

# Women's Policy and Research Commission

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- Recommendations allow for a continuation budget, but some programs could be reduced.

## OVERVIEW

The Women's Policy and Research Commission (WPR) has existed since April 1991 with the mission of promoting the advancement of women and removing barriers to women's equality. The legal authority for the commission's functions is ORC sections 121.51-121.53, formerly H.B. 825 of the 118<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The commission consists of 15 members and a staff of approximately 3.5 full-time equivalents.

The commission and staff address their requirements by research, data collection, and public hearings that educate the public about women's issues. Products include a quarterly newsletter, research documents, press kits and exhibits for Women's Equality Day, and impact statements on the potential effect of proposed legislation on Ohio's women. Other services include presentations to women's organizations and information via a toll-free telephone line. Special events include the Making a Difference awards program and the Women's Leadership Institute.

Achievements for the 1999-2001 biennium include the completion of board training, a board retreat, and step one of the commission's strategic plan. In addition, the resource utilization study required by Am. Sub. H.B. 283 was submitted to state leaders and included recommendations for more effective services. Another achievement was raising \$10,000 to supplement its GRF appropriations. The commission also intensified work on the Ohio Women's Legal Assistance and Education Coalition. This resulted in a Legal Handbook, which is accessible on the commission's website.

## ADDITIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

Women's Policy and Research Commission Staffing Levels						
Program Series/Division	1998	1999	2000	2001	<i>Estimated</i>	
					2002	2003
Women's Policy and Research Commission	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5

**Under section 121.53 of the Revised Code, the mandates of the staff of the Women's Policy and Research Commission are to:**

- 1) Identify, through research, data collection, and public hearings, barriers to women's equality.
- 2) Maintain and make available to the appropriate appointing authorities lists of persons qualified for appointment in state government.
- 3) Educate the public on the status of women and on the impact of public policy on women.
- 4) Issue reports and recommendations to the executive and legislative branches of state government and to the general public regarding women's issues.
- 5) Analyze current and proposed public policies to determine their impact on women, and report the analyses to the appropriate authorities.
- 6) Help the public and private sectors develop programs and services for women.
- 7) Encourage collaboration between the Women's Policy and Research Center and other public agencies and institutions on issues of mutual interest to them.

### Making a Difference Program

- The commission honors one government, one non-profit, and one for-profit entity that promote the advancement of women's equality.
- Awardees are honored at a public ceremony and are given \$300.
- Replication Day gives honorees an opportunity to showcase their winning programs.
- The National Association of Commissions for Women recognized Making a Difference as a program of achievement for 1999.

### Achievements

- The commission has published eleven research documents over the past ten years, including "Ohio's First Women Elected Officials: 1895-1995" and "Women of the Ohio General Assembly: 1922-1996."
- In 1999 the commission collaborated with the Ohio Supreme Court and members of the Ohio Women's Bar Association to create the Ohio Women's Legal Assistance and Education Coalition. This organization provides information regarding legal rights and opportunities for assistance.

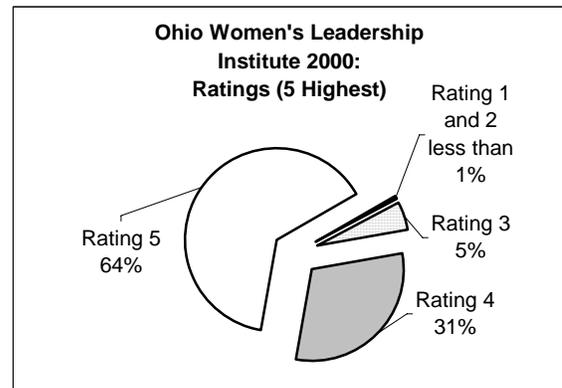
## RESOURCE UTILIZATION REPORT

Am. Sub. H.B. 283 required the commission, with assistance from a state university, to explore options for better utilizing state resources and to make spending efficiency recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. To create this report, the participants reviewed the commission's expenditures from 1992 and projects and day-to-day activities. This study group found the commission provides a unique center of collaboration between women's support and service organizations. The role of a clearinghouse ensures no overlap of services between the commission and other women's organizations, according to the study's findings. The report includes the following observations and recommendations:

- ✚ Any inefficiencies are the result of a lack of resources. The commission extensively uses interns, currently four, but management requirements of interns can make these partnerships inefficient.
- ✚ The commission should improve its website to become a center for women's organizations and plan for the necessity of continued operating support.
- ✚ The commission should hire a fund-raising professional to review the commission's programs and evaluate the success of a fund-raising drive.

### OHIO WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2000

This institute is a one and a half day conference for women who seek to improve their leadership skills. The commission charges a fee of \$100 for participants, but revenues do not cover the costs of conducting the institute. The adjacent chart depicts the proportion of scores based on an evaluation form filled out by participants. The rates had an average score of 4.5.



## ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

### WOMEN'S POLICY AND RESEARCH COMMISSION

Single Program Agency

**Purpose** The mission of the Women's Policy and Research Commission is to promote the advancement of women and remove barriers to women's equality.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund this program, as well as the Governor's recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2002	FY 2003
GRF	920-321	Operating Expenses	\$249,189	\$261,960
4V9	920-602	Women's Policy and Research Commission Fund	\$5,110	\$5,238
<b>Total funding: Women's Policy and Research Commission</b>			<b>\$254,299</b>	<b>\$267,198</b>

Specific programs within the Women's Policy and Research Commission that this analysis will focus on include:

#### ■ **WOMEN'S POLICY AND RESEARCH**

##### **OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING**

**Program Description:** The staff members educate the public on women's issues and on methods to remove barriers to women's equality. These responsibilities are addressed through research, data collection, and public hearings. Fund 4V9 allows the commission to accept gifts, donations, and grants.

Authority for this program is given in ORC 121.51-121.53.

**Funding Source:** GRF and Fund 4V9

**Line Items:** 920-321, 920-602

**Implication of Recommendation:** The executive recommendations are below the core request level, which would provide a continuation budget. Some of the programs would be curtailed at this level of funding.

## PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY LAW

This section describes permanent and temporary law provisions contained in the executive budget that will affect the department's activities and spending decisions during the next biennium.

There are no permanent or temporary law provisions with fiscal effects on this agency.

## REQUESTS NOT FUNDED

Information in this section was derived from analysis of the agency's budget submission and information provided by the Governor's Office of Budget and Management concerning the funding of specific agency requests, which may or may not convey precisely the degree to which requests were not funded or whether an agency will or will not proceed with an initiative in whole or in part.

<b>WOMEN'S POLICY AND RESEARCH COMMISSION – GRF</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 920-321	\$291,920	\$249,189	(\$42,731)	\$320,718	\$261,960	(\$58,758)

The recommended levels allow for a continuation of some services but are well below the requests. The core levels, which would allow for continued services, except for a cut in publications funding, were mostly recommended for both years. None of the supplemental requests were recommended. Totaling \$40,527 for FY 2002 and \$55,945 for FY 2003, these moneys would have provided for more publications, a website consultant, and a grant-writer consultant.

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

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	<i>Revised Estimated 2001</i>	<i>As Introduced 2002</i>	<i>House Sub Bill 2002</i>	<i>% Change Est. 2001 to House 2002</i>	<i>As Introduced 2003</i>	<i>House Sub Bill 2003</i>	<i>% Change House 2002 to House 2003</i>
<b><i>WPR Women's Policy and Research Commission</i></b>									
GRF	920-321	Operating Expenses	\$254,268	\$ 249,189	\$ 0	-100.0%	\$ 261,960	\$ 0	N/A
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 254,268</b>	<b>\$ 249,189</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 261,960</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
4V9	920-602	Women's Policy & Research Fund	\$15,000	\$ 5,110	\$ 0	-100.0%	\$ 5,238	\$ 0	N/A
<b>State Special Revenue Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,110</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 5,238</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Total All Budget Fund Groups</b>			<b>\$ 269,268</b>	<b>\$ 254,299</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 267,198</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## General Revenue Fund

### GRF 920-321 Operating Expenses

1998	1999	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Executive Proposal	2003 Executive Proposal
\$258,122	\$244,014	\$252,413	\$256,836	\$249,189	\$261,960
	-5.5%	3.4%	1.8%	-3.0%	5.1%

**Source:** GRF

**Legal Basis:** ORC 121.51 (originally established by Sub. H.B. 825 of the 118th G.A.)

**Purpose:** The line item funds the operating expenses of the Women's Policy and Research Commission.

## State Special Revenue Fund Group

### 4V9 920-602 Women's Policy & Research Fund

1998	1999	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Executive Proposal	2003 Executive Proposal
\$0	\$1,150	\$6,248	\$15,000	\$5,110	\$5,238
	N/A	443.3%	140.1%	-65.9%	2.5%

**Source:** SSR: gifts, donations, benefits, grants, and other funds received by the Women's Policy and Research Commission

**Legal Basis:** ORC 121.52 (originally established by Sub. H.B. 825 of the 118th G.A.)

**Purpose:** To cover the costs of educational programs and studies regarding women's issues.

As Introduced

As Passed by the House

Permanent Law Changes

**Subject: Abolish the Women's Policy Commission**

**section: 121.51**

No provision.

Abolishes the Women's Policy Commission.