

## RCO to Close Possibly

As of June 23, 2015, the Washington State Legislature had not yet approved state operating and capital budgets for the 2015–17 Biennium, which begins July 1. If the Legislature does not enact budgets by June 30, state agencies will have to implement full or partial shutdowns.

While we expect the budgets to be approved by June 30, RCO has been working with the state Office of Financial Management to develop contingency plans. [See a summary of all state agency plans and related information.](#)

In the unlikely event that a shutdown is necessary, we have identified services we will have to suspend until the budgets are enacted. Those services are listed below.

- RCO's Public Records Office closes June 23, 2015 [See details.](#)
- RCO will close July 1. There will be no staff available to answer questions or process payments.
- RCO will lack authority to continue spending funds for existing grant agreements and contracts and may not be able to reimburse you for work taking place between July 1<sup>st</sup> and the date such budgets are passed. RCO grant and contract recipients should stop all work under existing grant agreements and contracts (see the termination section of your contract) after June 30, 2015, unless a budget adequately funding the RCO program for your grant agreement or contract has been passed and signed by the Governor. If operating and capital budgets are enacted before midnight June 30, 2015, this will not be necessary.

If funds have not been appropriated or are insufficient, and recipients of RCO funds choose to work after June 30, 2015, they do so at their own risk. The state may not reimburse such work. We think it is prudent, as a risk management strategy, to suspend work on these contracts until a new and sufficient budget is in place.

If the Legislature passes and the Governor signs a budget containing sufficient appropriations by July 1, 2015, or a later date, we will send out notices to that effect.