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STATE AGENCIES OVERDUE ON IMPLEMENTING SOME STATE AUDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

DENVER— The Colorado Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has released its *Annual Report: Status of Outstanding Audit Recommendations, As of June 30, 2015 (Annual Report)*. The *Annual Report* checks whether state agencies implemented the audit recommendations that the OSA made over the 5-year period July 2009 to June 2014. The OSA found that of the 2,778 recommendations that agencies agreed to implement, 107 are still outstanding.

During that 5-year period, state agencies said they would implement 99% of the OSA's recommendations including 1,237 financial audit recommendations, and 1,541 performance and information technology (IT) audit recommendations. In all, the OSA found that agencies have implemented 96% of the recommendations.

The OSA also categorizes certain recommendations as "high priority," either due to their seriousness or because they have been outstanding for 3 years or more. State agencies made progress in implementing the high priority recommendations. The number of outstanding recommendations considered high priority has fallen to 41 this year, down from 64 in 2014.

The purpose of the OSA's *Annual Report* is to hold state agencies accountable for implementing audit recommendations, and provide better information to the public and policy makers.

A copy of this report is available electronically on the OSA's website, <http://www.state.co.us/auditor>, via the link called "OSA Audit Reports."

Under the direction of the state auditor, the OSA is the state's nonpartisan, independent external auditor with broad authority to audit state agencies, departments, institutions of higher education, and the

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We Set the Standard for Good Government

Judicial and Legislative Branches. The OSA's professional staff serve the people of Colorado by addressing relevant public issues through high-quality, objective audits and reviews that promote accountability and positive change in government. Performance audits address whether programs operate in compliance with laws and regulations and in a manner that accomplishes intended program goals. Financial audits include annual audits of the state's basic financial statements and federal grants on a statewide level. IT audits review procedures and technology to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the state's critical computer systems and taxpayer data. The OSA also tracks about 4,000 Colorado local governments for compliance with the Local Government Audit Law.