

MICHAEL COCKRILL Director & State Chief Information Officer

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

1500 Jefferson Street SE ☐ Olympia, Washington 98504-1501 ☐ (360) 407-8700

Date: March 17, 2017

To: Agency CIOs

From: Michael Cockrill, Director and State CIO

Subject: Technology Policy 188 - Accessibility

In recent weeks, several questions have arisen about some portions of <u>Technology Policy 188 – Accessibility</u>. Generally, the questions are focused on the requirements associated with the Agency Accessibility Plan. Most recently, the governing body for the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Technology Services Board (TSB), had a detailed discussion about this element of the policy. In addition to the TSB, I am seeking input from other sources, including agency heads, and will make decision in the near future about revisions to the policy.

As written, the current policy requires agencies complete certain actions within a timeline. With this memo, the deadline for this action is extended to June 30, 2017. This allows time for policy decisions to be made and announced while providing agencies time to take any action required to meet state specific requirements.

The deadline extension is not meant to convey a reduced sense of urgency about compliance with the Americans with Disability Act. The requirement to comply with this longstanding federal statute exists with or without a state Accessibility policy. I strongly encourage agencies to continue evaluating their compliance with the federal statute and carefully assess their risks based on that evaluation. Agencies may wish to consult with their AAGs in determining actions to be taken.

Please share this information with others within your organization. Thank you in advance for your support and consideration.