AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2017-0101

To: Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts

From: Jim Barnhart
              Acting Chief Information Officer

Date: January 23, 2017

Subject: Cloud Deployment Review and Approval Process

Since 2009, COT has only permitted cloud-based technology solutions for state agencies through formal exception to the Kentucky Information Technology Standards (KITS). That policy recognized the potential value afforded by the then-new cloud technologies, while reducing the risk of bleeding-edge adoption that did not adequately protect state resources.

In that context, COT has worked with agencies over the last year to develop a formal "stage gate" review process that allows for more timely implementation of cloud-based projects. The review process supports the increasing rate of adoption of cloud solutions while maintaining a manageable and sustainable enterprise IT business model.

The stage gate review has been formalized as a standard COT process (see "Cloud Stage Gate Process," COT-078), and related revisions have been made in the applicable enterprise policy (see "Information Technology Standards Policy," CIO-051). Both documents are effective immediately and should be reviewed carefully by you and members of your staff.

The review process is applicable to all cloud solutions, defined as those solutions in which the program, data, and/or equipment are hosted by the vendor or external provider. These solutions may be identified as cloud, hosted solution, or even subscription services. The application, data, and equipment may remain on premise or may be off-site. The stage gate process describes the review stages, the information required for each, and the types of questions that will be examined.

Should you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact your Business Relationship Manager.