

Enterprise Architecture

Enterprise Architecture (EA) ([RCW 43.105.265](#)) is the ongoing process of turning business vision and strategy into effective organizational change. EA creates, communicates and improves the key principles and models that describe the enterprise's future state and enables its evolution. WaTech's state Enterprise Architecture program will lead and support effective enterprise change through technology and business alignment.

EA for Washington state government involves developing and publishing a comprehensive strategy and framework informed by portfolio management, business, IT, security and data. EA ensures alignment of IT investments with statewide business objectives and improves decision making through shared governance and strong agency partnerships. A key benefit of EA is the creation of shared solutions and the reuse of strategic technology resources across the state. The program provides architecture standards, principles, guidance and services, while also establishing metrics and benchmarks to evaluate program effectiveness and maturity.

Intended customers

The EA program serves all state agencies, boards and commissions applicable under [RCW 43.105.265](#), [Policy EA-01](#).

The goal of EA is to effectively consult and support state agencies on their end-to-end architectural design process and strategy development. By working collaboratively with customers to further understand their enterprise IT strategy, business needs, goals and objectives, EA connects WaTech products and service offerings with its customers' requirements.

Additionally, EA offers consulting services focused on enhancing the enterprise architecture maturity of supported agencies.

Options available with this service

Enterprise architecture consultations (for principles, projects, programs or system designs) are available to agencies upon request. Common outputs include architectural principles, models, patterns and tools.

The EA program provides dedicated architectural support via interagency agreements upon request.

Customer engagement

- The state chief architect leads the monthly Enterprise Architecture Committee (EAC), which includes statewide architecture representation focused on statewide initiatives, while promoting EA maturity throughout the state. The EAC governance group provides a structured framework for the development and implementation of architecture standards, policies and practices, ensuring consistency, transparency and strategic coherence across organizations.
- The chief architect also presents at the Technology Management Council and Business Management Council on the state of enterprise architecture and the priorities of the EA community.
- EA is part of WaTech's multi-disciplinary oversight team that supports agency project success and provides dedicated resources to large statewide programs (e.g. One Washington, Health and Human Services Coalition (HHS)).
- The EA program fosters communities of practice (CoPs) in various architecture domains including enterprise architecture, business architecture, data architecture, cloud, and AI. These CoPs serve as forums for knowledge sharing, collaboration, skill development and providing an avenue for members to leverage collective expertise and best practices in their respective domains.

Helpful information

Service availability

8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon-Fri

Related services

[Strategic Technology Programs](#)

How to request service

Submit a request for service through our [Customer Portal](#).

Service owner

Rob Allred

Additionally, EA updates are provided through standard WaTech communications as needed, including:

- Regular customer engagements to solicit feedback, provide updates and inform agencies on emerging projects, initiatives and services.
- Scheduled meetings between customers and Business Relationship Managers to connect, advise, address concerns and provide solutions.

Action plan

Current Activity

- Leading the design review transformation project to improve and streamline WaTech's design review process for agencies implementing technology solutions.
- Facilitating IT investment alignment with statewide business strategy.
- Providing EA consults with agencies for review of technology solutions and architecture patterns.
- Creating policies, standards, guidelines, principles, models, capability maps, reference architecture and frameworks to support enterprise architecture.
- Providing EA support for WaTech and statewide programs, domains and initiatives such as OneWA, HHS Coalition, Resident Portal, and Enterprise Data Platform, to name a few.
- Providing EA leadership for architecture domain communities of practice including EA, business architecture, AI, and data architecture.

EA goals

Strategic Focus Area 1: Agency enablement and adoption of enterprise architecture

- Objective 1.1 – Provide agencies with shared EA resources that accelerate planning and decision-making.
 - **Key Result:** Launch centralized EA Resource Hub in the first quarter of 2026.
- Objective 1.2 – Embed EA in statewide planning, funding and governance.
 - **Key Result:** Major IT funded proposals include an EA consultation by September 2026.

Strategic Focus Area 2: Enable enterprise services

- Objective 2.1 – Drive development of shared, reusable enterprise services.
 - **Key Result:** Identify and publish a rolling 2-year enterprise services enablement plan in the second quarter of 2026.

Strategic Focus Areas 3: Strengthen the EA community and workforce

- Objective 3.1 – Develop and sustain the EA workforce and community across the state.
 - **Key Result:** Implement at least two architecture domain communities of practice by the end of 2025.

Finance

Revenue source

The [Enterprise Architecture and Innovation Allocation](#) was established to support EA and meet the responsibility called out in [RCW 43.105.265](#).

Funding for the WaTech central service model is based on the actual agency IT FTEs. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) provides a count of actual IT FTEs. For higher-education institutions (four-year institutions and the community and technical college system), only IT FTEs that support administrative functions of those institutions are counted. Instructional staff, hospital staff and other non-administrative portions of the agencies are exempt from the FTE counts. OFM maintains the source data for budgeted FTEs.