



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

# **Accountability Audit Report**

## **Pierce County Housing Authority**

**For the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017**

**Published November 13, 2018**

**Report No. 1022598**





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

November 13, 2018

Board of Commissioners  
Pierce County Housing Authority  
Tacoma, 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 Housing Authority 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 Housing Authority'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, Housing Authority 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 Pierce County Housing Authority from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 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 Housing Authority'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 year ended December 31, 2017, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Controls over payroll and payroll disbursements
- Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act
- Safeguarding of small and attractive assets
- Financial condition and sustainability
- Housing developments review
- Controls over tenant services revenue

## RELATED REPORTS

### **Financial**

Our opinion on the Housing Authority's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Housing Authority's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

### **Federal grant programs**

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the Housing Authority's major federal program, which is listed in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs section of the separate financial statement and single audit report. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Pierce County Housing Authority was created to provide housing opportunities for eligible individuals within Pierce County. The Housing Authority owned and managed eight apartment complexes at the end of 2017. The Housing Authority also provides housing assistance through the Low Income Public Housing program for citizens of Pierce County.

An appointed, six-member Board of Commissioners governs the Housing Authority. Five Commissioners are appointed by the Pierce County Executive and a housing resident is appointed by the Board. The Board appoints an Executive Director to oversee the Authority's daily operations as well as its approximately 40 employees. For fiscal year 2017, operating expenses were approximately \$34 million.

| Contact information related to this report |   |
|--|---|
| Address:                                   | Pierce County Housing Authority<br>1525 108th Street S.<br>Tacoma, WA 98444 |
| Contact:                                   | Cova Hunter, Director of Finance  |
| Telephone:                                 | 253-620-5406  |
| Website:                                   | <a href="http://www.pchawa.org">www.pchawa.org</a>                          |

*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Pierce County Housing Authority 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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| Toll-free Citizen Hotline                          | (866) 902-3900   |
| Website  | <a href="http://www.sao.wa.gov">www.sao.wa.gov</a>                     |