

Role and Overview

The Legal Rights Service (LRS) protects and advocates the rights of individuals with disabilities by providing legal representation, investigating complaints, negotiating settlements, monitoring services, and providing training regarding clients' rights.

In Ohio, LRS is the federally mandated protection and advocacy system for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, brain injury, and other disabilities. The agency helps to implement multiple federal programs for those with disabilities by advocating for vocational rehabilitation services, assistive technologies, voting rights and poll accessibility, employment opportunities for social security disability beneficiaries, special education services for students with traumatic brain injury, and other rights programs.

LRS has an ombudsman section that receives complaints and conducts investigations. The ombudsman section resolves and mediates complaints from individuals or relatives or guardians of people with mental retardation, developmental disabilities, or mental illness and interested citizens, public officials, and governmental agencies.

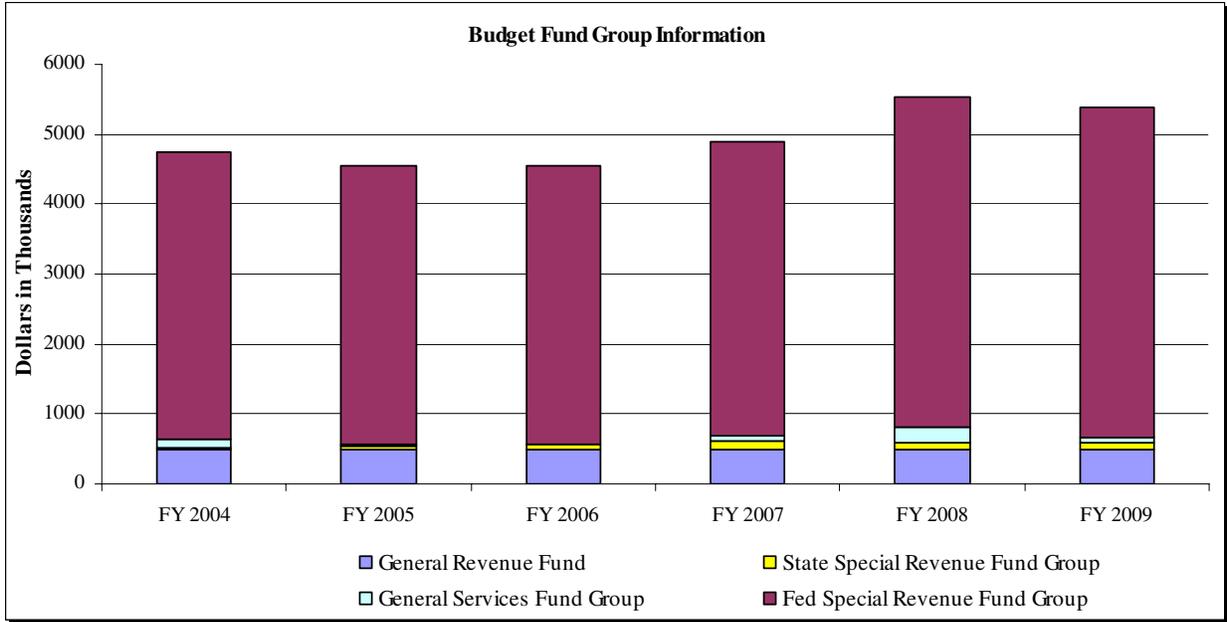
The administrator of LRS is appointed by a seven-member commission. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints one member, who serves as chair, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate appoint three members each. Terms of office are for three years. The commission advises the administrator on policy and budget issues.

The agency has 47 employees with an annual budget of approximately \$5.5 million. Additional information regarding the Legal Rights Service is available at: <http://olrs.ohio.gov/>.

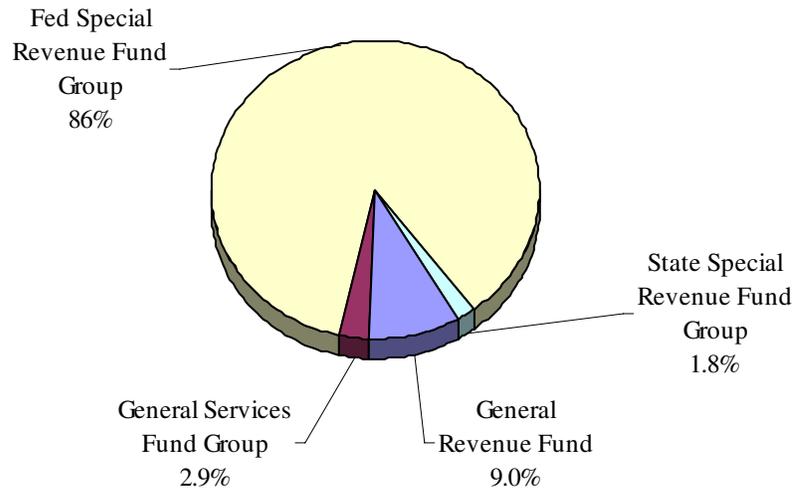
Agency Priorities

- Continue to provide client-driven, legally-based advocacy services to Ohioans with disabilities through efficient and effective management of federal and state resources.
- Implement programmatic priorities as required under the federal protection and advocacy grants, which are focused on obtaining needed services for individuals with disabilities in the most integrated setting that is appropriate to their needs.
- Resolve issues related to medically necessary services for children (EPSDT).
- Ensure appropriate educational services and transition from school to work and appropriate vocational rehabilitation services.
- Empower individuals with disabilities to allow them to make important life decisions independently.
- Investigate and remedy systemic problems that allow abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities in facilities and schools.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations



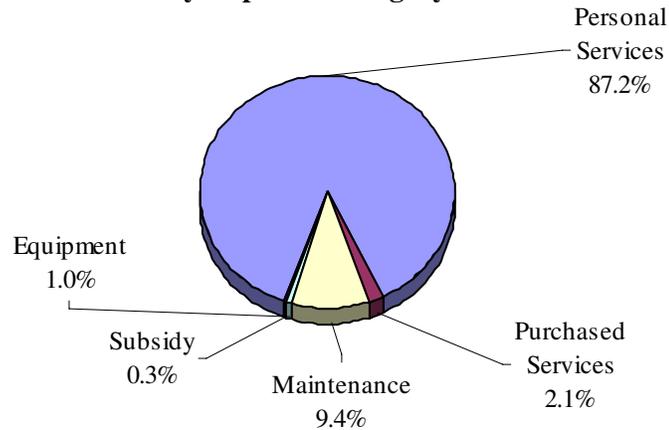
**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation
by Budget Fund Group**



State of Ohio
Legal Rights Service

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2007	% CHANGE FY 06-07	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006			FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	500	489	489	489	.0	489	.0	489	.0
General Services Fund Group	130	36	4	76	1,909.3	231	203.0	81	(64.8)
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	4,097	3,986	3,968	4,216	6.2	4,705	11.6	4,705	.0
State Special Revenue Fund Group	17	50	76	115	51.7	100	(12.9)	100	.0
TOTAL	4,744	4,561	4,537	4,897	7.9	5,526	12.8	5,376	(2.7)

**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation
by Expense Category**



(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2007	% CHANGE FY 06-07	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006			FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
Personal Services	4,013	3,983	3,989	4,204	5.4	4,829	14.9	4,679	(3.1)
Purchased Services	206	62	96	109	13.2	113	3.3	113	.0
Maintenance	470	455	397	523	31.8	515	(1.5)	515	.0
Equipment	45	60	48	45	(6.4)	54	19.5	54	.0
Subsidy	5	1	6	15	142.0	14	(6.3)	14	.0
Transfer & Other	5	0	1	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL	4,744	4,561	4,537	4,897	7.9	5,526	12.8	5,376	(2.7)

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Protection and Advocacy of Disabled Ohioans

This program series provides protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities when they are subjected to violations of their civil, legal, or human rights. The protection and advocacy services are provided through legal assistance, education and training, public policy development, and ombudsman services.

Program 01.01: Protection and Advocacy

This program provides protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities when they are subjected to violations of their civil, legal, or human rights. The protection and advocacy services are provided through legal assistance, education and training, public policy development, and ombudsman services.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Support the protection and advocacy system for Ohioans with disabilities by providing legally-based advocacy, including legal representation in individual and group cases to over 3,500 eligible clients and their families;
- Provide for planning and implementation of programmatic advocacy priorities that impact all Ohioans with disabilities through case and policy advocacy in the following areas: community integration and employment initiatives; special education services and Medicaid for children; vocational rehabilitation and return to work (CAP, PABSS, and WIPA); and protection from abuse and neglect for individuals with disabilities in institutions, schools, and other venues;
- Provide \$150,000 in fiscal year 2008 to comply with the terms of the Martin v. Taft consent decree;
- Enable the Ombudsman section to monitor over 20,000 Major Unusual Incident reports, conduct follow-up investigations, present findings, and offer recommendations;
- Provide information and referral services for approximately 1,300 individuals with disabilities and their families; and
- Support the creation, publication, and distribution of self-advocacy tools and materials in multiple media including print and the agency website, which receives nearly 2 million hits per year.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	054-321	Support Services	198,075	198,075
GRF	GRF	054-401	Ombudsman	291,247	291,247
GSF	5M0	054-610	Program Support	81,352	81,352
GSF	5M0	054-617	Martin Settlement	150,000	0
FED	3AG	054-613	Protection/Advocacy-Voter Accessblty	115,000	115,000
FED	3B8	054-603	Protection/Advocacy Mentally Ill	1,089,999	1,089,999
FED	3CA	054-615	Work Incentives Plan & Assist	355,000	355,000
FED	3N3	054-606	Protection/Advocacy-Indiv Rights	560,000	560,000
FED	3N9	054-607	Assistive Technology	160,000	160,000
FED	3R9	054-604	Family Support Collaborative	55,000	55,000
FED	3R9	054-616	Developmental Disability Publ	130,000	130,000
FED	3T2	054-609	Client Assistance Program	435,000	435,000
FED	3X1	054-611	Protect & Advoc/Benefic./Soc Sec	235,001	235,001
FED	3Z6	054-612	Traumatic Brain Injury	70,000	70,000
FED	305	054-602	Protection & Advocacy-Dev. Disb	1,500,000	1,500,000
SSR	5AE	054-614	Grants and Contracts	100,000	100,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				5,525,674	5,375,674

Appropriation Line Item Analyses for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009

Line Item Restructuring Analysis

Line items 054-100, Personal Services, 054-200, Maintenance, and 054-300, Equipment, are combined into 054-321, Support Services. This change combines GRF operational support into a single line item.

Fund 416, Gifts and Donations, is merged into Fund 5M0, Program Income. This change combines two program income general service funds into a single fund, changes the fund name from Settlements to Program Income, and renames the line item 054-610, Program Support.

To illustrate changes in funding levels for altered line items, estimated fiscal year 2007 spending in the following table is converted from the previous line-item structure to the current line-item structure.

Fund	ALI	ALI Title	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2007	FY 2008	% Change	FY 2009	% Change
GRF	054-321	Support Services	198,075	198,074	0.0%	198,074	0.0%
5M0	054-610	Program Support	76,352	81,352	6.5%	81,352	0.0%

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Legal Rights Service

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ACTUAL	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	FY 2008 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2009 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	054-100	Personal Services	182,847	162,281	162,280	162,281	0	**	0	.0
GRF	054-200	Maintenance	25,705	33,938	33,938	33,938	0	**	0	.0
GRF	054-300	Equipment	0	1,856	1,856	1,856	0	**	0	.0
GRF	054-321	Support Services	0	0	0	0	198,075	**	198,075	.0
GRF	054-401	Ombudsman	291,247	291,248	291,248	291,247	291,247	.0	291,247	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			499,799	489,323	489,322	489,322	489,322	.0	489,322	.0
416	054-601	Gifts and Donations	0	0	0	1,352	0	**	0	.0
5M0	054-610	Program Support	129,694	36,294	3,800	75,000	81,352	**	81,352	.0
5M0	054-617	Martin Settlement	0	0	0	0	150,000	.0	0	(100.0)
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			129,694	36,294	3,800	76,352	231,352	203.0	81,352	(64.8)
3AG	054-613	Protection/Advacy-Voter Accessblty	40,909	103,938	106,786	114,090	115,000	.8	115,000	.0
3B8	054-603	Protection/Advacy Mentally Ill	1,118,745	1,032,420	995,983	1,059,041	1,089,999	2.9	1,089,999	.0
3CA	054-615	Work Incentives Plan & Assist	0	0	0	204,260	355,000	73.8	355,000	.0
3N3	054-606	Protection/Advcey-Indiv Rights	523,219	581,446	541,176	550,283	560,000	1.8	560,000	.0
3N9	054-607	Assistive Technology	168,732	154,743	163,133	141,686	160,000	12.9	160,000	.0
3R9	054-604	Family Support Collaborative	214,676	108,063	99,570	59,083	55,000	(6.9)	55,000	.0
3R9	054-616	Developmental Disability Publ	0	0	0	65,000	130,000	100.0	130,000	.0
3T2	054-609	Client Assistance Program	435,594	418,266	356,963	400,553	435,000	8.6	435,000	.0
3X1	054-611	Protect & Advoc/Benefic./Soc Sec	247,994	173,258	160,857	187,784	235,001	25.1	235,001	.0
3Z6	054-612	Traumatic Brain Injury	74,742	74,088	81,372	65,137	70,000	7.5	70,000	.0
305	054-602	Protection & Advocacy-Dev. Disb	1,272,880	1,339,551	1,462,543	1,369,082	1,500,000	9.6	1,500,000	.0
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			4,097,491	3,985,773	3,968,383	4,215,999	4,705,000	11.6	4,705,000	.0
5AE	054-614	Grants and Contracts	16,526	49,504	75,689	114,834	100,000	(12.9)	100,000	.0
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			16,526	49,504	75,689	114,834	100,000	(12.9)	100,000	.0
TOTAL Legal Rights Service			4,743,510	4,560,894	4,537,194	4,896,507	5,525,674	12.8	5,375,674	(2.7)