

Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management

Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee

Laura A. Potts, Budget Analyst

Legislative Service Commission

May 3, 2005

*Additional copies are available on our website at www.lsc.state.oh.us
Click on 'Budget Documents' then 'Redbooks'*

LSC Redbook
for the
Commission on Dispute Resolution
and Conflict Management

Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee

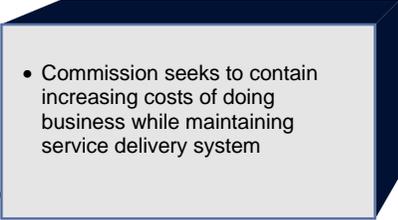
Laura A. Potts, Budget Analyst
Legislative Service Commission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	1
<i>Mission</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Notable Fiscal Matters</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Budgetary Highlights for FYs 2006 and 2007.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Program Areas</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Staffing Levels</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Expense by Program Area Summary.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Expense by Fund Group Summary.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Expense by Object Summary.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Analysis of Executive Proposal.....	6
<i>School Programs</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Community and Court-Connected Programs.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>State and Local Government Programs</i>	<i>8</i>
Attachments:	
Catalog of Budget Line Items	
LSC Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item: Executive to House Passed	

May 3, 2005

Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management

- 
- Commission seeks to contain increasing costs of doing business while maintaining service delivery system

OVERVIEW

Mission

The Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management's mission is to provide Ohioans with constructive, nonviolent forums, processes, and techniques for resolving disputes. The Commission focuses on three program areas – schools, community and court connections, and state and local government – providing dispute resolution and conflict management training, facilitation and mediation services, consultation, and technical program assistance.

With a current staffing level of six full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, the Commission 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.

Notable Fiscal Matters

From a fiscal perspective, the Commission most notably:

- Eliminated one full-time equivalent (FTE) staff person in FY 2004;
- Experienced, in FY 2005, the loss of the GRF-funded school conflict management grant program, which was jointly administered by the Department of Education and the Commission, as the funding was eliminated under Am. Sub. H.B. 95, the main operating appropriations act of the 125th General Assembly;
- Decreased its operating expenses by eliminating staff wage increases and out-of-state travel, cutting in-state travel, eliminating staff professional development, and reducing printing and mailing costs by using its web site to distribute information; and

- Expects, based on estimates from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), a significant future increase in the cost of fiscal and payroll services provided by DAS's Central Services Agency.

Budgetary Highlights for FYs 2006 and 2007

Moneys appropriated from the state's GRF cover over 60% of the Commission's operating expenses. Under the budgetary limits established by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the maximum amount of GRF funding that the Commission could request for each of FYs 2006 and 2007 was 100% of its reduced FY 2005 appropriation, or \$470,000. The Commission requested the maximum amount of GRF funding for each of those fiscal years. The executive recommended the requested maximum amounts, and by doing so, in effect fully funded the Commission's requested level of funding for services and activities.

At the current recommended level of funding, the Commission anticipates being able to maintain current service levels due to its recent success at leveraging GRF dollars with federal and private grants funds and its focus on collaborative programming and service delivery.

Program Areas

From among the Commission's varied set of services and activities, the three most notable are described in more detail below (school conflict, truancy, and public policy disputes).

(1) School Conflict Management. The School Conflict Management Program has two major thrusts: (1) to assist in the implementation of programs in schools, and (2) to work with faculty at Ohio's colleges and universities that train teachers so that future educators are exposed to the concepts of conflict management and how to pass them on to their future students.

The School Conflict Management Program was launched in FY 1995 as a partnership between the Commission and the Ohio Department of Education for the purpose of annually awarding competitive grants to elementary, middle, and high schools to implement comprehensive conflict management programs. For the 2002-2003 school year, 74 grants were awarded. Schools awarded grants typically received: (1) \$3,000 to support the design, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive conflict management program, (2) three days of staff training, and (3) on-site technical assistance. To date, more than 1,700 schools have implemented some form of a conflict management program.

Historically, the budget to implement conflict management programs in schools was 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. The Commission provided evaluation and technical support for the programs.

Under the current operating budget covering FYs 2004 and 2005, the Ohio Department of Education's funding was eliminated, thus the grants for the program were not available. With the elimination of the grant funding provided through the Department of Education, the Commission has focused more of their efforts on working with institutions of higher education to prepare future teachers.

The Commission has continued collaborating with the Department of Education despite the change in the School Conflict Management Program. For instance, during calendar year 2005, the Commission and the Department of Education will be collaborating on the Bullying Prevention Symposium (May 12, 2005) and the national Conference on Conflict Resolution Education (Fall 2005).

(2) Truancy Prevention Through Mediation Program. Under the Truancy Prevention Through Mediation Program, the Commission provides funds for program evaluation, training, and mediation services in school districts and juvenile courts to address the issue of student absenteeism and truancy. The Program is funded by a \$170,000 annual federal grant passed through the Department of Youth Services. The grant currently requires an in-kind state match.

In the last few years, the Commission provided mediation services to communities and courts as follows:

- 2000-2001 school year, 58 schools in 7 counties.
- 2001-2002 school year, 155 schools in 11 counties.
- 2002-2003 school year, 180 schools in 15 counties.
- 2003-2004 school year, 350 schools in 20 counties.

(3) State and Local Governments. In the matter of public policy disputes, the Commission is focused on increasing the use of appropriate dispute resolution processes and effective conflict management skills in all aspects of public policy. The Commission offers services to state and local government officials including training, mediation facilitation, and technical assistance with program design, implementation, and evaluation.

Staffing Levels

The table below displays the number of staff paid, or to be paid, by the Commission from FYs 2000 through 2007.

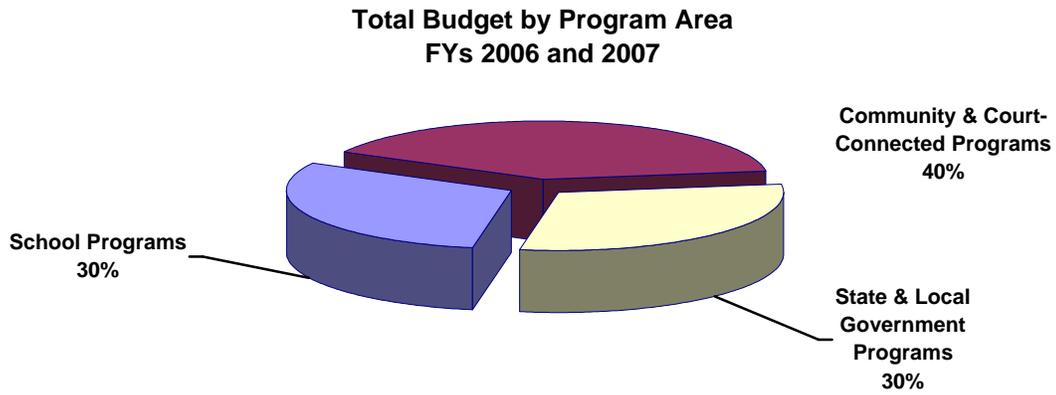
Commission on Dispute Resolution Staffing Levels by Fiscal Year							
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*	2007*
7	7	7	5.5	6	6	6	6

*The staffing levels displayed in the above table for FYs 2006 and 2007 are estimates.

As one can see from the above table, the Commission’s staff remained at seven full-time equivalents (FTEs) for a number of years prior to FY 2003. Since that time, the Commission has reduced its number of staff in order to cut ongoing annual operating costs.

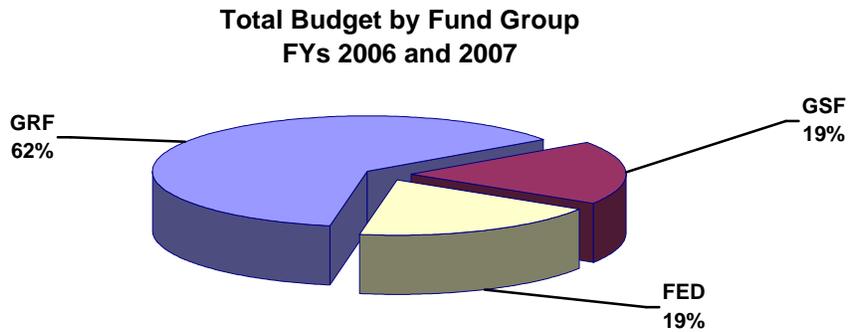
Expense by Program Area Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total recommended appropriations (FYs 2006 and 2007) by program area. This information is shown for the GRF and for all funds.



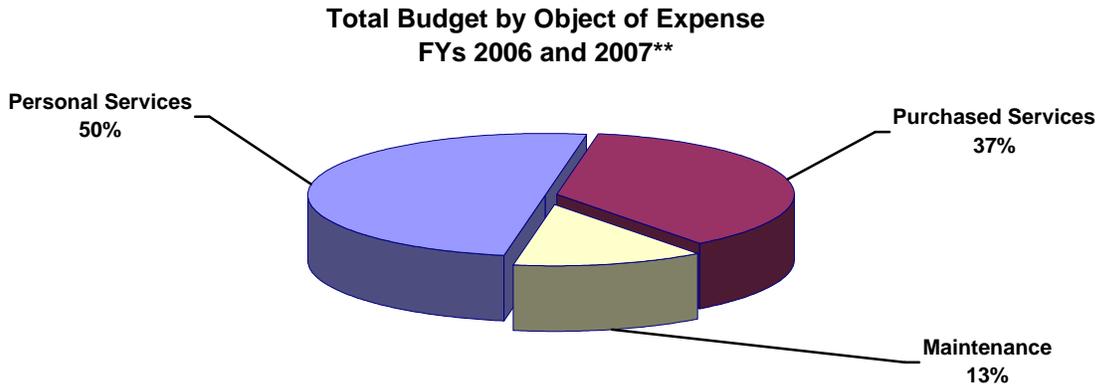
Expense by Fund Group Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total recommended appropriations (FYs 2006 and 2007) by fund group. This information is shown for the GRF and for all funds.



Expense by Object Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total recommended appropriations (FYs 2006 and 2007) by major object of expense. This information is shown for the GRF and for all funds.



**Expenditures for grants and equipment each constitute less than 1% of the Commission's proposed operating budget.

ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

This analysis of the executive proposal focuses on the Commission's services and activities, which is organized into the three program series noted immediately below.

- **Program Series 1: School Programs**
- **Program Series 2: Community and Court Programs**
- **Program Series 3: State and Local Government Programs**

Program Series 1

School Programs

Purpose: To provide primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions with collaborative, nonviolent conflict management skills.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Commission's set of services and activities known as School Programs, as well as the Governor's recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	145-401	Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management	\$162,534	\$163,700
General Services Fund				
GSF	146-601	Gifts and Grants	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total Funding: School Programs			\$222,534	\$223,700

Program Description: This set of Commission services and activities involves: (1) providing public elementary, middle, and high schools training, resource materials, and technical assistance to implement building and district-wide conflict management programs, and (2) working with Ohio colleges and universities to integrate conflict management into undergraduate and graduate education curricula.

Funding Source: (1) GRF, (2) nonfederal grants, and (3) reimbursement for the cost of printing publications and resource materials

Line Items: See table above

Implication of Executive Recommendation: Under the budgetary limits established by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the maximum amount of GRF funding that the Commission could request for each of FYs 2006 and 2007 was 100% of its reduced FY 2005 appropriation, or \$470,000. The Commission requested the maximum amount of GRF funding for each of those fiscal years. The Executive recommended the requested maximum amounts, and by doing so, in effect fully funded the Commission requested level of funding for its set of services and activities organized under the title School Programs. At the current recommended level of funding, the Commission anticipates being able to maintain current service levels due to its recent success at leveraging GRF dollars with federal and private grants funds and its focus on collaborative programming and service delivery.

Temporary and Permanent Law Provisions: None

Program Series 2

Community and Court-Connected Programs

Purpose: To promote dispute resolution processes and effect conflict management skills by working with community organizations and courts to provide constructive, nonviolent forums and methods for resolving disputes.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund Community and Court-Connected Programs, as well as the Governor’s recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	145-401	Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management	\$142,933	\$141,600
General Services Fund				
GSF	146-601	Gifts and Grants	\$20,000	\$20,000
Federal Special Revenue Fund				
FED	145-602	Dispute Resolution: Federal	\$140,000	\$140,000
Total Funding: Community and Court-Connected Programs			\$302,933	\$301,600

Program Description: Under the Community and Court-Connected Program, the Commission: (1) works to improve elementary, middle, and high schools attendance by using mediation to address issues that can cause repeated unexcused absences and lead to juvenile court involvement (Truancy Prevention Through Mediation Program), and (2) provides consultation and technical assistance to initiate and expand community-based dispute resolution programs and services.

Funding Source: (1) GRF, (2) nonfederal grants, (3) reimbursement for the cost of printing publications and resource materials, and (4) federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant

Line Items: See table above

Implication of Executive Recommendation: Under the budgetary limits established by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the maximum amount of GRF funding that the Commission could request for each of FYs 2006 and 2007 was 100% of its reduced FY 2005 appropriation, or \$470,000. The Commission requested the maximum amount of GRF funding for each of those fiscal years. The Executive recommended the requested maximum amounts, and by doing so, in effect fully funded the Commission requested level of funding for its set of services and activities organized under the title Community and Court-Connected Programs. At the current recommended level of funding, the Commission anticipates that it will be able to maintain current service levels due to its recent success at leveraging GRF dollars with federal and private grant funds and its focus on collaborative programming and service delivery.

Temporary and Permanent Law Provisions: None

Program Series 3

State and Local Government Programs

Purpose: To work with state and local government agencies to increase the use of dispute resolution and conflict management in all aspect of public policy development.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund State and Local Government Programs, as well as the Governor’s recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	145-401	Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management	\$164,533	\$164,700
General Services Fund				
GSF	146-601	Gifts and Grants	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total Funding: State and Local Government Programs			\$224,533	\$224,700

Program Description: This set of programs includes the following services and activities: (1) workplace mediation, a service that provides state employees access to mediation services to informally resolve workplace conflict, (2) conflict resolution services for government officials, a program that provides a referral network of local officials who assist with the assessment and resolution of a variety of government disputes, and (3) public disputes, a program that provides impartial third-party dispute resolution assistance to elected and appointed government officials, community leaders, and the public.

Funding Source: (1) GRF (2) nonfederal grants, and (3) reimbursement for the cost of printing publications and resource materials

Line Items: See table above

Implication of Executive Recommendation: Under the budgetary limits established by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the maximum amount of GRF funding that the Commission could request for each of FYs 2006 and 2007 was 100% of its reduced FY 2005 appropriation, or \$470,000. The Commission requested the maximum amount of GRF funding for each of those fiscal years. The executive recommended the requested maximum amounts, and by doing so, in effect fully funded the Commission requested level of funding for its set of services and activities organized under the title State and Local Government Programs.

According to the Commission, in the past two fiscal years, it has experienced increased demand for public policy facilitation and in-house training services, attributable in part to the elimination of the Office of Budget and Management's Office of Quality Services. At the current recommended level of funding, the Commission anticipates that it will be able to maintain current service levels due to its recent success at leveraging GRF dollars with federal and private grant funds and its focus on collaborative programming and service delivery. In addition, GRF funds in this program area are, in part, offset through Ohio's Statewide Indirect Cost Allocation Plan.

Temporary and Permanent Law Provisions: None

General Revenue Fund

GRF 145-401 Commission on Dispute Resolution/Management

2002	2003	2004	2005 Estimate	2006 House Passed	2007 House Passed
\$534,539	\$439,075	\$498,934	\$470,000	\$470,000	\$470,000
	-17.9%	13.6%	-5.8%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: GRF

Legal Basis: Section 40 of Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th G.A. (originally 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: The line item is used to finance the Commission's operating expenses, including the provision of dispute resolution and conflict management training, consultation, and materials to schools, communities and courts, and state and local governments. 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.

General Services Fund Group

4B6 145-601 Gifts and Grants

2002	2003	2004	2005 Estimate	2006 House Passed	2007 House Passed
\$35,625	\$53,797	\$34,244	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
	51.0%	-36.3%	308.8%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: GSF: Donations, grants, awards, bequests, gifts, and reimbursements

Legal Basis: Section 40 of Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th G.A.; ORC 179.03 (originally established by Controlling Board in FY 1990)

Purpose: The fund's moneys 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. The fund also acts as a pass-through mechanism in cases where the Commission arranges mediation and facilitation 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, a practice which gives these clients access to 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 and facilitation services from moneys deposited to the credit of the fund 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

2002	2003	2004	2005 Estimate	2006 House Passed	2007 House Passed
\$107,957	\$148,962	\$193,072	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
	38.0%	29.6%	-27.5%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: FED: CFDA 16.540, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Legal Basis: Section 40 of Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board on July 27, 1998)

Purpose: The fund was created to receive federal 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 moneys are now passed through the Department of Youth Services, as administrative authority over the state's federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention program funding was transferred to the Department from the Office of Criminal Justice Services effective July 1, 2001 (FY 2002).

LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2006 - FY 2007

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	<i>Estimated 2005</i>	<i>As Introduced 2006</i>	<i>House Passed 2006</i>	<i>% Change Est. 2005 to House 2006</i>	<i>As Introduced 2007</i>	<i>House Passed 2007</i>	<i>% Change House 2006 to House 2007</i>
<i>CDR Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, Commission on</i>									
GRF	145-401	Commission on Dispute Resolution/Management	\$470,000	\$ 470,000	\$ 470,000	0.0%	\$ 470,000	\$ 470,000	0.0%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 470,000	\$ 470,000	\$ 470,000	0.0%	\$ 470,000	\$ 470,000	0.0%
4B6	145-601	Gifts and Grants	\$140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%
3S6	145-602	Dispute Resolution: Federal	\$140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%
Federal Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.0%
Total All Budget Fund Groups			\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	0.0%	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	0.0%