

- OHS receives 12.9% increase in funding for FY 2004
- OHS must submit plan to implement Select Committee recommendations

Historical Society, Ohio

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ROLE

The Ohio Historical Society (OHS) is a chartered, not-for-profit corporation that receives state subsidies. The Society was chartered “to promote a knowledge of history and archeology, especially for Ohio.” A 21 member Board of Trustees governs OHS. The Ohio Historical Society oversees the operations and maintenance of historical, archeological, and natural history sites and museums throughout the state. The Ohio Historical Society also maintains the official state archives, collecting and preserving documents pertaining to state and local government operations, as well as records of historical value that the Society may receive from public or private sources. Furthermore, OHS operates the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

The budget of OHS provides operating moneys for the Ohio Bicentennial Commission. The Commission is a separate entity, created to celebrate Ohio’s 200th anniversary of statehood in 2003, from the Historical Society, but OHS serves as the Commission's fiscal agent.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2004	2005	2004	2005	
310	\$17.5 million	\$15.0 million	\$17.5 million	\$15.0 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 95

*Employee head count obtained from the Ohio Historical Society as of June 28, 2003. The Bicentennial Commission has 15 employees.

OVERVIEW

The total appropriation for OHS in FY 2004 is \$17,470,595, a 6.6% decrease from FY 2003 levels of \$18,707,764. Fiscal year 2005 appropriations decrease by 14.2% to \$14,981,520. However, much of this decrease is attributable to the sun-setting of the Bicentennial Commission on January 1, 2005, and the resultant decrease in funding to the Commission. If the Commission is removed from the analysis, as well as the Historical Grants appropriation item (the moneys in this appropriation item are distributed completely to local organizations and only pass through OHS), the Historical Society received \$13,423,356 in FY 2004 appropriations, a 12.9% increase over FY 2003 spending of \$11,890,067. Fiscal year 2005 appropriations decrease by 0.4% to \$13,373,536. The Bicentennial Commission appropriations of \$1,847,239 in FY 2004 represent a 69.9% decrease compared to FY 2003 spending of \$6,129,228. Fiscal year 2005 appropriations decrease 96.9% to \$58,164.

BUDGET ISSUES

SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

During the 124th General Assembly, a select committee was formed to discuss issues concerning historical programs. It was called the Select Committee to Study the Effectiveness of Ohio's Historical Programs and Partnerships. The Committee was comprised of members of the General Assembly and made various recommendations for change at the Ohio Historical Society. Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th General Assembly requires OHS to submit to the Controlling Board, not later than May 15, 2004, a plan to implement the recommendations of the Select Committee. If OHS were to fail to submit such a plan, FY 2005 appropriations could not be expended by OHS.

The Select Committee made recommendations in the areas of site operations, education, preservation, capital budget, accountability, fiscal, reporting, facilities, records management, cultural contributions, and other. Fiscal recommendations included the creation of an operational endowment fund, studying special funding mechanisms, and developing strategies to increase private funding of OHS.

Prohibition of Site Closures

During the budget process, OHS indicated on several occasions that proposed appropriation levels would possibly lead to site closures. Am. Sub. H.B. 95 prohibits OHS from closing any sites it operates in FY 2004 or FY 2005 if it accepts the state's appropriations. (Because OHS is a not-for-profit organization, state appropriations are considered a contractual offer by the state to OHS. If OHS accepts appropriations, it has agreed to perform the functions required of it by law and by the appropriation.) 

FY 2004 - 2005 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Group

Line Item Detail by Agency

FY 2001: FY 2002: FY 2003: FY 2004 % Change FY 2005 % Change
Appropriations: Appropriations: Appropriations: 2003 to 2004: Appropriations: 2004 to 2005:

Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Version: Enacted

OHS Historical Society, Ohio

GRF	360-403	Adena-Worthington Home	----	----		\$ 200,000	N/A	\$ 150,000	-25.00%
GRF	360-501	Operating Subsidy	\$ 3,855,426	\$ 3,529,521	\$3,389,974	\$ 3,389,973	0.00%	\$ 3,389,973	0.00%
GRF	360-502	Site Operations	\$ 7,596,345	\$ 6,918,116	\$6,626,040	\$ 8,240,438	24.36%	\$ 8,240,438	0.00%
GRF	360-503	Ohio Bicentennial Commission	\$ 1,171,821	\$ 3,904,998	\$6,129,228	\$ 1,847,239	-69.86%	\$ 58,164	-96.85%
GRF	360-504	Ohio Preservation Office	\$ 414,020	\$ 370,892	\$340,862	\$ 289,733	-15.00%	\$ 289,733	0.00%
GRF	360-505	Afro-American Museum	\$ 1,106,119	\$ 972,043	\$915,566	\$ 778,231	-15.00%	\$ 778,231	0.00%
GRF	360-506	Hayes Presidential Center	\$ 746,180	\$ 655,725	\$617,625	\$ 524,981	-15.00%	\$ 524,981	0.00%
GRF	360-508	Historical Grants	\$ 600,000	\$ 989,925	\$688,469	\$ 2,200,000	219.55%	\$ 1,550,000	-29.55%
GRF	360-511	Battle Flags Restoration	\$ 93,750	----	\$0	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 15,583,661	\$ 17,341,220	\$ 18,707,764	\$ 17,470,595	-6.61%	\$ 14,981,520	-14.25%
Historical Society, Ohio Total			\$ 15,583,661	\$ 17,341,220	\$ 18,707,764	\$ 17,470,595	-6.61%	\$ 14,981,520	-14.25%