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| **Department of Community Affairs** |
| **Advisory Committees** |
|  | *Continue* | **Florida Building Commission****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $3,961.349 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 1998***Purpose:*** Responsible for adopting and updating the Florida Building Code and approving products for which the code establishes hurricane-related standards. Administratively housed in the Department of Community Affairs--not advisory to the department. ***Assessment:*** The commission’s activities protect the health, safety and welfare of Florida’s citizens by developing and implementing sound construction practices for buildings. It is the only entity in the state that performs this function.OPPAGA Recommendations: Continue. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Florida Communities Trust Governing Board****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $1,133,312 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 1989 ***Purpose:*** Responsible for reviewing and approving projects submitted for funding by local governments and non-profit environmental organizations. These projects are for the acquisition of community-based parks, open space, and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local comprehensive plans. Administratively housed in the Department of Community Affairs--not advisory to the department. ***Assessment:*** The Florida Communities Trust Governing Board awards grants on a competitive basis for projects consistent with the Legislature’s intent to assist local governments in bringing their comprehensive plans into compliance and implementing the goals, objectives, and policies of the conservation, recreation and open space, and coastal elements of those plans. If the board were abolished, the Florida Forever Acquisition and Restoration Council under the Department of Environmental Protection could select projects for acquisition at the local level. However, the council’s members represent state agencies and they make recommendations to the Governor and Cabinet regarding state purchases of conservation and recreation lands. The council also does not focus on local government conservation and recreation land purchases or on local government comprehensive plan requirements.OPPAGA Recommendations: Continue. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $ 450,000 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 2005***Purpose:*** Responsible for developing recommendations to help Florida’s citizens and state leaders prepare for a continued increase in population and to craft a plan that meets the challenges and opportunities caused by this growth. The Secretary of the Department Community Affairs selects an executive director who serves at the Secretary’s pleasure, but is under the supervision and control of the commission. The Department of Community Affairs contracts with the Collins Center for Public Policy to provide staff and administrative support to the commission.***Assessment:*** The Legislature created the commission based on the finding that Florida’s population is expected to double within the next 100 years, and that an increase of that magnitude will affect the state’s natural resources and public infrastructure. The Legislature intended for the commission to make recommendations regarding the state’s growth management system that would mitigate the negative aspects of the population increase. To date, the commission’s activities have been consistent with this intent. The Legislature appropriated $116,000 for the commission in Fiscal Year 2009-10.OPPAGA Recommendations: No recommendation as the Commission makes recommendations directly to the Governor and Legislature and not to the department. |
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| **Division of Emergency Management** |
| **Advisory Committees** |
|  | *Continue* | **Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Advisory Council****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $52,221 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 1999 ***Purpose:*** Responsible for advising the division in support of the Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP). The council makes recommendations for approving applications for program grants to state or regional agencies, local governments, and private organizations. These grants are awarded to help these entities implement projects intended to enhance residential wind mitigation. The council also annually reviews and approves Florida International University’s hurricane research work plan. Division staff provide administrative support to the council. However, the council no longer fulfills this purpose because the Legislature eliminated funding program grants in Fiscal Year 2008-09.***Assessment:*** In prior years, the council had fulfilled its major purpose by reviewing grant applications for the Residential Construction Mitigation Program. However, the Legislature eliminated funding for this program for Fiscal Year 2008-09. Although the council reviews and approves Florida International University’s hurricane research work plan, division staff could perform this function. Abolishing the council would save $52,221.OPPAGA Recommendations: Abolish *Note: Program was funded for Fiscal Year 2009-10.* |
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|  | *Continue* | **State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $67,940 **▪ Authorization:** Executive Order Number 87-57 in 1987; reauthorized by Executive Order Number 05-122***Purpose:*** Required by the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) to supervise and coordinate the activities of local emergency planning committees, review their emergency plans, and establish procedures for increasing the public’s access to knowledge about hazardous materials in their communities. The commission continues to fulfill this purpose by updating training information for hazardous materials first responders, providing facility owners with information about compliance requirements, and identifying potential violators of the law. ***Assessment:*** Federal law requires every state to have such a commission. It provides technical advice and serves as a clearinghouse for state and federal hazardous materials programs.OPPAGA Recommendations: Continue. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Local Emergency Planning Committees****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $0 **▪ Authorization:** Managerial initiative in 1988 in response to federal requirement***Purpose:*** Required by the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), these committees are responsible for providing hazardous materials training opportunities and conducting planning and exercise activities in each of the state’s 11 regional planning councils’ districts. The committees develop emergency response plans with stakeholder input, review them annually, and provide citizens with information about chemicals in their communities.***Assessment:*** These committees are required by the federal law that requires the establishment of the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials. Local committees receive federal grant funds that have been used to train hazardous materials first responders under guidelines established by the commission. The committees have also used federal grant funds to fund hazardous materials community preparedness and awareness projects. According to division managers, local committee members provide technical expertise that assists the division in developing hazardous materials programs. In addition, they assert that abolishing the committees would jeopardize public safety by eliminating hazardous materials education and training at the local level.OPPAGA Recommendations: Continue. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Citizens Corps Task Force****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $66,300 **▪ Authorization:** Executive Order Number 03-105 in 2003***Purpose:*** The task force serves as the overall state level advisory group for Citizen Corps operations in Florida. Citizen Corps is composed of federally sponsored programs and non-profit affiliate programs and organizations that help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to crime, disasters, pressing public health needs, and other emergencies. The U. S. Department of Homeland Security coordinates Citizen Corps programs and requires state coordination by an integrated body of governmental and non-governmental representatives***Assessment:*** The task force supports the division’s mission and meets a federal requirement for receiving federal funding that provides citizens in local communities with disaster preparedness training.OPPAGA Recommendations: Continue. |
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|  | *Continue* | **State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team****Fiscal Year 2007-08 ▪ Cost:** $3,040 **▪ Authorization:** Managerial initiative in 2002***Purpose:*** Responsible for developing and updating a state mitigation plan to reduce the effects of future disasters. Each state must have a mitigation plan to qualify for federal mitigation grants. This plan must identify the state’s vulnerability to various hazards, assess the risks posed by those hazards, and provide strategies for reducing losses associated with those risks.***Assessment:*** While the advisory team is not federally required, division managers believe that having the stakeholder expertise provided by team members enhances the quality of the state mitigation plan.OPPAGA Recommendations: Continue. |
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