

HOW TO SETUP A LEAN PMO

INTRODUCTION

Traditional PMOs provide structure, governance, and consistency but can be slow and rigid. In today's fast-paced environment, they often hinder more than help. That's where the Lean PMO comes in—focused on agility, value delivery, and efficiency. This guide walks you through how to build a Lean PMO that's lightweight yet impactful.

What Is a Lean PMO?

A Lean PMO applies Lean principles to project governance. It reduces waste, limits bureaucracy, and supports agile practices. Rather than controlling teams, it empowers them through practical tools and frameworks aligned with strategic goals.

Why Implement One?

Lean PMOs speed up delivery, reduce costs, support agile/hybrid models, improve alignment with strategy, and scale across organizations of any size.

How to Set It Up

1. Understand Lean Thinking – Eliminate wasteful steps and streamline workflows.
2. Define the PMO's Purpose – Focus on high-impact areas that align with strategy.
3. Engage Stakeholders Early – Co-create a shared vision.
4. Start Small with Pilots – Test lightweight processes and refine.
5. Adopt Lean Functions, Tools & Metrics – Focus on outcome-based tracking.
6. Promote Agile Governance & Templates – Enable autonomy and clarity.
7. Build Skills & Foster Improvement – Encourage feedback and adaptability.
8. Scale Mindfully – Grow with purpose, not complexity.

CONCLUSION

A Lean PMO is not a lighter traditional PMO—it's a cultural shift toward smarter, faster, value-driven execution.

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