



State Auditor  
Rebecca Otto

# OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

## *E-Update*

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publication of the Office  
of the State Auditor*

January 7, 2011

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### **1. CTAS: Important – FICA Error Correction & Tax Tables**

#### **CTAS FICA Error Correction**

Due to recent federal tax legislation, the Federal Taxes Account Distribution Report in CTAS does not correctly calculate the employer's share of FICA for 2011. The Account Distribution Report uses the employee percentage (4.2%) rather than the employer percentage (6.2%) to calculate the employer's share of FICA. CTAS users will need to add an additional 2% of the gross wages to the employer's share of FICA for employees who have FICA withheld.

For further instructions on how to calculate the employer's share, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/ctas/docs/EmployerShareInstructions.pdf>.

#### **2011 Tax Tables**

The 2011 Tax Tables posted last week had an issue. If you referred to the tables in working with CTAS in the last seven days, please check your work against the revised tables, which can be found at:

[http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/ctas/docs/ctas\\_11\\_taxtables.pdf](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/ctas/docs/ctas_11_taxtables.pdf).

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## **2. Feedback/Meeting: Council on Local Results and Innovation**

### **Feedback**

The Council on Local Results and Innovation is looking for feedback on the 10 performance benchmarks that they have developed for both cities and counties. The proposed benchmarks can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110103.001>.

Please send your feedback by January 11 to Council Chair Jay Kiedrowski at [kiedr003@umn.edu](mailto:kiedr003@umn.edu).

### **Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, January 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the League of Minnesota Cities building in St. Paul. Council meetings are open to the public. For more information, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20100702.000>.

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## **3. Released: Town Finances Report**

State Auditor Rebecca Otto has released the 2009 Town Finances Report, a comprehensive report on revenues, expenditures and debt for Minnesota's towns. To view the complete report, which includes an Executive Summary, graphs and tables, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/Reports/gid/2009/tnFinances/tnFinances09report.pdf>.

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## **4. Meeting: Collaborative Governance Council**

The next meeting of the Collaborative Governance Council will be held on Thursday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Association of Minnesota Counties building, 125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul. Council meetings are open to the public. For more information on the Council and to access meeting materials, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20100702.000>.

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## **5. Meeting: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group**

The next meeting of the Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group will be held on Tuesday, January 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the OSA office in Saint Paul. Meetings are open to the public. Working Group meeting materials are available at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=reliefworkinggroup>.

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#### **6. Released: TIF Newsletter**

The January **TIF Newsletter** has been released. The newsletter contains information on 2010 TIF Market Value Homestead Credit and on the Five-Year Rule and Decertification. To view the Newsletter, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=tifDocs>.

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#### **7. Avoiding Pitfalls: Public Purpose – Alcohol and Spouse/Family Expenses**

The Office of the State Auditor has long maintained that the purchase of alcohol at public expense does not serve a public purpose. In addition, the expenditure of public funds for the expenses of a spouse or family member of a public officer or employee does not serve a public purpose.

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