



State Auditor  
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## OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

# *E-Update*

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1. Available: Registration for TIF Training for Development Authorities
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### **1. Available: Registration for TIF Training for Development Authorities**

Registration is now open for tax increment financing (TIF) training sessions for development authorities in July. Training sessions will be held in Eagan, Waite Park, Mankato, and Bemidji.

The training is designed to help staff and consultants of development authorities better understand the basic principles and workings of TIF, its numerous laws and limitations, the responsibilities of authorities and their municipalities, and TIF reporting requirements.

Sessions are free of charge. Details and registration information are available on the OSA website at:

[https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=trainingopportunities#TaxIncrementFinancing\(TIF\)Division](https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=trainingopportunities#TaxIncrementFinancing(TIF)Division).

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### **2. Pension: Audit Threshold for Relief Associations**

Reporting forms for volunteer fire relief associations with assets or liabilities of at least \$500,000 are required to be submitted to the OSA by June 30. End-of-year asset and liability amounts, based on Special Fund amounts only, determine whether a relief association has exceeded the statutory threshold. Relief associations with assets or liabilities above this statutory threshold must also submit an annual audit to the OSA.

After a relief association exceeds the threshold in either assets or liabilities, an audit is required beginning with the next reporting year's reports. For example, if a relief association exceeds the threshold during 2018, an audit is first required with the 2019 reports that are submitted to the OSA during 2020. After a relief association exceeds the \$500,000 threshold, an audit continues

to be required even if the relief association's assets and liabilities subsequently drop below the threshold.

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### **3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Disregarding Policies is a Risk**

Local governments have policies related to the expenditure of public funds. For example, many have policies governing topics such as out-of-state travel, credit card usage, and purchases above a certain dollar amount.

Public employees and elected officials who disregard the policies run the risk that the expenditures will not be approved. When that happens, the public employee or elected official, in addition to possible disciplinary action, may be personally liable for the payment or any goods that have been purchased may need to be returned.

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