

DAS *newsrelease*

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For immediate release

State achieving savings in administrative costs

Contracting, leasing and IT savings reported

Early in his administration Governor Malloy issued Executive Order #5 directing all agencies to examine all contracts with vendors and service providers to determine whether existing contract terms reflect the best prices or terms for the state. He also asked agencies to streamline government processes and achieve efficiencies wherever possible.

As a part of the statewide report submitted to the Governor earlier this year, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) identified over \$20 million in savings or cost avoidance in the areas of central administration and procurement, facilities management, construction services and IT service consolidation.

“I applaud Commissioner DeFronzo and the frontline employees at DAS who have implemented changes that have saved millions in taxpayer dollars,” Governor Malloy said. “These are quantifiable ways we are making state government more efficient and responsive to the residents who pay for its services.”

Goods and Services Contract Savings - Central Administration and Procurement

By administering statewide contracts for goods and contractual services, including information technology contracts, DAS examines each and every contract as it comes up for renewal, as well as all requests for new contracts from agencies, to assess whether the contract is necessary and whether the terms of the contract can be improved. The DAS Procurement team continually researches the market for competitive bidding or negotiation processes to ensure we are getting the lowest, responsible qualified bidder or most advantageous proposer.

As a result, the savings achieved in procurement costs has had a substantial positive impact on the budget of not only DAS but all agencies, municipalities and non-profit organizations that use DAS contracts. The statewide savings

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associated with the contracts that DAS reviewed, renegotiated, and/or awarded in FY 2013 alone are estimated to be over \$18,122,017. These include items as small as a \$5.95 rebate on an order for school supplies to as large as a \$9 million savings resulting from a reduced vendor contingency agreement for services preventing the payment of fraudulent tax refunds.

Renegotiating & Collapsing State Leases

DAS has continued to eliminate property leases wherever possible, to renegotiate rental rates on buildings that the state leases, and to obtain credits for services such as carpet replacement and painting when they are not needed. In FY 2013 DAS collapsed/terminated 3 leases, renegotiated 11 leases resulting in savings, and enforced leases provisions on 23 other leases to obtain credits from landlords or realize savings for the state.

As a result:

- In FY 13, DAS realized lease savings in the amount of \$882,000.
- DAS's efforts to eliminate and re-negotiate property leases have resulted in a decrease in the overall lease costs to the State and a decrease in the amount of square footage leased by the State by about half a million square feet over the last decade.

Consolidating Information Technology Services

The Information Technology staff at DAS was given the charge to assess the IT needs and costs among state agencies that continues to grow exponentially. Solutions applied to a single state agency are costly, do not make use of the State's potential to leverage purchasing power, and are more difficult and costly to maintain over time.

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The result - efforts to implement common IT software across state agencies and to consolidate IT services in a number of agencies has proven to be a winner. These efforts leverage state purchasing power, streamline state government and provide more effective and efficient service to the agencies and their clients. Examples include consolidation of Veterans' Affairs technical support and management into the larger structure at DAS-BEST as well as state wide Enterprise Identity Management.

In addition, DAS-BEST has achieved increased speed and efficiency in a variety of applications including:

- On-line registration for certification in the Medical Marijuana Program for the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP)
- Liquor Control Retainer application for DCP
- A Business Friendly Initiative on the State Contracting Portal
- An update to the State Exam Information website to allow individuals to check expiration dates of exams.
- A central Workplace Violence reporting application

The benefits of providing IT common solutions and consolidations are primarily realized through increased efficiency and productivity gains in state agency operations, common IT software and consolidated IT services, providing for better support of enterprise and agency systems and operations, and cost savings through consolidating IT help desks and technical services yielding reduction in overtime hours from understaffed and weekend shifts. Together these efforts led to increased efficiency and productivity and saved an estimated \$550,000.

These and other agency initiatives are highlighted in a new report entitled "Continuous Improvement in Connecticut State Government." [You can view the full report here.](#)