

State of Ohio
Legal Rights Service

Role and Overview

The Legal Rights Service (LRS) protects and advocates the rights of people with disabilities by providing legal representation, investigating complaints, negotiating settlements, monitoring services, and providing training regarding clients' rights.

In the State of Ohio, LRS is the federally mandated protection and advocacy system for people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, brain injury, and other disabilities. The agency helps to implement multiple federal programs for people with disabilities by advocating for vocational rehabilitation services, assistive technologies, voting rights and poll accessibility, employment opportunities for social security disability beneficiaries, special education services for students with traumatic brain injury, and other rights programs.

LRS has an ombudsman section that receives complaints and conducts investigations. The ombudsman section resolves and mediates complaints from people or relatives or guardians of people with mental retardation, developmental disabilities, and those labeled mentally ill, or interested citizens, public officials, and governmental agencies.

The administrator of LRS is appointed by a seven-member commission. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints one member, who serves as chairman; the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoints three members; and the President of the Senate appoints three members. Terms of office are for three years. The commission advises the administrator on policy and budget issues.

The agency has 49 employees with an annual budget of approximately \$4.5 million. The Legal Rights Service is online at: <http://olrs.ohio.gov/>.

Executive Priorities for the Legal Rights Service

- Protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the areas of living, access, employment, voting, and education.
- Monitor and address restraint and seclusion and Major Unusual Incident (MUI) reports.
- Increase self-advocacy skills through education and training.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	597	551	500	489	(2.1)	489	.0	489	.0
General Services Fund Group	396	49	130	76	(41.1)	76	.0	76	.0
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	3,573	4,247	4,097	3,796	(7.4)	3,938	3.7	3,938	.0
State Special Revenue Fund Group	0	0	17	140	747.1	75	(46.4)	75	.0
TOTAL	4,565	4,847	4,744	4,502	(5.1)	4,578	1.7	4,578	.0

Legal Rights Services

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	FY 2002	ACTUAL		ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
		FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	3,414	3,788	4,013	3,768	(6.1)	4,000	6.1	4,000	.0
Purchased Services	237	401	206	47	(77.3)	40	(14.6)	40	.0
Maintenance	560	554	470	623	32.7	486	(22.0)	486	.0
Equipment	122	99	45	57	26.6	43	(23.8)	43	.0
Subsidy	201	5	5	7	28.3	9	35.4	9	.0
Transfer & Other	30	0	5	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL	4,565	4,847	4,744	4,502	(5.1)	4,578	1.7	4,578	.0

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Protection and Advocacy Services for Ohioans with Disabilities

This program series provides protection and advocacy services to people with disabilities when they are subjected to violations of their civil, legal, or human rights.

Program 01.01: Legal Assistance

This program investigates complaints regarding health and safety, abuse and neglect and rights violation; facilitates resolution of complaints using appropriate methods of intervention, including counseling/advice, mediation/negotiation, administrative appeals, and litigation; and monitors major unusual incident reports.

What the Budget Buys:

- Serves approximately 4,150 clients through individual casework and many others through group cases;
- Maintains the Major Unusual Incident database, which receives over 25,000 reports each year; and
- Monitors the most egregious cases of abuse identified through the database.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	054-100	Personal Services	64,828	64,828
GRF	GRF	054-200	Maintenance	13,734	13,734
GRF	GRF	054-300	Equipment	668	668
GRF	GRF	054-401	Ombudsman	262,122	262,122
GSF	416	054-601	Gifts and Donations	68	68
GSF	5M0	054-610	Settlements	45,000	45,000
FED	3AG	054-613	Protection/Advocacy-Voter Accessibility	11,409	11,409
FED	3B8	054-603	Protection/Advocacy Mentally Ill	370,664	370,664
FED	3N3	054-606	Protection/Advocacy-Individual Rights	220,113	220,113
FED	3N9	054-607	Assistive Technology	77,927	77,927
FED	3T2	054-609	Client Assistance Program	280,387	280,387
FED	3X1	054-611	Protection & Advocacy/Beneficiary/Social Security	131,449	131,449
FED	3Z6	054-612	Traumatic Brain Injury	6,514	6,514
FED	305	054-602	Protection & Advocacy-Developmental Disabilities	616,032	616,032
SSR	5AE	054-614	Grants and Contracts	9,000	9,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				2,109,915	2,109,915

Legal Rights Services

Program 01.02: Education and Training

This program produces and disseminates educational materials, conducts trainings and public speaking, and provides informational and referral services.

What the Budget Buys:

- Provides information and referral services for approximately 1,400 clients;
- Maintains an agency Website that serves more than 1.3 million visitors; and
- Publishes and posts self-advocacy tools and materials on the agency Website.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	054-100	Personal Services	81,211	81,211
GRF	GRF	054-200	Maintenance	16,837	16,837
GRF	GRF	054-300	Equipment	990	990
GRF	GRF	054-401	Ombudsman	14,562	14,562
GSF	416	054-601	Gifts and Donations	1,217	1,217
GSF	5M0	054-610	Settlements	22,500	22,500
FED	3AG	054-613	Protection/Advocacy-Voter Accessibility	85,567	85,567
FED	3B8	054-603	Protection/Advocacy Mentally Ill	370,664	370,664
FED	3N3	054-606	Protection/Advocacy-Individual Rights	275,142	275,142
FED	3N9	054-607	Assistive Technology	42,505	42,505
FED	3R9	054-604	Family Support Collaborative	20,000	20,000
FED	3T2	054-609	Client Assistance Program	80,111	80,111
FED	3X1	054-611	Protection & Advocacy/ Beneficiary/Social Security	46,946	46,946
FED	3Z6	054-612	Traumatic Brain Injury	55,367	55,367
FED	305	054-602	Protection & Advocacy-Developmental Disabilities	273,836	273,836
SSR	5AE	054-614	Grants and Contracts	66,000	66,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				1,453,455	1,453,455

Program 01.03: Public Policy

This program advocates for system and policy change by educating and informing policy makers, monitoring the legislative and rule-making processes, and building coalitions with relevant stakeholders.

What the Budget Buys:

- Continues involvement in the Martin lawsuit and the closure of the state developmental centers; and
- Disseminates information, plans systemic advocacy, and meets individual needs in response to changes in the Medicaid program.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	054-100	Personal Services	16,242	16,242
GRF	GRF	054-200	Maintenance	3,367	3,367
GRF	GRF	054-300	Equipment	198	198
GRF	GRF	054-401	Ombudsman	14,563	14,563
GSF	416	054-601	Gifts and Donations	67	67
GSF	5M0	054-610	Settlements	7,500	7,500
FED	3AG	054-613	Protection/Advocacy-Voter Accessibility	17,113	17,113
FED	3B8	054-603	Protection/Advocacy Mentally Ill	317,713	317,713
FED	3N3	054-606	Protection/Advocacy-Individual Rights	55,028	55,028
FED	3N9	054-607	Assistive Technology	21,254	21,254
FED	3R9	054-604	Family Support Collaborative	30,000	30,000
FED	3T2	054-609	Client Assistance Program	40,055	40,055
FED	3X1	054-611	Protection & Advocacy/ Beneficiary/Social Security	9,389	9,389
FED	3Z6	054-612	Traumatic Brain Injury	3,257	3,257
FED	305	054-602	Protection & Advocacy-Developmental Disabilities	479,214	479,214
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				1,014,960	1,014,960

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Legal Rights Service

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	054-100	Personal Services	242,521	217,331	182,847	162,281	162,281	.0	162,281	.0
GRF	054-200	Maintenance	44,600	39,852	25,705	33,938	33,938	.0	33,938	.0
GRF	054-300	Equipment	2,439	2,238	0	1,856	1,856	.0	1,856	.0
GRF	054-401	Ombudsman	306,943	291,247	291,247	291,247	291,247	.0	291,247	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			596,503	550,668	499,799	489,322	489,322	.0	489,322	.0
416	054-601	Gifts and Donations	26,982	0	0	1,352	1,352	.0	1,352	.0
5M0	054-610	Settlements	261,797	49,487	129,694	75,000	75,000	.0	75,000	.0
524	054-608	Traumatic Brain Injury	107,344	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			396,123	49,487	129,694	76,352	76,352	.0	76,352	.0
3AG	054-613	Protection/Advccy-Voter Accessblty	0	0	40,909	104,090	114,089	9.6	114,089	.0
3B8	054-603	Protection/Advccy Mentally Ill	1,116,768	1,049,152	1,118,745	1,018,279	1,059,041	4.0	1,059,041	.0
3N3	054-606	Protection/Advccy-Indiv Rights	494,091	733,754	523,219	507,648	550,283	8.4	550,283	.0
3N9	054-607	Assistive Technology	39,365	47,325	168,732	118,071	141,686	20.0	141,686	.0
3R9	054-604	Family Support Collaborative	262,739	174,672	214,676	125,000	50,000	(60.0)	50,000	.0
3T2	054-609	Client Assistance Program	378,148	407,062	435,594	404,807	400,553	(1.1)	400,553	.0
3X1	054-611	Protect & Advoc/Benefic./Soc Sec	115,817	202,600	247,994	187,784	187,784	.0	187,784	.0
3Z6	054-612	Traumatic Brain Injury	0	17,149	74,742	50,000	65,138	30.3	65,138	.0
305	054-602	Protection & Advocacy-Dev. Disb	1,165,774	1,615,108	1,272,880	1,280,363	1,369,082	6.9	1,369,082	.0
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			3,572,702	4,246,822	4,097,491	3,796,042	3,937,656	3.7	3,937,656	.0
5AE	054-614	Grants and Contracts	0	0	16,526	140,000	75,000	(46.4)	75,000	.0
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			0	0	16,526	140,000	75,000	(46.4)	75,000	.0
TOTAL Legal Rights Service			4,565,328	4,846,977	4,743,510	4,501,716	4,578,330	1.7	4,578,330	.0