

# Office of the Consumers' Counsel

## Role and Overview

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) is a state agency that represents Ohio's 4.5 million residential households regarding their electric, natural gas, telephone, and water services from investor-owned utilities. The OCC's mission is to advocate for Ohio's residential utility consumers through representation and education in a variety of forums. To fulfill this mission, the OCC represents consumers in cases before state and federal regulatory agencies and courts including the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), among others. The OCC's federal efforts include involvement with the Regional Transmission Organization where Ohioans are impacted by the facilitation of energy and capacity markets and by the costs of electricity transmission. The OCC's accomplishments have resulted in significant financial savings for all utility customers. Specifically, the OCC's work in regulatory cases, both individually and in partnering with other stakeholders, has resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in avoided costs to Ohioans. The OCC also educates consumers about utility issues that affect them. This education is accomplished through our website, outreach efforts, and by the distribution of publications and other information to organizations and consumers throughout Ohio. The nine-member governing board of the OCC, appointed by the Ohio Attorney General, is a bipartisan board. The members serve three-year terms and represent three constituencies: residential consumers, family farmers and labor. The board is responsible for hiring the Consumers' Counsel and Deputy Consumers' Counsel to manage the agency. The OCC has approximately 36 employees.

More information regarding the Office of the Consumers' Counsel is available at [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).

## Agency Priorities

- Serve as the statutory representative for Ohio residential utility consumers regarding their electric, natural gas, telephone, and water services from investor-owned utilities.
- Advocate for consumers in legal proceedings at the state and federal level for outcomes that positively impact the affordability, reliability, and quality of service for residential consumers.
- Provide in-depth technical analysis of regulatory filings and other issues impacting the affordability and reliability of utility services for Ohio residential utility consumers.
- Advocate at the state legislature for affordable and reliable utility services for all residential consumers in Ohio.
- Educate consumers about important utility issues that will help them make smart choices and save money on their utility bills.

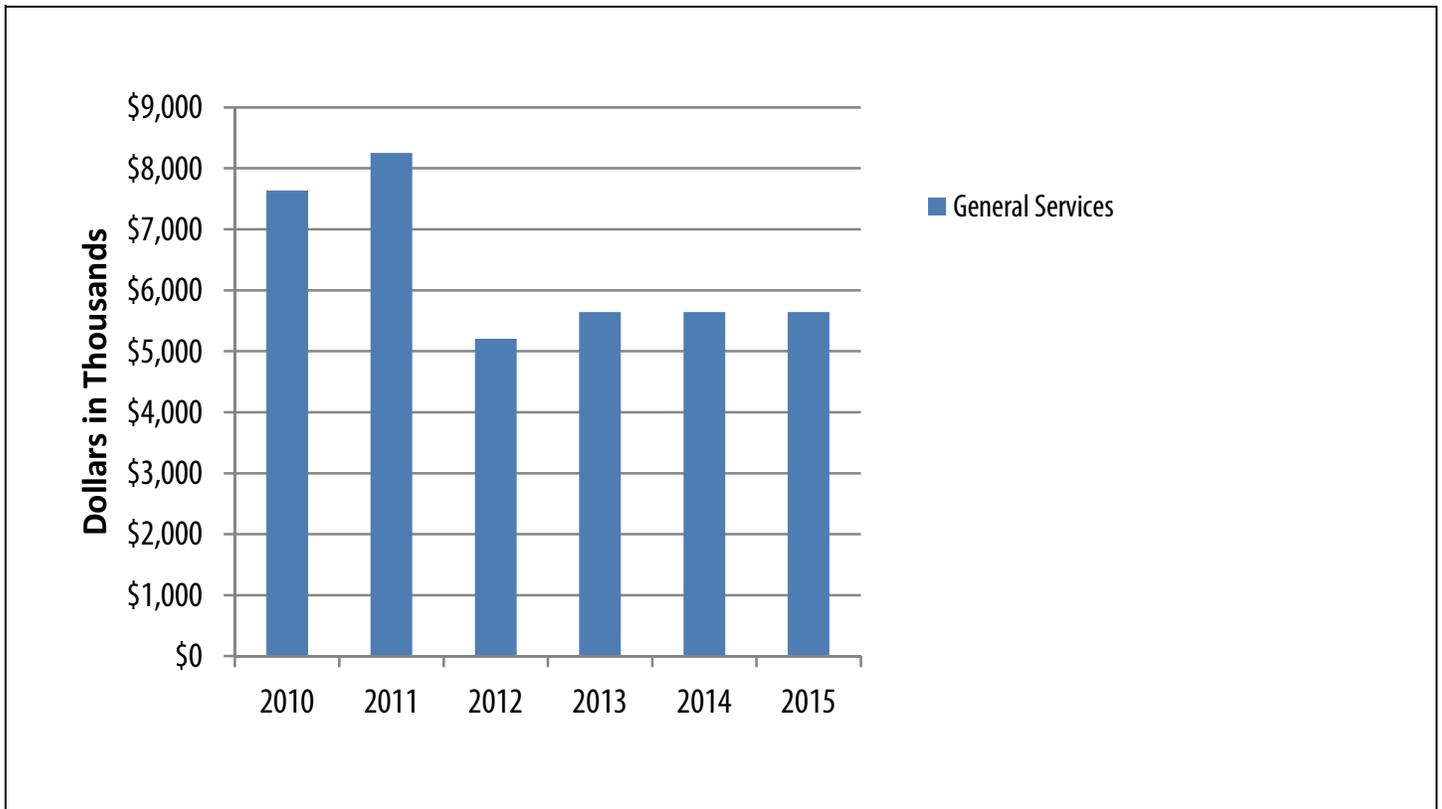
## Funding Recommendation for 2014 and 2015

- All Funds: Funding for fiscal year 2014 is \$5.6 million (or a 0.0% increase from fiscal year 2013). Funding for fiscal year 2015 is \$5.6 million (or a 0.0% increase from fiscal year 2014).

## The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

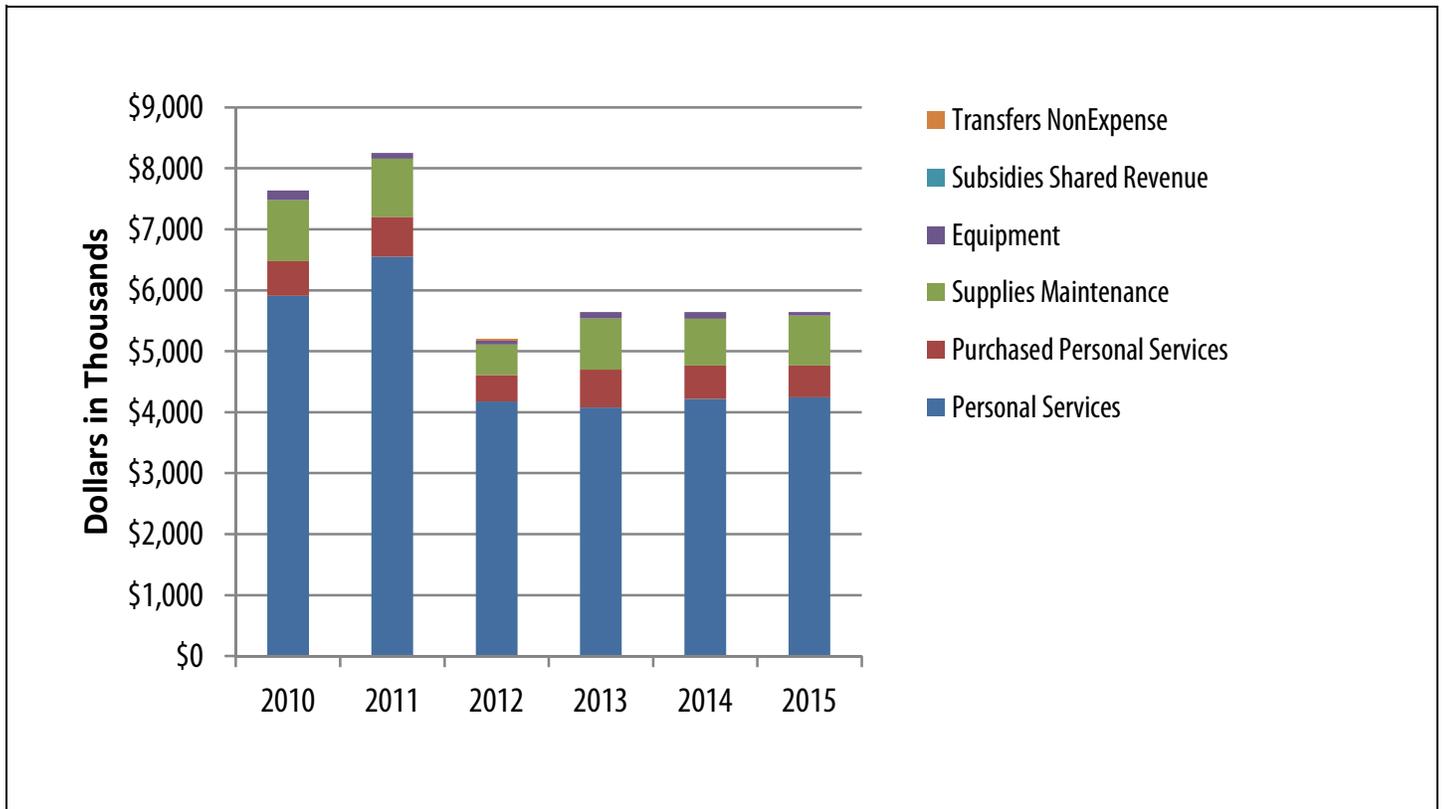
- Save consumers money through advocacy. In fiscal year 2011, through the present, the OCC's efforts saved customers hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Represent residential consumers in regulatory proceedings before the PUCO, FERC, the FCC and elsewhere to advocate for affordable and reliable utility services. The OCC will litigate or negotiate outcomes in these cases to best serve Ohio consumers.
- Provide in-depth technical analysis of utility filings in order to develop proposals for increased consumer savings and service quality. The OCC will provide economic, financial, accounting, and engineering analyses of utility proposals to best advocate for Ohio consumers.
- Provide analysis, testimony and amendment proposals for legislation that may impact utility consumers. In the current biennium the OCC testified eight times and some of the OCC's proposals were included in the bills for securitization (HB 364), water (HB 379), and energy (SB 315).
- Provide education and outreach through in-person speeches, online information, and other efforts. This past year the OCC's outreach to consumers included making speeches, distributing educational materials and posting on our website.

Budget Fund Group Information



(in Thousands) Budget Fund Group	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	%Change
General Services	7,635	8,255	5,207	5,641	8.3%	5,641	0.0%	5,641	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,635</b>	<b>8,255</b>	<b>5,207</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Expense Account Category Information



(in Thousands) Expense Account Category	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	%Change
Personal Services	5,911	6,552	4,177	4,076	-2.4%	4,219	3.5%	4,245	0.6%
Purchased Personal Services	567	651	432	625	44.6%	550	-12.0%	520	-5.5%
Supplies & Maintenance	1,004	958	502	840	67.3%	767	-8.7%	821	7.0%
Equipment	153	94	63	100	57.9%	105	5.0%	55	-47.6%
Transfers & Non-Expense	0	0	33	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,635</b>	<b>8,255</b>	<b>5,207</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Program Series 1: Consumer Advocacy (148A0)**

This program series maintains the general operations of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel and provides support for legal representation of Ohio consumers and outreach and education to Ohio consumers.

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
5F50	53601	Consumers' Council Operating	5,641,093	5,641,093	0.0%	5,641,093	0.0%
<b>Total for Consumer Advocacy</b>			<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

State of Ohio

Office of the Consumers' Counsel

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
SF50	053601	Consumers' Council Operating	7,635,207	8,254,504	5,206,728	5,641,093	5,641,093	0.0%	5,641,093	0.0%
<b>Total General Services</b>			<b>7,635,207</b>	<b>8,254,504</b>	<b>5,206,728</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Grand Total Office of the Consumers' Counsel</b>			<b>7,635,207</b>	<b>8,254,504</b>	<b>5,206,728</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5,641,093</b>	<b>0.0%</b>