

# Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management

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- Executive-proposed budget will allow commission, at most, to deliver its current level of dispute resolution and conflict management services
- Expansion of services seems unlikely as commission-requested supplemental GRF funding was not recommended by the Governor

## OVERVIEW

The mission of the Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management is to provide Ohioans with constructive, nonviolent forums, processes, and techniques for resolving disputes. The commission focuses on four program areas — schools, communities, courts, and state and local government — providing dispute resolution and conflict management training, facilitation and mediation services, consultation and technical program assistance. A staff of seven full-time employees pursues this broad mandate, partnering with other institutions to leverage resources and to develop a statewide conflict resolution capacity. The commission, established in November 1989, is guided by 12 volunteer commissioners — four appointed by the Governor, four by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and two each by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House — who serve staggered three-year terms.

The Governor's funding recommendation for the commission's all funds budget in FY 2002 totals \$798,915, a 4.5 percent decrease relative to the commission's estimated FY 2001 spending, and \$799,995 in FY 2003, a 0.1 percent increase over the Governor's FY 2002 recommendation. The decrease in the FY 2002 funding level results from the expected close out of a federal project grant. Relative to the commission's GRF budget, the Governor recommends totals of \$605,408 in FY 2002, a 1.4 percent increase relative to the commission's estimated FY 2001 GRF spending, and \$635,390 in FY 2003, a 5.0 percent increase over the Governor's FY 2002 GRF recommendation. This level of recommended GRF funding essentially allows the commission to provide a continuation of its existing level of services in the next biennium.

The commission also requested supplemental funding for four education-related programs that require collaboration to address truancy prevention, early childhood programming, School Resource Officer training, and school conflict management. The budget to implement conflict management programs in schools is currently split between the commission (GRF line item 145-401) and the Ohio Department of Education (GRF line item 200-432), with the majority of the funding housed in the latter's budget. These supplemental funding requests, however, were not recommended in the Governor's budget.

During the current biennium, the commission focused primarily on expanding its Truancy Prevention through Mediation Project, School Conflict Management Program, and Early Childhood Conflict Management Program. These three areas of activity are highlighted below.

### **Truancy Prevention through Mediation Project**

This project began in 1994 and is currently being piloted in nine Ohio counties – Lucas, Stark, Delaware, Franklin, Lawrence, Ross, Butler, Preble, and Miami. Over 30 elementary and middle schools are participating. The goal of the project is to improve elementary and middle school attendance by using mediation to address the issues that can cause repeated unexcused absences and lead to juvenile court involvement. After a certain number of unexcused absences, the school contacts the parent/legal guardian and requests their attendance at a mediation with a mediator, school representative, and occasionally the student. Program results for the 1999-2000 school year indicate that mediation is making a positive impact on preventing truancy. The average number of absences for all participating schools before mediation was 15.3. After mediation, this number declined to 7.3. Likewise, the average number of tardies for all participating schools before mediation was 6.7. After mediation, this number declined to 3.2.

### **School Conflict Management Program**

Since this program was launched in FY 1995, the commission and the Ohio Department of Education have awarded grants to 665 elementary, middle, and high schools across Ohio, establishing at least one school-based conflict management program complete with age-appropriate materials, training, and technical assistance in every county in the state. Over 200 of these schools have received continuation grants. The commission also provided technical assistance and resource materials to more than 200 additional schools. In addition, it created and published three resource guides to implement conflict management programs. In FY 2000, more than 300 of these resource guides were distributed to Ohio schools. In FY 2001, these guides were expanded to include a more extensive parent component. Due to the commission's on-going efforts in higher education, eight Ohio colleges and universities began integrating conflict management into their health education curriculum for new teachers.

The commission's most recent independent evaluation looked at 50 high school grantees that received school conflict management grants of \$3,000. This 1999 evaluation report revealed that:

- 90 percent of teachers said that their school was safer, to some degree, as a result of the implementation of the conflict management program;
- More than 80 percent said that the degree of physical fighting had decreased in their school since the start of the conflict management program;
- 70 percent of the teachers surveyed said that the conflict management program reduced the amount of time spent resolving student disputes; and
- 87 percent said that they had used conflict management techniques for dealing with classroom management and discipline.

## **Early Childhood Conflict Management Program**

The commission's Early Childhood Conflict Management Program provides conflict management and dispute resolution materials, training, and technical assistance to children, parents, staff, and administrators in Ohio's early childhood care programs. During FY 2000, the commission developed a training model and resource materials to teach effective conflict management and mediation skills to adults in early childhood programs. In addition, the commission published material that parents and adults working in early childhood programs can use to teach children conflict management. Over the course of the current biennium, the commission has trained more than 400 adults in early childhood programs across the state.

## ADDITIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

Commission on Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management Staffing Levels*							
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*	2002*	2003*
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

\*The staffing levels displayed in the above table represent full-time equivalents (FTEs). The number of FTEs for FYs 2001, 2002, and 2003 are estimates.

As one can see from the above table, the commission's staff has remained at seven full-time equivalents (FTEs) since at least FY 1996.

Commission on Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management Spending by Object of Expense						
Object of Expense	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001*	FY 2002*	FY 2003*
Personal Services	\$311,168	\$297,039	\$347,362	\$364,000	\$391,347	\$413,325
Purchased Services	\$148,271	\$117,705	\$122,091	\$274,893	\$241,593	\$214,014
Maintenance	\$ 73,234	\$ 82,104	\$144,783	\$124,733	\$131,364	\$136,831
Equipment	\$ 521	\$ 17,595	\$ 365	\$ 2,622	\$ 661	\$ 1,875
Subsidy	\$ 48,450	\$ 28,650	\$ 82,814	\$ 70,500	\$ 33,950	\$ 33,950
Transfer	\$ 0	\$ 1,316	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$581,644</b>	<b>\$544,409</b>	<b>\$697,415</b>	<b>\$836,748</b>	<b>\$798,915</b>	<b>\$799,995</b>

\*The spending amounts in FY 2001 are estimates, while those for FYs 2002 and 2003 are based on the next biennial budget as proposed by the Governor.

The lion's share of the commission's spending over the last six years has gone first for the payroll costs associated with its seven full-time staff (personal services) and secondarily for the costs of various personal services contracts (purchased services). As one can also see in the above table, a very small percentage of the commission's budget is utilized for grants (subsidy). What this tells us is that the commission has opted to maximize the delivery of dispute resolution and conflict management goods and services by utilizing its own staff. That said, it should also be noted that the commission works in concert with the Ohio Department of Education to distribute the latter's \$1.0-plus million biennial GRF appropriation that is used for school conflict management program grants.

## ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

### DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

**Purpose** To provide Ohioans with constructive, non-violent forums, processes, and techniques for resolving disputes.

The following table shows the Governor's recommended funding levels for the Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2002	FY 2003
GRF – GRF	145-401	Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management	\$605,408	\$635,390
GSF – 4B6	145-601	Gifts and Grants	\$160,590	\$164,605
FED – 3S6	145-602	Dispute Resolution: Federal	\$ 32,917	\$ 0
<b>Total commission funding</b>			<b>\$798,915</b>	<b>\$799,995</b>

Specific areas within the commission that this analysis will focus on include:

- **SCHOOL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**
- **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES & COURTS**
  - Truancy Prevention through Mediation*
  - Early Childhood Conflict Management Program*
- **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
  - Workplace Mediation Program*
  - Conflict Resolution Services for Local Government Officials (CRS)*

#### **SCHOOL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**Program Description:** This program offers funding for conflict management programs to schools and school districts through competitive grants awarded in consultation with the Ohio Department of Education. Grants, drawn from a GRF line item in the Ohio Department of Education's budget, range between \$1,500 and \$3,000 and are awarded at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. This grant program provides schools with funding, age-appropriate resource materials, training, and the technical assistance needed to teach effective conflict management.

**Funding Source:** GRF

**Line Items:** 145-401, Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management; 200-432, School Conflict Management.

**Implication of the Executive Recommendation:** The Governor's recommended funding levels will permit the commission to continue to disseminate training materials and provide conflict management training for teachers, administrators, and staff at close to the level of service currently being delivered in FY 2001. The commission had requested supplemental GRF funds totaling \$80,700 for the next biennium in order to expand conflict management and resource material for primary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities. As that request was not recommended, it seems unlikely that the commission will be able to expand its delivery of conflict management training and resource materials.

*Earmarking:* None

*Permanent and Temporary Law:* None

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES & COURTS**

- ***Truancy Prevention through Mediation Project***

***Project Description:*** This project brings together students, parents, teachers and school administrators, and court officials to increase school attendance through the employment of mediation skills. The project was started in 1995 by the commission and the Supreme Court of Ohio's Office of Dispute Resolution with funding from what was then called the Department of Human Services. The commission assumed responsibility for administration of the project in FY 1998. The project includes early intervention mediation between parents and teachers concerning unexcused absences; conflict management education for participating elementary schools to provide a meaningful context and support for the mediations; and an independent evaluation report. By the end of FY 2001, the project will have been implemented in 50 elementary and middle schools in nine Ohio counties.

***Funding Source:*** (1) GRF; and (2) a federal grant.

***Line Items:*** 145-401, Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management; 145-602, Dispute Resolution: Federal.

***Implication of the Executive Recommendation:*** Under the Governor's recommended level of funding, the commission will most likely be able to maintain, but not expand, the Truancy Prevention through Mediation Project. The commission had requested \$120,000 in supplemental GRF funding for the next biennium in order to undertake a targeted expansion of the project. That request for supplemental GRF funding was not recommended. Although the federal funding associated with the project is scheduled to run out by the end of September 2001, the commission plans to seek additional forms of federal support.

*Earmarking:* None

*Permanent and Temporary Law:* None

- ***Early Childhood Conflict Management Program***

***Program Description:*** This program, launched in FY 1998 with a special grant from the Ohio Department of Education, provides training and resource materials to Head Start programs, public pre-school providers, and other child care programs to teach program staff, administrators, parents, and children constructive ways to respond to conflict and to resolve disputes.

***Funding Source:*** GRF

***Line Items:*** 145-401, Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management.

***Implication of the Executive Recommendation:*** Under the Governor's recommended level of funding, the commission will be able to, at most, maintain its current level of service being provided through the Early Childhood Conflict Management Program. The commission had requested \$88,500 in supplemental GRF funding to expand the program in the next biennium, but the Governor did not fund that request.

*Earmarking:* None

*Permanent and Temporary Law:* None

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- **Workplace Mediation Program**

**Program Description:** The Workplace Mediation Program provides state employees with access to mediation services to informally resolve workplace conflict. Mediators are state employees trained to serve as third-party neutrals. Participation in the program is voluntary and confidential. Established in February 1997 in response to requests from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Human Services, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the program is intended as a supplement to other avenues of dispute resolution, including procedures established through collective bargaining. A project advisory group that includes representatives from labor organizations and academia serves this program.

To date, 71 cases from 16 different agencies have been referred for mediation. More than 60 state employees have been trained as mediators and an additional 30 state employees will be trained during FY 2002. A 1998 external performance review revealed that, of the 19 cases mediated to that date, 17 were successfully resolved and more than half of the participants surveyed indicated they would choose mediation again. Overall, 87 percent of the cases mediated in this program are successfully resolved.

**Funding Source:** (1) GRF; and (2) reimbursement payments from other state agencies for third party services.

**Line Items:** 145-401, Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management; 145-601, Gifts and Grants.

**Implication of the Executive Recommendation:** Under the Governor's recommended level of funding, the commission will deliver the same level of workplace mediation services in the next biennium as it is currently delivering in FY 2001.

**Earmarking:** None

**Permanent and Temporary Law:** None

- **Conflict Resolution Services (CRS)**

**Program Description:** This program provides conflict resolution training, consultation, and facilitation to government agencies and officials at the state, county and local levels. It includes the GAP Program through which local government officials are trained to more effectively manage conflict and disputes concerning public policy. The program is administered by the commission and is co-sponsored by the Ohio Municipal League, the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Judicial Conference, and the County Commissioners Association. Since the program was established in 1991, 170 mediation advocates have been trained. In addition, 89 advocates are available for referral. To date, over 50 cases have been referred to the program.

**Funding Source:** (1) GRF; and (2) reimbursement payments from other state agencies for third party services.

**Line Items:** 145-401, Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management; 145-601, Gifts and Grants.

**Implication of the Executive Recommendation:** The Governor's recommended level of funding assumes that the commission will deliver the same level of conflict resolution services in the next biennium as it is currently delivering in FY 2001.

**Earmarking:** None

**Permanent and Temporary Law:** None

## **PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY LAW**

This section of our analysis describes the proposed permanent and temporary law provisions contained in the Governor's budget that will affect the Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management.

### **Permanent Law Provisions**

#### **Commission quorum (ORC 179.02)**

Under existing permanent law, the commission consists of twelve members, with seven members constituting a quorum. The Governor's budget contains a proposal to change a quorum to consist of a "majority of members duly appointed to the commission." Presumably, this permanent law change will allow the commission to conduct business in a more timely manner than might otherwise occur under current law.

#### **Executive director's authority (ORC 179.03)**

Existing permanent law gives the commission authorization to enter into contracts for dispute resolution and conflict management services, but does not explicitly permit the commission to authorize its executive director to enter into such contracts. The Governor's budget contains a proposal that would explicitly permit the commission to authorize its executive director to enter into such contracts. As with the proposed change to what constitutes a quorum, by explicitly permitting the commission to authorize the executive director to enter into such contracts on its behalf, business can be conducted in a timelier manner than might otherwise occur under current law.

### **Temporary Law Provisions**

#### **Commission on Dispute Resolution/Management**

Temporary law in the Governor's budget specifies that the commission use the funds in its line item 145-401 for the purpose of providing dispute resolution and conflict management training, consultation, and materials for state and local government, communities, school districts, and courts, and, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Education, for the purpose of offering competitive school conflict program grants to school districts. The temporary law also requires the commission to assist the Ohio Department of Education in the development and dissemination of school conflict management programs to school districts. This temporary law instructing the commission on how to use its funds in line item 145-401, as well as to help the Ohio Department of Education with its school conflict management programs, was first attached to the commission's budget starting with Am. Sub. H.B. 215 of the 122nd General Assembly, the main appropriations act covering fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

## REQUESTS NOT FUNDED

The difference, or variance, between what the Commission on Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management requested for its biennial budget and the Governor's recommended funding levels is summarized in the tables below and organized along the lines of the commission's funding priorities.

<b>Continuation Services Funding</b>						
<b>Fund Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2002 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2002 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>FY 2003 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2003 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>
GRF 145-401	\$615,981	\$605,408	(\$10,573)	\$646,433	\$635,390	(\$11,043)
GSF 145-601	\$160,590	\$160,590	\$0	\$164,605	\$164,605	\$0
FED 145-602	\$0	\$32,917	\$32,917	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$741,271</b>	<b>\$767,568</b>	<b>\$26,297</b>	<b>\$773,538</b>	<b>\$766,670</b>	<b>(\$6,868)</b>

The requested amount of GRF funding noted in the above table reflects what the commission calculated its current cost of doing business would be in the next biennium plus additional personal services funds to support pay raises, cost-of-living adjustments, and staff promotions. The level of GRF funding recommended by the Governor essentially gives the commission a little more than it needs to maintain current service levels in each fiscal year of the next biennium. It should also be noted that the Governor recommended \$32,917 in federal spending authority for FY 2002. The commission requested no federal spending authority for the next biennium, as it had expected to have closed out a federal project grant by the end of FY 2001. It now appears that the federal project grant will not close out until FY 2002.

<b>Truancy Prevention through Mediation Project</b>						
<b>Fund/ Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2002 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2002 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>FY 2003 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2003 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>
GRF 145-401	\$60,000	\$0	(\$60,000)	\$60,000	\$0	(\$60,000)

The commission requested, but did not receive, \$120,000 in supplemental GRF funding for the next biennium to maintain and expand the Truancy Prevention through Mediation Project, a program that uses mediation to improve school attendance and avert juvenile delinquency. Presumably, as this request for supplemental GRF funding was not recommended by the Governor, the commission will, at most, only be able to deliver its current level of truancy prevention services in the next biennium.

<b>Early Childhood Conflict Management Program</b>						
<b>Fund/ Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2002 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2002 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>FY 2003 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2003 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>
GRF 145-401	\$45,000	\$0	(\$45,000)	\$43,500	\$0	(\$43,500)

The commission requested, but did not receive, \$88,500 in supplemental GRF funding for the next biennium to maintain and expand the Early Childhood Conflict Management Program, a program that provides conflict management and dispute resolution materials, training, and technical assistance to children, parents, staff, and administrators in Ohio's early childhood care programs. Presumably, as this request for supplemental GRF funding was not recommended by the Governor, the commission will, at most, only be able to deliver its current level of early childhood conflict management services in the next biennium.

<b>School Resource Officer Training</b>						
<b>Fund/ Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2002 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2002 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>FY 2003 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2003 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>
GRF 145-401	\$14,000	\$0	(\$14,000)	\$14,000	\$0	(\$14,000)

The commission requested, but did not receive, \$28,000 in supplemental GRF funding for the next biennium to design, implement, and evaluate a two-day conflict management training for 300 school resource officers (SROs). School resource officers are sworn officers from local law enforcement jurisdictions hired by school districts to identify, address, and prevent crime and violence in Ohio schools. There are currently approximately 200 SROs working in Ohio schools, and the number continues to grow. At present, there is no state requirement that SROs be trained prior to working in a school. Both the Ohio Crime Prevention Association and the Ohio School Resource Officers Association have identified a need to provide SROs with basic conflict management skills.

<b>School Conflict Management Program</b>						
<b>Fund/ Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2002 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2002 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>FY 2003 Requested</b>	<b>FY 2003 Recommended</b>	<b>Difference</b>
GRF 145-401	\$40,700	\$0	(\$40,700)	\$40,000	\$0	(\$40,000)

The commission requested, but did not receive, \$80,700 in supplemental GRF funding for the next biennium to maintain and expand the School Conflict Management Program. The program involves a partnership between the commission and the Ohio Department of Education to provide Ohio school students with constructive, nonviolent conflict management skills. The budget for the program is currently split between the commission and the Ohio Department of Education, with the majority of the funding residing in the latter's GRF line item 200-432. (For the current biennium, Education's GRF line item 200-432 was appropriated a total \$1.2 million. For the next biennium, the Governor recommends a total appropriation for that line item of \$1.3 million.)

The commission had requested this supplemental GRF funding to support school conflict management activities that would have been administered through the commission rather than the Ohio Department of Education. These activities would have included conflict management training for primary and secondary school educators and parents, a conflict management training institute, development of an on-line school conflict management course, and development of an on-line program evaluation instrument. As that request for supplemental GRF funding was not recommended, it seems likely that the commission would, at most, only be able to maintain its current level of school conflict management services in the next biennium.

## LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2002 - FY 2003

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	Revised Estimated 2001	As Introduced 2002	House Sub Bill 2002	% Change Est. 2001 to House 2002	As Introduced 2003	House Sub Bill 2003	% Change House 2002 to House 2003
<b><i>CDR Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Commission</i></b>									
GRF	145-401	Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management	\$591,250	\$ 605,408	\$ 581,192	-1.7%	\$ 635,390	\$ 609,974	5.0%
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 591,250</b>	<b>\$ 605,408</b>	<b>\$ 581,192</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>\$ 635,390</b>	<b>\$ 609,974</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
4B6	145-601	Gifts and Grants	\$157,133	\$ 160,590	\$ 160,590	2.2%	\$ 164,605	\$ 164,605	2.5%
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 157,133</b>	<b>\$ 160,590</b>	<b>\$ 160,590</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>\$ 164,605</b>	<b>\$ 164,605</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
3S6	145-602	Dispute Resolution: Federal	\$82,393	\$ 32,917	\$ 32,917	-60.0%	\$ 0	\$ 0	-100.0%
<b>Federal Special Revenue Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 82,393</b>	<b>\$ 32,917</b>	<b>\$ 32,917</b>	<b>-60.0%</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
<b><i>Total All Budget Fund Groups</i></b>			<b>\$ 830,776</b>	<b>\$ 798,915</b>	<b>\$ 774,699</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>	<b>\$ 799,995</b>	<b>\$ 774,579</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

## General Revenue Fund

### GRF 145-401 Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management

1998	1999	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Executive Proposal	2003 Executive Proposal
\$406,598	\$453,002	\$632,580	\$597,222	\$605,408	\$635,390
	11.4%	39.6%	-5.6%	1.4%	5.0%

**Source:** GRF

**Legal Basis:** created in accordance with Am. H.B. 453 of the 118th G.A.; initially funded by an appropriation to the Controlling Board in Am. Sub. H.B. 111 of the 118th G.A.; appropriation was transferred to the commission on January 8, 1990.

**Purpose:** This line item is used for operating the commission, supporting dispute resolution and conflict management programs, and, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Education, offering competitive school conflict management grants to school districts. Starting with FY 1998, funding for the commission's GRF line item 145-402, School Conflict Management, was merged into GRF line item 145-401 at the commission's request.

### GRF 145-402 School Conflict Management

1998	1999	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Executive Proposal	2003 Executive Proposal
\$39,499	\$1,316	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	-96.7%	-100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Source:** GRF

**Legal Basis:** originally established by Sub. H.B. 715 of the 120th G.A.

**Purpose:** Funds in this line item were used to assist various school conflict resolution programs in conjunction with GRF moneys appropriated to the Ohio Department of Education. Starting with FY 1998, funding for the commission's GRF line item 145-402 was merged into its GRF line item 145-401 at the commission's request.

## General Services Fund Group

### 4B6 145-601 Gifts and Grants

1998	1999	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Executive Proposal	2003 Executive Proposal
\$135,547	\$76,662	\$47,252	\$157,133	<b>\$160,590</b>	<b>\$164,605</b>
	-43.4%	-38.4%	232.5%	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

**Source:** GSF: donations, grants, awards, bequests, gifts, and reimbursements.

**Legal Basis:** ORC 179.03 (originally established by Controlling Board in FY 1991)

**Purpose:** Funds in this special account are used by the commission to supplement its efforts to introduce dispute resolution and conflict management techniques and skills in schools, courts, communities, and public agencies. This special account also acts as a pass-through mechanism in cases where the commission arranges mediation services for clients in the legislature or state agencies. One of the services the commission provides is to help such clients identify facilitators and mediators and manage contracts with these third parties. This practice avails clients of the commission's expertise and contributes to the perception of impartiality in the mediation process by all parties involved. The commission pays for the mediation services out of this special account and is then reimbursed by the client via an intra-state transfer voucher (ISTV).

## Federal Special Revenue Fund Group

### 3S6 145-602 Dispute Resolution: Federal

1998	1999	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Executive Proposal	2003 Executive Proposal
\$0	\$13,429	\$17,583	\$82,393	<b>\$32,917</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	N/A	30.9%	368.6%	<b>-60.0%</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>

**Source:** FED: CFDA #16.540, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**Legal Basis:** originally established by Controlling Board, July 27, 1998.

**Purpose:** This federal fund was created to receive grant moneys from the state's Office of Criminal Justice Services for the commission's Truancy Prevention through Mediation Program, a program that uses mediation to improve school attendance and avert juvenile delinquency. The award period for this federal grant started in FY 1999 and is expected to close out in FY 2002.

## As Introduced

## As Passed by the House

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**Permanent Law Changes****Subject: Commission Quorum****section: 179.02**

Changes a quorum for Commission action from 7 of the 12 members to a majority of the members of the Commission as it exists at any given time.

No change.

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**Subject: Commission Contracts****sections: 179.03, 179.04**

Permits the Commission to authorize its Executive Director to enter into contracts for dispute resolution and conflict management services. At present, only the Commission as a whole is authorized to enter into such contracts.

No change.

## As Introduced

## As Passed by the House

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**Temporary Law Changes****Subject: Commission on Dispute Resolution/Management****Section: 45****ALI: 145-401**

Requires appropriation item 145-401, Commission on Dispute Resolution/Management, be used for providing dispute resolution and conflict management training, consultation, and materials for state and local government, communities, school districts, and courts, and in consultation with the Department of Education, for the purpose of offering competitive school conflict program grants to school districts. The Commission is also required to assist the Department of Education in the development and dissemination of the school conflict management programs to school districts.

No change.