**Frequently Asked Questions about the OPDP Privacy Certification Training Voucher Application**

**What is the program?**

The Washington Office of Privacy and Data Protection (OPDP) received funds from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) to offer privacy education for public sector employees. The funding will allow 50 people to participate in the industry-recognized privacy training and certification programs offered by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP).

**Who is eligible to apply?**

The program is open to ALL public employees in Washington state. This includes state and local government employees.

**How do I apply?**

Complete the [OPDP Privacy Certification Voucher Application](https://stofwadeptofenterpriseservices.formstack.com/forms/opdp_privacy_training_application).

**Does the training include the certification exam fee?**

Yes. Recipients will receive a voucher for online training, a textbook, the certification exam fee and the first year of IAPP membership.

**Who should take the course?**

Any public employee who is responsible for privacy functions in an agency, or just interested in privacy and how to integrate it into their agency work. If you have an interest, we recommend applying. If we can demonstrate a high-demand and interest for the training, we can apply for the State Local Cybersecurity Grant Program again next year, so please apply!

**Which course should I take?**

Recipients can choose one of three training and certification programs:

* Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM).
* Certified Information Privacy Professional, US (CIPP/US).
* Certified Information Privacy Technologist (CIPT).

The three courses include overlapping concepts but have distinct focuses. In terms of the training and certification exam, our recommendation for most public employees would be to start with the CIPM. This training is about building and managing a privacy program in your organization. It focuses on how to implement privacy in day-to-day operations and turning policies into programs.

CIPP/US is focused on a range of US privacy laws, regulations, and frameworks. CIPT is a more technical training on privacy considerations for IT professionals like developers and engineers.

OPDP recommends CIPM as the most widely applicable for government employees. CIPP/US or CIPT may also be a good choice depending on your background and interests or if you already have the CIPM certification.

**How long does the training take?**

The training includes self-paced and pre-recorded online modules. The length varies depending on the course you choose and how fast you go through the materials. You can expect the training to take about 10-12 hours. The IAPP recommends approximately 30 hours of total study time before taking the certification exam.

**Do I have to take the certification exam?**

The goal of the program is to increase the number of trained and certified privacy professionals in the Washington state and local government workforce. There are a limited number of vouchers available and OPDP’s expectation is that individuals who apply and receive a voucher will take the certification exam.

**When are applications due?**

Applications are due by October 15, 2024.

**How much does the training usually cost?**

IAPP charges $1195 for the CIPM, CIPP/US, or CIPT training class, $550 for the exam, and $100 annually for IAPP membership. As such, the monetary value of the training, exam, and membership would cost $1845 per person if entities sought the training on their own.

**Where can I find additional information?**

* You can find more information about IAPP certification programs here: <https://iapp.org/certify/programs/>
* You can find more information about the State Local Cybersecurity Grant Program here: <https://watech.wa.gov/State-Local-Cybersecurity-Grant-Program>
* You can find more information about the Washington Office of Privacy and Data Protection here: <https://watech.wa.gov/privacy>