

September 20, 2007

To: All State Agencies

Last fall, over 200 individuals representing 50 state agencies participated in a study to evaluate the feasibility, costs, and benefits of implementing a new statewide financial management system. In January 2007, the project steering committee approved the study's recommendation that the State move forward with a project to acquire and implement a new system. During its most recent session, the Kansas Legislature authorized funding to undertake the preparations necessary to begin an implementation project in October 2008. The effort to design, test, and implement the system is estimated to last about 21 months, with rollout anticipated in July 2010.

I am writing to request your support for this project, and ask that you would share this request with affected managers and staff in your agency. A new financial management system has the potential to improve the efficiency of the state's financial practices and to increase the quality and timeliness of information provided to decision makers and the public.

To achieve these objectives, the project will need leaders from the state's technical and financial communities to visibly champion the effort and contribute the resources and support needed to ensure its success. Change is always difficult, and resistance is relatively easy. So your leadership will be critical in promoting the spirit of cooperation and compromise necessary to adopt common financial processes and to eliminate costs associated with internal systems whose functionality can be replaced by the new system.

Activities to prepare for next fall's implementation project will begin later this month. While this effort is designed to benefit the enterprise as a whole, the project will be led by the Department of Administration under the sponsorship of Secretary Duane Goossen and will be guided by a steering committee composed of representatives from state agencies and all branches of government. The director for the financial management system project is Duncan Friend. If you have questions about the effort or would like further information, please feel free to contact him at duncan.friend@da.ks.gov, or visit the project web site at: <http://da.ks.gov/ar/fms/>.

This project provides a unique opportunity to take advantage of the state's deep financial and technical expertise to implement a modern, centralized financial system that will benefit all of state government. I appreciate your active support of both the project team and the Department of Administration in this significant endeavor.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius
Governor