



A Legislative Summary Document Regarding
Commission for the Blind

Contents
Key Findings from Previous Audits and Reviews Travel Expenditures

Prepared for the 78th Legislature
by the State Auditor's Office

January 2003

SAO No. 03-318

This is not an audit report and, with the exception of any audit report summaries, the material in this document has not been subjected to all of the tests and confirmations performed in an audit.

Commission for the Blind

SAO Contact: Dennis Bushnell
(512) 936-9500

Key Findings from Previous Audits and Reviews

January 1, 2001–December 31, 2002

An Audit Report on 19 Agencies' Compliance With Historically Underutilized Business Requirements

(Report No. 01-035, August 2001)

Self-reported information received from the Commission for the Blind (Commission) indicates that the Commission did not comply with certain provisions of the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) regulations identified in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and Chapters 111 and 2161 of the Texas Government Code in fiscal year 2000. However, we determined that the Commission made a “good-faith effort” to comply with TAC and the Texas Government Code.

Results of Entity Compliance With Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Requirements - Fiscal Year 2000				
Compliance Requirement				Did the Entity Make a “Good-Faith Effort”? ^b
Planning	Outreach ^a	Reporting	Subcontracting	
No agency HUB rules (Texas Government Code, Section 2161.003)	Did not sponsor HUB forums (Texas Administrative Code, Section 111.27)	No material noncompliance	No material noncompliance	Yes

^a Most of the agencies had not developed and implemented a mentor protégé program during fiscal year 2000. Of the HUB requirements, the mentor protégé program requirement had the latest effective date (June 2000). The agencies indicated there was not enough time to design and implement the program in the last quarter of the fiscal year.

^b The State Auditor’s Office, in consultation with the General Services Commission, determined that an entity did not make a “good-faith effort” if it had noncompliance in at least three of the four basic HUB areas: planning, outreach, reporting, and subcontracting. (The General Services Commission was abolished effective September 1, 2001, and the newly created Texas Building and Procurement Commission subsequently assumed most of its responsibilities.)

Status of Corrective Action: In December 2002, the Commission reported that it had implemented corrective action on two areas of noncompliance (HUB rules and HUB forums) and partially implemented corrective action in one area of noncompliance (mentor protégé program). This information has not been audited.

Travel Expenditures

Travel Expenditures by Appropriation Year (unaudited)			
	2000	2001	2002
In-State Travel	\$ 937,583	\$ 961,550	\$ 1,047,966
Out-of-State Travel	27,003	77,883	21,268
Foreign Travel	0	0	0
Other Travel Costs	(3,013)	0	670
Total Travel Expenditures	\$ 961,573	\$ 1,039,433	\$ 1,069,903
Limit on Travel Expenditures (Cap)	1,057,307	1,057,307	27,003 ^a
Expenditures in Excess of Cap	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

^a Caps apply to total travel in appropriation years 2000 and 2001, but caps apply only to out-of-state travel and foreign travel in appropriation year 2002. Caps, calculated by the Comptroller of Public Accounts, have been adjusted for any increases requested by the Commission and approved by the Legislative Budget Board in accordance with the General Appropriations Act.

Source: Uniform Statewide Accounting System (USAS) as of November 30, 2002. Amounts are subject to change as agencies continue to record additional expenditures or adjustments.