; the 14 remaining vacancies are unfunded.

- b. What is the anticipated start date of your vacancies? Are they staggered throughout the year, or all anticipated to start on July 1?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

Positions are budgeted for the entire year.

**4. How many vacancies did you have at year end on 06/30?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

Vacancies across all appropriated funds at the end of FY2022 (June 30, 2022) are shown below:

Fund (Name/FUND Number)	Filled positions as of 6/30/22	Vacancies as of 6/30/22 (including GF unfunded, unfilled positions)
General Fund/Fund 11000	143	37
Insurance Fund/Fund 12004	1	1
Special Transportation Fund/Fund 12001	7	0
Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund/Fund 12006	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>39</b>

- a. How many vacancies did you have throughout the year last fiscal year?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

See below monthly vacancy summary across all appropriated funds:

	7/31/21	8/31/21	9/30/21	10/31/21	11/30/21	12/31/21
Total vacancies (all Approp. Funds)	43	42	45	46	45	46

	1/31/22	2/28/22	3/31/22	4/30/22	5/30/22	6/30/22
Total vacancies (all Approp. Funds)	44	42	39	39	36	39

**b. How many new hires did you have in the same time period?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

OPM had forty-one (41) total new hires between July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. A breakdown is below:

	7/31/21	8/31/21	9/30/21	10/31/21	11/30/21	12/31/21
Total new hires all Approp. funds	5	3	0	1	2	3

	1/31/22	2/28/22	3/31/22	4/30/22	5/30/22	6/30/22
Total new hires all Approp. funds	4	3	8	4	4	4

**5. What is the average cost of an FTE for your area?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

The cost of a new position is dependent on the anticipated duties and appropriate classification for such duties.

**6. What is the average fringe cost of an FTE in the comptrollers area?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

Fringe benefits costs are based on the retirement plan in which each employee is enrolled. Average rates, as a percentage of payroll, for FY 2023 are as follows:

	Retirement Plans				
	SERS Reg	SERS HD	ARP	Judges	TRS
SERS Regular	67.40%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SERS HD	n/a	91.49%	n/a	n/a	n/a
ARP	n/a	n/a	14.60%	n/a	n/a
Judges	n/a	n/a	n/a	111.34%	n/a
TRS	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38.89%
Unemployment Comp	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%
Group Life	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%
Social Security FICA	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%
Social Security					
Medicare	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%
Active Health	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>
<b>TOTAL FRINGE RATE</b>	<b>97.46%</b>	<b>121.55%</b>	<b>44.66%</b>	<b>141.40%</b>	<b>68.95%</b>

**Lapse Questions:**

**1. Were there any lapsing accounts on 06/30?**

- If yes, what were the accounts?**
- If yes, what was the lapse balance?**
- If yes, what drove the lapse? What spending didn't occur that was planned to occur?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

Please refer to the *Office of the State Comptroller's Budgetary/Statutory Basis (GAAP Based Budgeting) Annual Report*: [Budgetary 2022.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#).

Exhibit B-3 shows, in the right-hand column, FY 2022 appropriations that were continued to FY 2023 for the General Fund.

Schedule C-5 shows the same information for the Special Transportation Fund.

Schedule C-6 shows the information for the other budgeted funds.

2. If there is a lapsing balance, do you anticipate it carrying forward?
  - a. If yes, how do you propose to use that lapse?
  - b. Will it be for one-time expenses?
    - i. If so, what are those one-time expenses?
  - c. If ongoing expense is that expense built into this budget in FY 25?

**OPM RESPONSE:**

The Governor's proposed FY 2024-2025 budget does not rely on any carryforwards of FY 2023 appropriations to fund ongoing operations, with the exception of OPM's Reserve for Salary Adjustment account.

**ARPA**

1. Did you receive any ARPA funding in your department?
  - a. If yes, have you assumed the programs/staffing established with the ARPA funding is now in your General Fund budget as an ongoing expense?
    - i. If not all, how much?

**OPM RESPONSE:**

Yes. Programs and staffing established with ARPA will be funded through the periods established by the federal government for use of ARPA funds.

- b. Are there still ARPA funds included in this budget?
    - i. If yes, how much of this budget is continuation of ARPA funding?

**OPM RESPONSE:**

The Governor's proposed budget has the following ARPA funding adjustments for OPM:

- Reductions of previous allocations by \$71.5 million due to revised estimates of pandemic preparedness needs by the Department of Public Health:
  - \$20 million for PPE and Supplies, and
  - \$51.5 million for COVID Response Measures.
- Redirection of \$5.3 million in the InvestCT allocation to support other proposed investments in education, health and workforce development;
- Increased the allocation for state employee essential workers and National Guard premium pay by \$6.5 million (to a total of \$41.5 million) in order to support the state's last best offer, given that the issue is currently in arbitration; and
- New allocations as follows:
  - \$20 million funding to support erasure of up to \$2 billion in medical debt;

- \$250,000 to support a post-pandemic structural review of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities; and
- \$5.7 million to support eight (8) durational grants and contracts positions in high-need agencies to provide grant administration support for the agencies with the largest volume or more complex ARPA projects: DECD, SDE, OEC, DPH, DCF, DSS, DAS, and DESPP. This funding will cover salary, fringe benefits, and indirect costs for 39 months (the remainder of the ARPA funding period).

**ii. How much ARPA do you still have in the budget that may need to be picked up as ongoing expenses in out years?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

This is a policy decision to be addressed by the Governor and Legislature as part of a future budget.

**General Questions:**

**1. Is there anything you would change about this budget?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

OPM supports the Governor's proposed budget.

**2. Is there anything you would add to this budget?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

OPM supports the Governor's proposed budget.

**3. Is there anything you would remove from this budget?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

OPM supports the Governor's proposed budget.

**4. Is there any legislation that was passed you feel you are not adequately prepared to enforce?**  
**a. If so, what would we need to change to make it administer-able?**

**OPM RESPONSE:**

None.