

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Annapolis)...The Maryland Governor's Grants Office (GGO) announced today that the State of Maryland is among the top "high performers" of states managing federal dollars, based on a comparison of independent audits conducted in multiple states which describe how states manage their federal funds.

Maryland State agencies collectively have shown steady improvement in reducing the number of new audit findings related to federal grant funds but for the first time the GGO has compared our numbers to those of other states. Of the 41 states where comparisons were possible, only one state had fewer new audit findings than Maryland in the most recent year. Only two states had fewer audit findings than Maryland per \$1 billion expended.

States and entities that expend \$500,000 or more of federal grant funds are required by the federal government to obtain an audit of those funds, and the resulting grant funded programs, by an outside independent audit firm. This audit, commonly known as the "Single Audit," typically is conducted on an annual basis. The most recent report covers Fiscal Year (FY) 2012.

"By being a good steward of the public trust, the State of Maryland, together with our federal partners, can deliver better results for the people of Maryland. Our work to improve our management of federal dollars has not gone unnoticed, and this report shows our State as a leader in fiscal management," said Governor Martin O'Malley.

Governor's Grants Office Director Eric Brenner said, "With this report, we've shown that we can learn from our mistakes...as measured by the findings of independent auditors. GGO will continue to craft timely and meaningful grants management training that improves the performance of both state agencies and local governments. Showing that Maryland state government can be trusted to effectively manage federal funds will continue to be a competitive advantage for the State of Maryland in the pursuit of new federal grant opportunities."

The Governor's Grants Office will resume grants management training this fall for state agencies and local governments.

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