

**PUBLIC
POLICY
RESEARCH
CENTER**

University of
Missouri - St. Louis

Annual Report
2006-2007

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This report summarizes development and growth in the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC) for Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Public Policy Research Center produces and disseminates methodologically rigorous and unbiased applied analysis and evaluation of public policies and programs and theoretical research on public policy issues.

VISION STATEMENT

The Public Policy Research Center will advance the public research university mission of the University of Missouri-St. Louis by becoming the preeminent applied policy research resource for the civic and public communities of metropolitan St. Louis and the State of Missouri.

OUR ORGANIZATION:

Structurally, PPRC is organized around three units: Applied Research, Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services (MIDAS), and the Public Finance Initiative (PFI). Each unit is headed by a director. Other PPRC initiatives include the Point-of-View Photography Project, and Community History Research and Design Services (CHRDS). Research and Communications form the basis of PPRC's core competencies and approach.

PPRC'S ROLE IN THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION AND VISION

The Public Policy Research Center supports the mission of the University of Missouri-St. Louis as a metropolitan public research university that advances the economy and culture of the region through applied and theoretical research on public policy issues; analysis and evaluation of public policies and programs; collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on the St. Louis region and the state of Missouri; and research on comparative metropolitan and policy issues in the national and international context. PPRC supports the University's aim to advance its research knowledge through outreach and public service by disseminating applied and theoretical research results through scholarly publications, conference proceedings, books and monographs, and other scholarly and applied outlets. PPRC works to enhance the University's academic programs by engaging students in partnerships, internships and graduate research assistantships. PPRC also serves as a policy laboratory for graduate students participating in research and outreach activities, connects students with metropolitan issues through field-based learning, and provides a number of office positions for undergraduates.

I. Research

Research Accomplishments 2006-2007

Applied Research Unit:

The core work of the Public Policy Research Center is applied policy research. PPRC responds to community- identified needs with a multi-disciplinary approach to quantitative and qualitative research. PPRC has established its research expertise in a range of areas, including workforce development, urban revitalization, fair housing, and regionalism. PPRC possesses core research skills that allow it to study a wide spectrum of social and public policy questions. PPRC's research is undertaken in close partnerships with local, county, regional and state governments and agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and citizen's groups. During FY 2006-2007, Applied Research accomplished the following projects and partnerships:

Beyond Housing/NHS

Analyze patterns of foreclosure in St. Louis City and St. Louis County

Civic Progress

Study of the investment policies of public pension funds in the 50 states

College of Education

Gear Up -- evaluation services for COE grant project

STEP -- evaluation services for COE grant project

Community Service

Mayors' After School for All by 2010 Task force Ivy Chapel Survey

Edison Schools Inc

Conduct demographic analyses and competitive reviews of local schools

Father's Support Center

Outcomes evaluation of a Male Health and Wellness initiative developed by the Fathers' Support Center with funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health

Gateway Greening

Conducted study of community garden impact on neighborhood crime; project evaluation for City Seeds

Hope VI

Outcomes, as well as process evaluation, of the Cochran Gardens HOPE VI project. The study focuses on both the build out and the case management activities of Better Family Life's Project C.R.E.A.T.E., the agency awarded the subcontract for this work. Also did summative evaluation for St. Louis Housing Authority of Near Southside area HOPE VI project case management services provided by Good Samaritan

Human Development Corporation

Community needs assessment

Missouri Development Finance Board

Subcontract to Stolar Partnership for case studies of Missouri communities' use of economic development incentive programs

St. Louis 4 Kids

Preparation of GIS maps and inventory of after-school programs in St. Louis Public Schools

St. Louis Community Foundation

Study of engagement of St. Louis area community-based organizations in St. Louis Public Schools

STEP

Current grant project of the College of Education. PPRC hired as program evaluators. Final year of grant completed - report currently being written.

United Way

Summative evaluation of Success by Six®, Year 2, continuing work begun in 2004. Also did evaluation of Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant from U.S. Department of Education to United Way for an early learning project conducted by The St. Louis Council on Early Childhood Success.

Weed and Seed St. Louis

Evaluated public safety and community organizing initiative being implemented in two neighborhoods in the City of St. Louis

Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services (MIDAS) Unit:

The MIDAS unit of PPRC provides multi-method research design, survey research and analysis, demographic data collection and analysis, database design and implementation, and GIS services. MIDAS is primarily funded by contracts with local organizations. MIDAS' primary objectives include providing information and data analysis services for regional public policy analysis; servicing the needs of faculty and students working with quantitative data sources; working with and for local governmental organizations, non-governmental agencies, and the private sector on issues relating to the acquisition, management and analysis of quantitative data; and providing support to PPRC's applied research and community/neighborhood development projects. During FY 2006-2007, MIDAS accomplished the following projects and partnerships:

Workforce Information System (WIS):

Ongoing project currently in its seventh year. The WIS provides the St Louis Metropolitan Region with timely workforce information. This comprehensive database includes current estimates and projections on occupation demand and a current picture of the changing skills and job requirements of those occupations. Included in its comprehensive database are data on regional and county economies, demographics, labor force composition, and profiles of the education, training and employment communities.

Job Vacancy Surveys

Twice a year (in May and October), MIDAS surveys close to 2,500 local businesses throughout the two-state, twelve-county metropolitan region and provides current estimates and projections on occupation and skills demand. Complementing this information is data

Labor Demand Surveys:

An extension of the Job Vacancy Surveys, these analyze specific employment sectors. During this FY, MIDAS conducted surveys for the Construction and the Life and Plant Sciences sectors.

ARCHS

Created a social services agencies on-line database

Base Realignment and Closure Study

Conducted in October, this was a shortened version of the Job Vacancy Survey

Regional Center for Education and Work Manufacturing Study

A survey of the manufacturing sector

On-Line Newspaper Survey, Columbia, Missouri, Credibility Action Survey**Public Finance Initiative:**

The Public Finance Initiative (PFI) became a PPRC operational unit in 2005. The PFI conducts research on the policies – and the administration that implements them -- regarding governmental revenues and expenditures at the state and local level. The PFI aims to produce and communicate objective, high quality research that informs policy makers, administrators and other interested parties as well as raises new questions worthy of future study. Some projects compare practices or results in other states in order to bring the benefit of comparative knowledge to Missouri's policy makers and administrators. Currently, the PFI has two focus areas for research: property tax policy and administration, and education finance. In both areas, most of the effect is local, but most of the policies are prescribed (and/or proscribed) by state policy makers. Furthermore, both of these policy areas are continually evolving, so new information is constantly in demand. The PFI anticipates adding additional focus areas within the next several years. During FY 2006-2007, PFI has accomplished the following projects:

Coalition to Fund Excellent Education

Examined Missouri's property tax assessment policies, and at the impact of inequities on Missouri's public school funding.

Sansone

This is an ongoing project. During this FY, PFI produced six commercial ratio studies in three metropolitan counties for tax years 2003, 2005 and 2007. Also conducted nationwide survey of commercial ratio study practices.

Missouri Joint Tax Policy Study

Studied Missouri property tax administrative issues and contrasted them with other relevant states.

Home Builder's Association

Examined the relationship between property assessment levels and home age for single family properties in seven municipal counties.

Murphy Property Tax Services

Provided services regarding St. Louis County commercial assessments for tax year 2003.

Metropolitan Research Exchange Project

This is an ongoing project. PFI is working to archive property data for the St. Louis metropolitan region.

Missouri General Assembly

Produced reports and policy briefs, provided consultation, and acted as expert witness at request of the Missouri General Assembly.

Point-of-View Photography Project:

The Photography Project: Point-of-View Series mirrors PPRC's mission by spotlighting photographs that explore life in St. Louis neighborhoods from the perspective of the people who live and work in them. The project relies on community photography, a highly specialized and somewhat uncommon area of the photographic arts in which the people who are usually the subjects of photo documentation become the photographers. By placing cameras in the hands of residents, the exhibits allow residents the opportunity to decide how their lives are portrayed. The gallery also engages the communities by placing the exhibits in the neighborhoods it portrays. All exhibits are on view in at least two locations, one in the community and one on UMSL's campus, and each exhibit opens with gallery talks featuring the Photography Project staff and participants. During FY 2006-2007, the PPRC Photography Project featured the following exhibits and projects:

Point of View: From Bosnia to Buerkle Middle School

January 31 to April 26, 2006, on display at the PPRC Gallery at UMSL.

Point of View: Stars and Heroes Does 2Read + 2Write = 4Music

May 2 – September 26, 2006, in exhibit at the PPRC Gallery at UMSL.

May 9 – September 26, 2006, on exhibit at the William D. Tharp Civic Center, 8720 Jennings Station Road, Jennings.

Point-of-View: Think Tank

October 10, 2006 – January 5, 2007, in display at the PPRC Gallery at UMSL.

November 14, 2006, Special Event, on view at the annual Alzheimer's in Focus meeting, Hilton St. Louis Frontenac

November 16, 2006 – January 5, 2007, on display at the Alzheimer's Association of St. Louis

Point-of-View: CASA

January 16 – May 4, 2007, on display at the PPRC Gallery at UMSL.

January 23 – March 15, 2007, on view at the World Trade Center St. Louis

April 3, 2007, Special Event, on view in Celebration of CASA at the Nestle Purina Headquarters

Point-of-View: Lewis Place Historic Preservation, Inc.

May 15 – July 27, 2007, on view at the PPRC Gallery at UMSL.

May 22 – July 27, 2007, on view at Stevens Community School, St. Louis.

St. Louis Through the Lens: Irvin Schankman Memorial Photography Contest Finalists' Exhibition and Awards

June 28 – October 6, 2007, on view at Gallery 210 on UMSL's campus

Publications

Books:

Hidden Assets: Connecting the Past to the Future of St. Louis

Edited by Richard Rosenfeld, this was the second book in the St. Louis Metromorphosis series. This volume explores the implications of St. Louis's idiosyncrasies for sustainable long-term growth in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

St. Louis Plans: The Ideal and the Real St. Louis (forthcoming, September 2007)

The third volume in the St. Louis Metromorphosis series, edited by PPRC Director Mark Tranel. It will review the history of various aspects of planning and provide insight into planning successes and challenges. The volume will also look ahead with lessons for the future.

Reports and Articles:

"More Than Their Fair Share: Understanding How the Age of Homes Affects Property Taxes in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area" (February 2007)

"Disparity of Assessment Results: Why Missouri's School Funding Formula Doesn't Add Up" (October 2006)

"Missouri Property Tax Assessment: Improving the Process -- Results and Lessons from Other States" (2007)

"Disparate Property Assessments Affect All Municipalities", published in the Missouri Municipal Review (Feb/Mar 2007)

Planning

During FY 2006-2007, PPRC undertook a five-year self study in order to evaluate ways to improve its programs, as well as to reassess its contribution to the University's mission and goals. PPRC also engaged in a strategic planning process that included an environmental scan and a full-day workshop with both University and community stakeholders. A core planning team worked with a consultant to develop the strategic planning process and a writing team evaluated the outcomes of the workshop.

PPRC's Strategic Plan emphasizes the ways that PPRC shall play a significant role in improving the quality of research and enhancing civic engagement. PPRC emerged from the strategic planning process with three primary goals:

1. Respond to the research needs of civic and public organizations, particularly intermediary organizations, in metropolitan St. Louis
2. Expand the geographic focus from metropolitan St. Louis to the state of Missouri

3. Seek opportunities for PPRC-directed policy research

PPRC also defined objectives pertaining to PPRC's relationship with campus entities, and in particular the Public Policy Administration department, internal and external communications, the renewal of an advisory committee, organizational efficiency, and collaboration with peer institutions across the region and across the country.

II. Teaching

PPRC is a research unit rather than an academic unit and for that reason PPRC does not engage in direct, classroom teaching. However, PPRC works with students in a number of non-classroom capacities, and the PPRC Photography Project is engaged in community education.

Student Learning

PPRC recognizes its responsibility to the students attending the university and works to enhance and strengthen their educational experience. Partnerships with students benefit the university and community as well as changing the way that students learn. PPRC serves as a policy laboratory for a number of graduate students participating in research and outreach activities, connects students with metropolitan issues through field-based learning, and provides a number of office positions for undergraduates.

Work Opportunities for Students:

Graduate Research Assistantships: PPRC relies on the assets of UMSL's student pool, and engages students in a variety of graduate research assistantship positions in applied and quantitative research. During FY 2006-2007, PPRC was able to provide GRA positions to seven students.

Student Assistant Opportunities: The PPRC employs student assistants in a variety of office and clerical positions. Working on campus, students become familiar with professional academic climate. They are also able to network with other professionals in a variety of academic fields. During FY 2006-2007, PPRC was able to provide student assistant positions to two students.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Doctoral Candidates: PPRC's staff consists of several students who are Ph.D. candidates. Field experience at PPRC provides these students with hands-on experience in their field of interest; likewise, because of their highly specialized focus and their commitment to learning, these students bring a wealth of valuable knowledge and talent to the Center. During FY 2006-2007, PPRC had two doctoral candidates as part of the full-time staff.

Historical Research: Through the PPRC's Community History Research and Design Services (CHRDS) program, students receive training through hands-on history projects. The core of this program revolves around collaboration between students and faculty in history, museology, and urban archeology. Students work in neighborhoods to catalog, index, and organize community historical documents and artifacts and make them accessible to the public.

Public Policy Administration Research Evaluation: In Spring, 2007, the Public Policy Administration department received a PPRC fellowship for an interdisciplinary project that examines low-income and minority homeownership in St. Louis City and County. The project, calls upon faculty expertise across a number of disciplines, including public policy, political science, economics, nonprofit management and GIS. The study also utilized the students enrolled in the PPA Evaluation Research course during the Spring 2007 semester. Twenty students participated, collecting and analyzing data.

Community Education

The PPRC Gallery and Photography Project seeks to broaden the general public's knowledge about the photographic arts, to provide photographic training and exhibition opportunities to individuals in St. Louis community groups and to strengthen the community by drawing attention to the impact community groups have on the quality of life in St. Louis. To accomplish this, each year the Photography Project teaches volunteers from three community groups to take high quality photographs of their efforts to make St. Louis a better community. PPRC provides all necessary supplies and equipment for the project. A selection of their photographs is shown in Point-of-View exhibitions simultaneously at two locations: the PPRC Gallery on the UMSL campus and in the neighborhoods where the volunteers work. This broadens the educational outreach of the Gallery by **bringing** photographic exhibitions to people who may not be comfortable visiting museums or galleries, but will attend an exhibition in their own neighborhood, and by introducing audience members to areas of the city they might otherwise never experience or understand.

III. Service

PPRC is a community-focused organization, and community and campus service is a high priority for staff members. Through both individual and Center-wide involvement, PPRC is actively involved in service with the following groups:

14th Street Mall Gallery (selection committee member)
American Educational Research Association (member)
ARNOVA -the Association for Research on Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations (member)
Affton Hockey Association (hockey coach)
American Diabetes Association's Family Resource Network Board (committee member)
American Evaluation Association (member)
City of St. Louis Board of Election (election judge)
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA volunteer)
Finance Committee of the City of St. Louis (member)
Kennard CJA Elementary School PTO (board member)
Missouri Budget Project (committee member)
National Black MBA Association – St. Louis Chapter (Chair, HR committee)
Nature Conservancy (project volunteer)
North County, Inc (President)
Pastoral Council of the Archdiocese of St. Louis (committee member)
St. Louis Post Dispatch Community Advisory Committee (member)
Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life (fellow)
United Way Research Committee (Chair)

IV. Economic Development

PPRC is committed to the economic development and sustainability of the St. Louis region. Several of our research focus areas, including Workforce Development, regional governance, land use and transportation, public finance and policy planning, measure the economic impact of such programs and policies on the metropolitan area. Two areas in particular, MIDAS's Workforce Information System and also the assessment studies conducted by the Public Finance Initiative, have a direct impact on economic development.

Workforce Information System

Funded by SLATE, the Workforce Information System (WIS) is an ongoing project currently in its seventh year. It was developed in response to the disconnect between businesses and educational institutions. While a growing problem for local businesses is finding qualified workers, universities, colleges, and training and employment agencies face challenges preparing workers with the necessary skills. This is due in part because of: rapid changes in the economy, applications of new technology, increased demand for new occupations, changes in skill set requirements and demographic changes in the workforce. The WIS provides timely and current information on occupation demands.

Twice a year, MIDAS surveys close to 2,500 local businesses throughout the two-state, twelve-county metropolitan region and provides current estimates and projections on occupation and skills demand. Complementing this information is data on regional and county economies, demographics, labor force composition and profiles of the education, training and employment communities. MIDAS also conducts regular sector surveys to provide focused information for industry areas that are particularly challenged.

Public Finance Initiative's Tax Assessment, Education Finance and Land Use Studies

The Public Finance Initiative (PFI) conducts research focusing on property tax policy, land use, and education finance. PFI's studies examine the policies – and the administration that implements them -- regarding governmental revenue and expenditures at the state and local level. The Public Finance Initiative aims to produce and communicate objective, high quality research that informs policy makers, administrators and other interested parties as well as raises new questions worthy of future study. Some projects compare practices or results in other states in order to bring the benefit of comparative knowledge to Missouri's policy makers and administrators. All of this information provides a data baseline for public funding issues that are constantly evolving and that affect every resident within the study region.

V. Financials

The Public Policy Research Center Financial report looks at the position of the PPRC as it has performed financially over the last five year period. This reports looks at the cash flow of PPRC as a comparison of its major funding sources.

The Public Policy Research Center's (PPRC) major funding sources can be categorized as the following:

- **General Revenue Allocation** – allocation designated by the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

- **Grants and Contracts** – Funding sources as a result of submitted proposals and request from community organizations and local entities.

Misc/Special Situations	171,063.00	27,479.00	15,650.00	15,546.00	15,000.00
	\$ 1,574,010.22	\$ 1,372,107.00	\$ 1,456,817.00	\$ 1,645,069.00	\$ 1,477,386.00

Public Policy Research Center FY2003-2007 Financials

Carryover to Next FY	\$ 289,114.78	\$ 380,145.00	\$ 104,750.00	\$ 40,787.00	\$ 315,822.00
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Fiscal Year (FY) dates are as follows:

FY2003	July 1, 2002 thru June 30, 2003
FY2004	July 1, 2003 thru June 30, 2004
FY2005	July 1, 2004 thru June 30, 2005
FY2006	July 1, 2005 thru June 30, 2006
FY2007	July 1, 2006 thru June 30, 2007

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
PROJECTS					
Total # of Proposals	17	46	34	44	32
Total # of Projects	13	9	15	26	37

INCOME	(actual dollars not budgeted project dollars)				
Gen Rev Allocation	\$ 493,698.00	\$ 420,834.00	\$ 429,248.00	\$ 433,684.00	\$ 390,514.00
Grants and Contracts	883,583.00	870,149.00	756,226.00	958,211.00	979,327.00
Grant Incentive Funds	31,899.00	68,040.00	1,345.00	214.00	79,348.00
Urban Neighborhood	245,408.00	258,702.00	189,228.00	147,810.00	-
Internal Contracts	107,393.00	19,500.00	47,309.00	52,985.00	157,503.00
Des Lee	85,918.00	60,206.00	81,841.00	64,923.00	66,025.00
Misc Income	15,226.00	54,821.00	56,370.00	28,029.00	120,491.00
	\$ 1,863,125.00	\$ 1,752,252.00	\$ 1,561,567.00	\$ 1,685,856.00	\$ 1,793,208.00

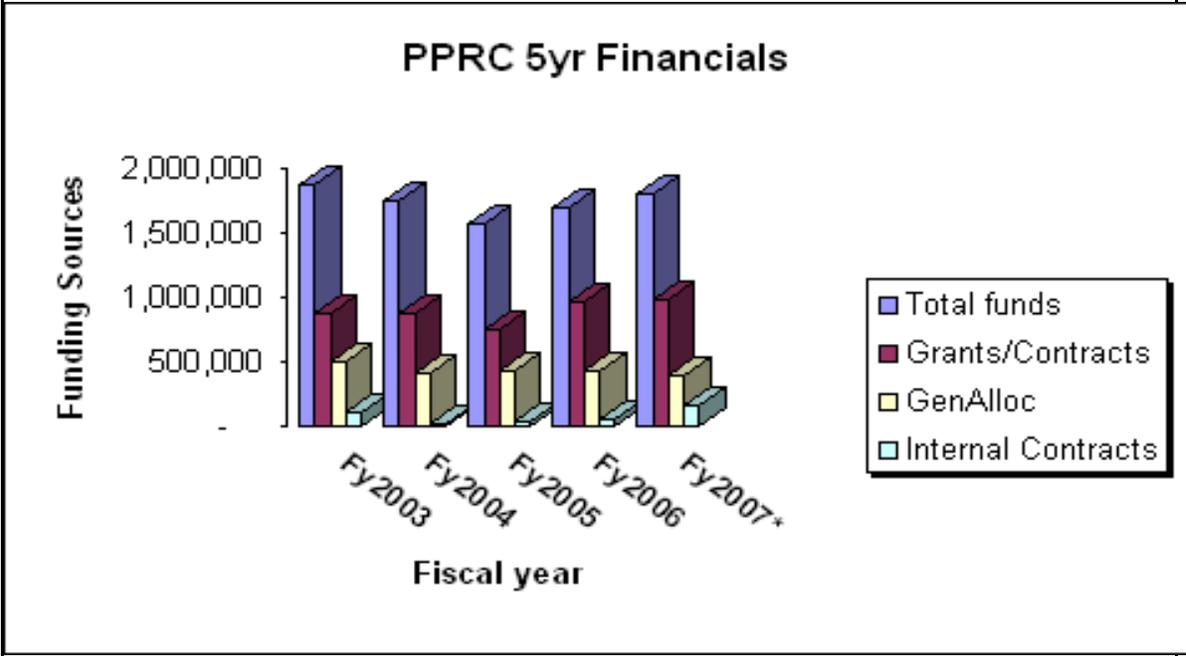
EXPENSES					
Salary and Benefits	\$ 881,149.00	\$ 916,258.00	\$ 893,361.00	\$ 1,085,263.00	\$ 970,407.00
Dept Operating	368,212.22	345,923.00	440,704.00	371,318.00	302,812.00
Indirect	94,777.00	48,497.00	64,102.00	134,446.00	149,167.00
Fellows Support	36,267.00	33,950.00	43,000.00	25,000.00	15,000.00
Capital Expenditures	22,542.00	-	-	13,496.00	25,000.00

- **Grant Incentive Funds** – Most organizations are required to pay a percentage to Facility and Administrative Costs. This is labeled F&A or Indirect. Once the fiscal year has been completed closed out a portion of the Indirect collected by Office of Research is then given back to the department to reinvest in future research endeavors.
- **Urban Neighborhood** – Funding sources for Community and Neighborhood Development (CND) brought with it allocated funds from Continuing Education and University Extension departments of the University.
- **Internal Contracts** – represents the internal collaborations, services, mutual agreements made between other University of Missouri - St. Louis departments.
- **DES LEE Gift** – gift account set up for the Des Lee designated professor. Funds are invested and the income generated is distributed amongst the number of Des Lee professors. Public Policy Research Center has this designation and the position was held by Alan Artibise. Before his resignation in FY03 funds were designated for specific projects and expenditures. PPRC manages those funds according to those specifications, as well as, other approved expenses deemed by the Provost or Vice Provost.
- **Miscellaneous Income** – is neither a grant nor internal contracts. It is those funds generated by management for mapping request, information, evaluation, other services not necessarily research related.

Table F1 shows the funding sources over the five fiscal periods and what expenses were incurred during that fiscal year. Funds that carried over to the next year were a result of projects that crossed over fiscal years. The General Revenue Allocation averages to 25% of total funds needed to operate the Public Policy Research Center.

As a final look into the funding sources of the Public Policy Research Center we've charted the relationship between those major funding sources to show graphically the makeup of the funds necessary to maintain and function as a unit.

FY	Total funds	Grants/Contracts	GenAlloc	Internal Contracts
Fy2003	1,863,125	883,583	493,698	107,393
Fy2004	1,752,252	870,149	420,834	19,500
Fy2005	1,561,567	756,226	429,248	47,309
Fy2006	1,685,856	958,211	433,684	52,985
Fy2007*	1,793,208	979,327	390,514	157,503



VI. Continuous Improvement

PPRC's last Five Year Review occurred in June of 2007, and the site visit occurred on May 30. At this stage PPRC is awaiting the report from the site review team, and we will identify goals and plans upon receipt of the report.