



**Office of the Washington State Auditor**  
**Pat McCarthy**

## **Accountability Audit Report**

# **Washington Rural Counties Insurance Pool**

**Grant County**

**For the period December 1, 2015 through November 30, 2017**

**Published June 18, 2018**

**Report No. 1021536**





**Office of the Washington State Auditor**  
**Pat McCarthy**

June 18, 2018

Board of Directors  
Washington Rural Counties Insurance Pool  
Ephrata, Washington

**Report on Accountability**

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Program operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our independent audit report on the Program's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy  
State Auditor  
Olympia, WA

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## AUDIT RESULTS

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Program operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Washington Rural Counties Insurance Pool from December 1, 2015 through November 30, 2017.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Program's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, based on our risk assessment for the years ended November 30, 2017 and 2016, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- General Disbursements – general administrative costs and claims payments
- Cash Receipting – member premiums

## RELATED REPORTS

### **Financial**

Our opinion on the Program's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Program's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Washington Rural Counties Insurance Pool was formed through an inter-local agreement between several rural counties in 1998. The agreement allowed the joint purchase of insurance, joint self-insuring, joint hiring or contracting for risk management services and claims administration. The Program contracts with a private firm for claims administration, insurance broker and risk management services and hence has no employees of its own.

An eight-member Board of Directors governs the Program. Each county has one representative on the Board of Directors. The Program operates under state law (Chapter 48.62 RCW) and must seek approval from the state Office of Risk Management within the Department of Enterprise Services for changes in its operation. For fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the Program operated on budgets of approximately \$4.4 million and \$4.6 million, respectively.

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*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Washington Rural Counties Insurance Pool at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office	
Public Records requests	<a href="mailto:PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov">PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov</a>
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