

7 Steps for Implementing Lean in State Government in Ohio



1. Learn and test the effectiveness of “Lean Manufacturing” to improve state government systems.

Do not invest in fads

A team of state employees works with business experts to learn and experiment with Lean Six Sigma tools and principles to determine their effectiveness in improving government services.

2. Focus preliminary Lean efforts on major Kaizen events to ensure significant results.

Selling results is easier than selling theory

Select high-opportunity projects and champions who will do what it takes to succeed, and accumulate a variety of significant, transformative results throughout state government.

3. Communicate and celebrate those first tangible results to increase interest and demand for Lean.

If you improve it, they will come

Use website, articles, and meetings to share results and recognize and reward excellence.

4. Develop a network of additional practitioners to meet the increased demand for Lean efforts.

Matching supply and demand

As more people and agencies wish to use Lean, increase capacity by developing a variety of opportunities for training, mentoring, and gaining experience – both within the LeanOhio Office and interested agencies.

5. Ensure that major improvement efforts are prioritized, aligned, and managed with appropriate visual metrics.

From random projects to aligned system improvements

Widen the focus to include strategic planning, understanding and improving systems through value stream mapping, creating efficient processes the first time, and building visual management systems to better ensure complete success.

6. Support opportunities for greater use of Lean tools by everyone.

Push Lean down and out

Promote bottom-up improvement efforts so everyone is improving all the time (and not just through Kaizen events), and ensure that new Lean champions in all agencies have support from experienced practitioners.

7. Lean thinking becomes the normal routine rather than something done just during an event.

Lean embedded in state government’s DNA

How else would you do any state business except by using the best practices for improvement and efficiency? Lean is naturally a part of all meetings, projects, day-to-day work activities, and new employee orientation.