

Fiscal Responsibility and Government Accountability Transition Report

According to the [report](#), the State's current spending practices offer significant room for improvement. This Transition Action Team believes the biggest opportunities are:

- Reform our state health benefits program, which is too costly for what it provides and which should be reevaluated;
- Take advantage of shared services opportunities between regions/counties/municipalities, which have the potential to save us money through economies of scale; and
- Maximize the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of government services by overhauling our outdated and duplicative information technology systems, by reforming our inefficient and time consuming process for awarding State contracts, and by ensuring that every government agency implements best practices on an ongoing basis.

The Fiscal Responsibility & Government Accountability Transition Action Team proposes that the Administration consider the following recommendations to accomplish these key priorities:

- **Creating a New Jersey Report Card**

This includes Publish a New Jersey Report Card that includes an interactive budget and incorporate measures of fiscal health, program performance, and management and governance; and direct state departments to cooperate with reporting requirements and hold entities accountable for outcomes.

- **Reforming the State Health Benefits Program**

This includes prioritizing program transparency for all stakeholders, implementing best practices in price controls, address governance challenges, restructure plan leadership and management, and tackle churn and other key cost drivers.

- **Expanding Shared Services**

This includes conditioning executive-branch controlled funding on a good faith commitment to shared services; ensure local governments' compliance with data sharing requirements; reinvigorate and empower the Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization, and Consolidation Commission; and determine the effectiveness of cooperative pricing systems and their uptake by local governments.

- **Boosting Revenue without New Taxes**

This includes Implement a cost-cutting initiative across state government to reinvent government, improve services, and create long-term savings; unlock value derived from the State's existing portfolio of underutilized real estate and intangible assets; explore

innovative options to fund major infrastructure projects with least cost to taxpayers, Explore all possibilities for improving the funded status of State-administered retirement system; consider new practices to lower local property taxes; ensure efficient collection of tax revenues; and explore options for fairly sharing revenue with other states.