

### **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 implements 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, services for veterans with traumatic brain injury, and other programs, as well as providing legal advocacy to protect rights under federal and state anti-discrimination laws.

LRS also administers an ombudsman section that receives complaints and conducts investigations of abuse, neglect, and violations of human and civil rights. 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 must be a lawyer and 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 is the governing authority of the agency which advises the administrator, establishes policies and assists in developing agency priorities and budget.

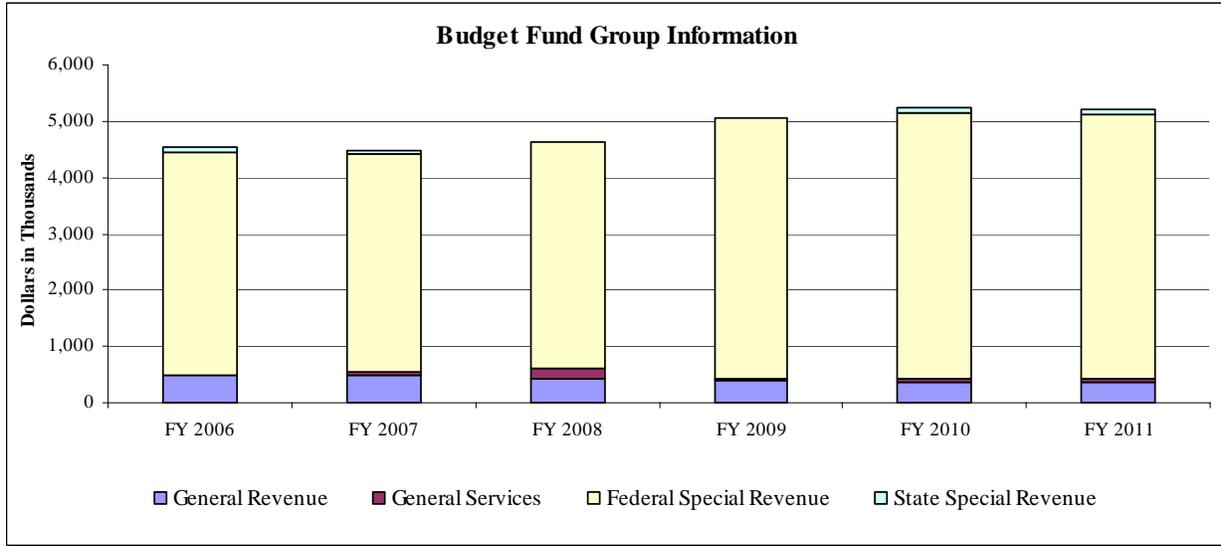
The agency has 47 employees with an annual budget of approximately \$5.1 million. Additional information regarding the Legal Rights Service is available at: <http://olrs.ohio.gov/>.

### **Agency Priorities**

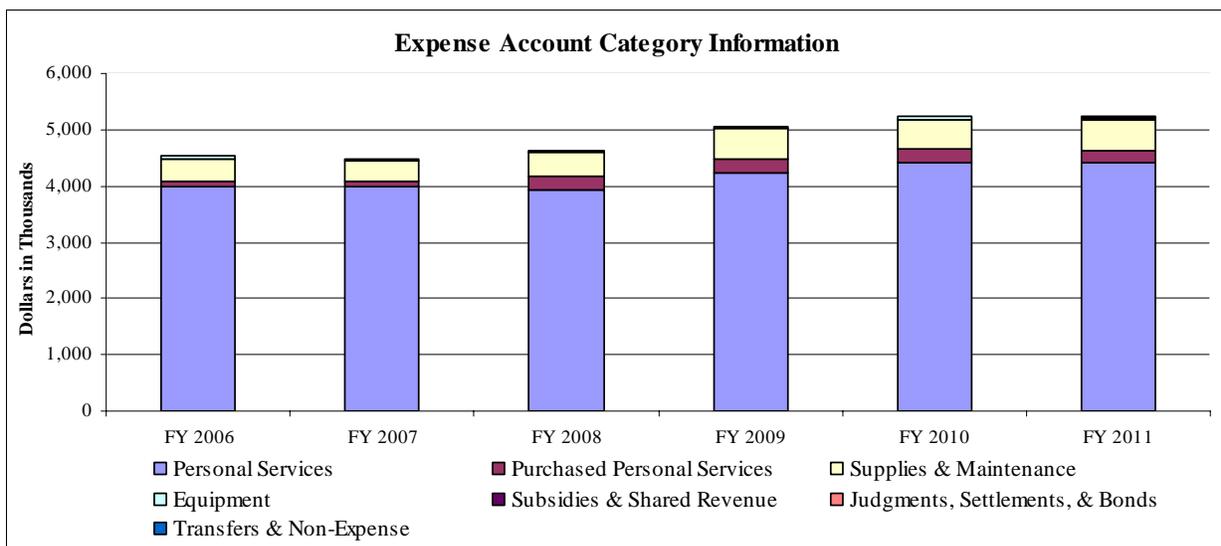
- Continue to provide client-driven, legal advocacy services to Ohioans with disabilities through efficient and effective management of federal and state resources.
- Implement programmatic priorities as required under the federal protection and advocacy grants that are developed based on input from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

Full agency priorities are at <http://olrs.ohio.gov/ASP/agencypriorities.asp>.

**Summary of Budget History and Recommendations**



(In Thousands)	ACTUAL			EST.	% CHANGE	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008			FY 2009	FY 2010	CHANGE %	FY 2011
General Revenue	489	488	440	395	-10.2	352	-10.9	352	0.0
General Services	4	61	155	25	-83.9	81	225.4	81	0.0
Federal Special Revenue	3,968	3,863	4,035	4,625	14.6	4,703	1.7	4,690	-0.3
State Special Revenue	76	53	0	25	11,013.1	100	306.5	100	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,537</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>4,631</b>	<b>5,070</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>5,236</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>-0.2</b>



State of Ohio  
**Legal Rights Service**

(In Thousands) EXPENSE ACCOUNT CATEGORY	ACTUAL			% EST. CHANGE		RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 08-09	FY 2010	% CHANGE	FY 2011	% CHANGE
Personal Services	3,989	3,979	3,931	4,231	7.6	4,426	4.6	4,417	-0.2
Purchased Personal Services	96	112	239	253	5.7	220	-13.1	218	-0.9
Supplies & Maintenance	397	346	415	543	30.6	544	0.3	543	-0.2
Equipment	48	20	25	33	33.9	45	34.2	45	0.0
Subsidies & Shared Revenue	6	7	10	11	7.1	3	-76.3	2	-20.0
Judgments, Settlements, & Bonds	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Transfers & Non-Expense	0	0	10	0	-100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,537</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>4,631</b>	<b>5,070</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>5,236</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

**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 fund the following objectives:**

- 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; and
- Investigate and remedy systemic problems that allow abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities in facilities and schools; and
- Support ongoing operations through June 30, 2011 and provide time for the agency to plan a transition to a nonprofit organization effective July 1, 2011. The plan will also include the transfer of the state ombudsman responsibilities performed under Section 5123.601 of the Revised Code to the Department of Aging.

**State of Ohio**  
**Legal Rights Service**

<b>FUND</b>				<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	
<b>GROUP</b>	<b>FUND</b>	<b>ALI</b>	<b>ALI NAME</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
GRF	GRF	054321	Support Services	142,614	142,614
GRF	GRF	054401	Ombudsman	209,698	209,698
GSF	5M00	054610	Settlements	81,352	81,352
FED	3050	054602	Protection & Advocacy-Dev Disabled	1,500,000	1,500,000
FED	3AG0	054613	P & A Voter Accessibility	135,000	135,000
FED	3B80	054603	Protection/Advocacy-Mentally Ill	1,100,000	1,100,000
FED	3CA0	054615	Work Incentive & Planning Assistance	355,000	355,000
FED	3N30	054606	PAIR	570,000	570,000
FED	3N90	054607	Assistive Technology	160,000	160,000
FED	3R90	054604	Family Support Collaborative	12,500	0
FED	3R90	054616	Developmental Disability Publications	130,000	130,000
FED	3T20	054609	Client Assistance Program	435,000	435,000
FED	3X10	054611	Protect & Advocacy-Social Security Beneficiaries	235,000	235,000
FED	3Z60	054612	Traumatic Brain Injury P & A	70,000	70,000
SSR	5AE0	054614	Grants And Contracts	100,000	100,000
<b>TOTAL FOR PROGRAM</b>				<b>5,236,164</b>	<b>5,223,664</b>

**LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Legal Rights Service**

FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ACTUAL	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 ESTIMATE	FY 2010 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2011 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	054100	Personal Services	162,280	162,269	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
GRF	054200	Maintenance	33,938	33,937	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
GRF	054300	Equipment	1,856	937	919	0	0	.0	0	.0
GRF	054321	Support Services	0	0	178,235	145,767	142,614	-2.2	142,614	0.0
GRF	054401	Ombudsman	291,248	291,205	261,137	249,584	209,698	-16.0	209,698	0.0
<b>TOTAL General Revenue</b>			<b>489,322</b>	<b>488,348</b>	<b>440,292</b>	<b>395,351</b>	<b>352,312</b>	<b>-10.9</b>	<b>352,312</b>	<b>0.0</b>
5M00	054610	Settlements	3,800	61,250	154,981	25,000	81,352	225.4	81,352	0.0
<b>TOTAL General Services</b>			<b>3,800</b>	<b>61,250</b>	<b>154,981</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>81,352</b>	<b>225.4</b>	<b>81,352</b>	<b>0.0</b>
3050	054602	Protection/Advocacy-Dev Disabled	1,462,544	1,351,384	1,326,461	1,500,000	1,500,000	0.0	1,500,000	0.0
3AG0	054613	P & A Voter Accessibility	106,786	103,465	97,144	115,000	135,000	17.4	135,000	0.0
3B80	054603	Protection/Advocacy-Mentally Ill	995,983	914,212	999,493	1,089,999	1,100,000	0.9	1,100,000	0.0
3CA0	054615	Work Incentive & Planning Assistance	0	119,285	333,417	300,000	355,000	18.3	355,000	0.0
3N30	054606	PAIR	541,176	490,159	482,871	560,000	570,000	1.8	570,000	0.0
3N90	054607	Assistive Technology	163,130	128,157	129,627	160,000	160,000	0.0	160,000	0.0
3R90	054604	Family Support Collaborative	99,570	51,810	40,687	55,000	12,500	-77.3	0	-100.0
3R90	054616	Developmental Disability Publications	0	47,378	89,420	115,000	130,000	13.0	130,000	0.0
3T20	054609	Client Assistance Program	356,964	377,215	341,495	425,000	435,000	2.4	435,000	0.0
3X10	054611	Protect & Advocacy-Social Security Beneficiaries	160,855	214,746	141,571	235,001	235,000	0.0	235,000	0.0
3Z60	054612	Traumatic Brain Injury P & A	81,374	65,138	52,975	70,000	70,000	0.0	70,000	0.0
<b>TOTAL Federal Special Revenue</b>			<b>3,968,382</b>	<b>3,862,949</b>	<b>4,035,163</b>	<b>4,625,000</b>	<b>4,702,500</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4,690,000</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
5AE0	054614	Grants and Contracts	75,689	52,614	221	24,600	100,000	306.5	100,000	0.0
<b>TOTAL State Special Revenue</b>			<b>75,689</b>	<b>52,614</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>306.5</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL Legal Rights Service</b>			<b>4,537,193</b>	<b>4,465,161</b>	<b>4,630,657</b>	<b>5,069,951</b>	<b>5,236,164</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5,223,664</b>	<b>-0.2</b>