

Lessons Learned from GAO's Intergovernmental Initiative

MAMIAF/SWIAF/SEIAF Joint Intergovernmental Audit Forum

Overland Park, Kansas
December 4, 2014

KIP MEMMOTT
CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER AUDITOR'S OFFICE



Intergovernmental Initiative Collaboration Opportunities – A Local Government Perspective

- **Opportunity for Audit Profession**
 - Increased Impact
 - Professional Development and Networking Benefits
- **Opportunity for GAO**
 - Additional “Eyes” on Federal Programs
 - Profession leadership – Evolving the Field
- **Opportunity for Individual Participants**
 - GAO Reputation/Stature – Public Relations
 - ✦ Special Advisory Report
 - Leveraging Work of Peers to Improve Products
 - ✦ Denver Affordable Housing Performance Audit
 - ✦ Denver Road Home Performance Audit

Intergovernmental Initiative Collaboration Lessons Learned– A Local Government Perspective

- **Largesse of Approach has Inherent Obstacles**
 - Legal Issues and Barriers for Sharing Information
 - Varying Priorities and Levels of Effort
 - Identifying and Obtaining Cooperation from Partners
 - ✦ State of Colorado Declined to Participate
 - ✦ Contingency Planning if Key Entities Opt Not to Participate
 - Terminology Challenges
 - ✦ Different Terms Used at Federal, State and Local levels
 - Targeted Data Collection Methodologies
 - ✦ Ensuring All Partners Following Same General Methods
 - ✦ Refining Methods to Ensure Efficiency

Communication is Key

- **Effective Communication Critical**
 - Substantive “Herding Cats” Challenge
 - Vertical as well as Horizontal Communications
 - ✦ Partner Communications and Threading
 - In Process Lessons Learned Meetings to Make Course Corrections
 - Frequent and Clear Communications Regarding Timelines, Due Dates and Deliverables
 - Establishing Clear Vision and Expectations for Final Product
 - Identifying and Mitigating Quality Control Risks
 - ✦ Challenges with Compiling and Using Diverse Data Sets

Thank You



Contact Information

Kip Memmott

Director of Audit Services
City and County of Denver, Colorado

kip.memmott@denvergov.org

720-913-5027