

Role and Overview

The Judicial Conference (conference), as an integral part of the judicial system of the state, continually studies the coordination of the work of the several courts of Ohio, encourages uniformity in the application of the law, rules and practice, promotes an exchange of experience within the judiciary, and recommends improvements to the administration of justice. Most of the work of the conference is performed by the more than 20 standing and ad hoc committees of judges who volunteer their time to provide expertise, practical insight, and guidance to staff members who facilitate its activities. The conference provides information and collaboration to the other branches of Ohio government, reviews and comments on proposed legislation, and provides information to the public. All 724 Ohio judges are members of the Judicial Conference. Policy decisions are made by the Executive Committee comprised of approximately 50 members, including the officers elected by the members, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio as honorary chair, representatives of the various judicial associations, and the administrative executives of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Conference.

During the fiscal year 2010-11 biennium, the conference's legislative staff members released eight judicial impact statements and prepared several others in connection with the legislative platform. Letters or memos that include judicial analysis of legislation and platform issues were provided over 90 times to legislators. Legislative staff also responded to over 26 requests from legislators for judicial feedback on proposed legislation. Judges provided testimony at least 19 times during the 128th General Assembly and have provided testimony six times thus far in the 129th General Assembly.

In 2010, the Judicial Conference distributed its Policy Statement on Judicial Discretion and Mandatory Sentencing and its Policy Statement on Court Costs. The collaborative project on local court funding included a two-day training program on local budgeting and mediation and developing a Budget Resource Handbook for use by judges and their local funding authorities. Judges prepared bench aids on driving-under-suspension and drunk driving laws that were modified or changed in the 128th General Assembly. The Judicial Conference worked with executive branch agencies to encourage better use of indigent driver's alcohol treatment (IDAT) moneys. The conference also worked collaboratively with the Ohio Sentencing Commission and members of the Ohio General Assembly to ensure that Ohio's mandatory sentencing laws were consistent with both the U.S. and State of Ohio's constitutional right to a jury trial. Additionally, the conference collaborated with the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Public Defender's Office, the Prosecutor's Association, and other interested parties to identify ways to improve indigent defense.

Judges actively participated in the Justice Reinvestment project and sponsored a workshop to evaluate proposals. Judges assisted the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections with development of certification for sex offender treatment programs, a revised pre-sentence tool and a new evidenced-based risk assessment tool. Judges worked with the Department of Youth Services to develop standards for juvenile competency.

Staff members support over 20 standing and ad hoc judicial committees and coordinated more than 120 meetings per year in person or via conference call. Staff members also assist the six judicial associations to coordinate more than 30 to 40 meetings per year in person or via conference call. The conference employs 10 staff members.

More information regarding the Judicial Conference of Ohio is available at <http://www.ohiojudges.org>.

Agency Priorities

- Promote understanding and cooperation among the branches of government and provide information and services to the executive and legislative branches to improve the administration

of justice through sensible and practical legislation and collaboration at the state level, ensuring uniformity in the application of the law and practice throughout the state.

- Provide leadership to the judiciary by speaking on behalf of judges, providing information and services to judges and coordinating activities of the judicial associations.
- Promote public confidence in the judiciary by encouraging uniformity in the application of the law, rules, and practice and by enhancing the public's understanding of the judicial system.
- Expand innovation and efficiency in local courts and at the Judicial Conference. Serving as a central resource for these matters encourages uniformity throughout the state while allowing for individual solutions to fit local problems. Enhancing the website and deploying new communication and research tools will serve to meet this priority.
- Assist local courts with budget challenges.

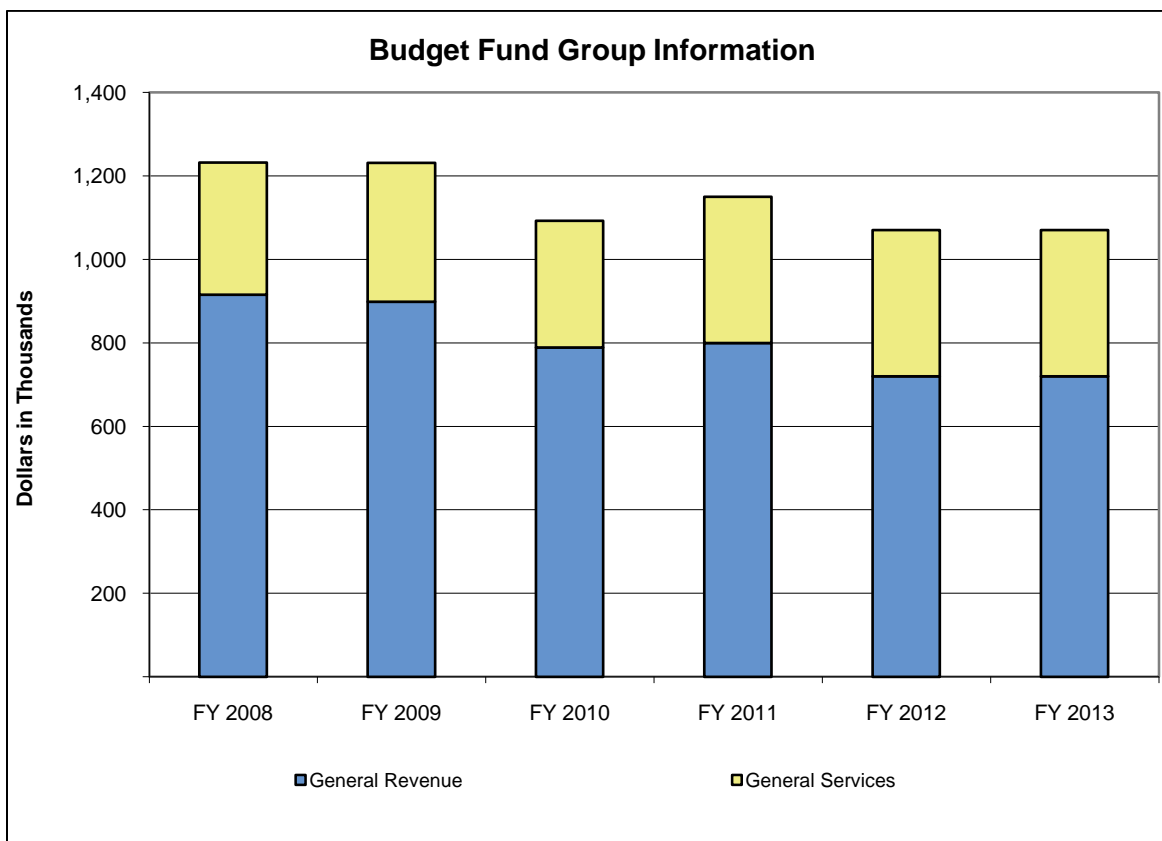
Funding Recommendation for FY2012 and FY2013

Funding Summary

- GRF: Funding for fiscal year 2012 is \$720,000 (or a 10.0% decrease from fiscal year 2011). Funding for fiscal year 2013 is \$720,000 (or no change from fiscal year 2012).
- All funds: Funding for fiscal year 2012 is \$1.1 million (or a 7.0% decrease from fiscal year 2011). Funding for fiscal year 2013 is \$1.1 million (or no change from fiscal year 2012).

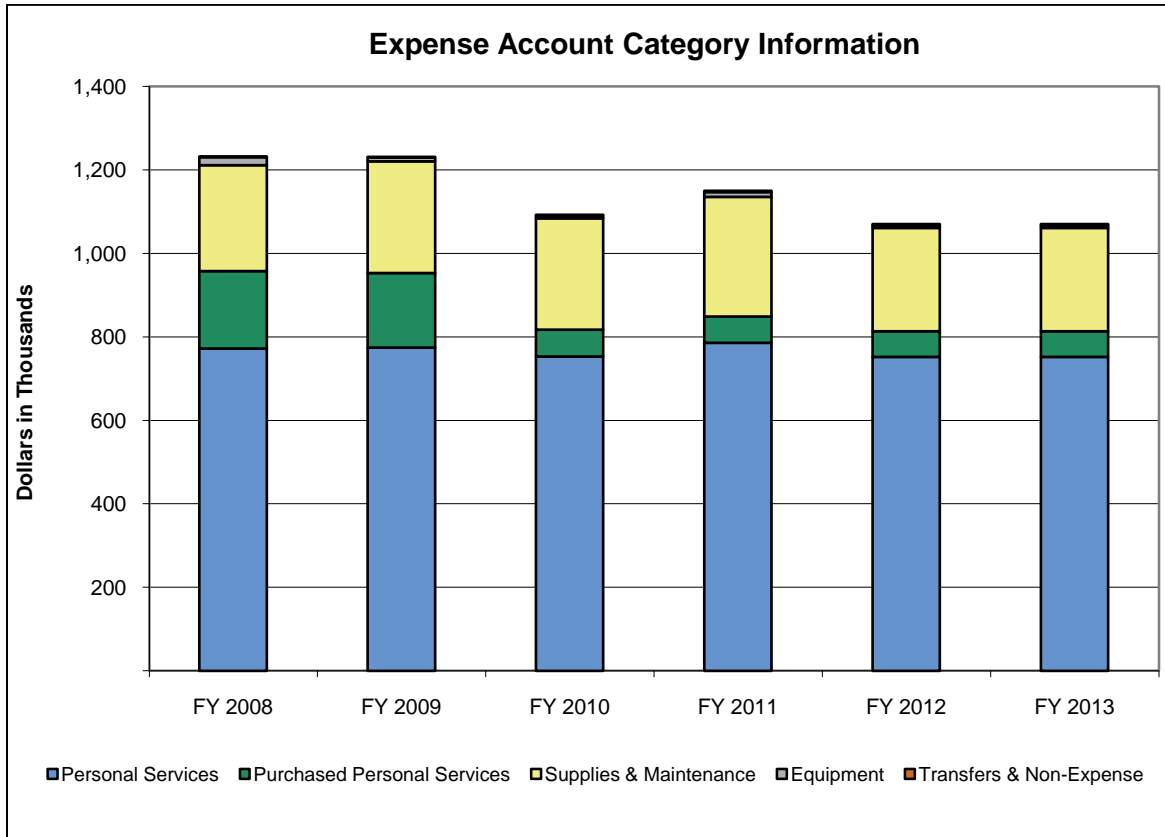
The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

- Promote understanding: Staff will review over 1,000 legislative bills, conduct research surveys, write letters to legislators, prepare 10 to 15 judicial impact statements, and provide judicial testimony 15 to 25 times. Staff members and judges will assist multiple collaborative groups.
- Encourage uniformity: Staff members will prepare and distribute bench aids after analyzing the impact of new laws and court decisions as well as update bench books and draft forms and rules to assist in implementation throughout the state.
- Promote the exchange of experience within the judiciary: Staff members will support over 20 standing and ad hoc judicial committees and coordinate more than 120 meetings per year in person or via conference call. Staff members will assist six judicial associations to coordinate 30 to 40 meetings per year in person or via conference call, many meetings involving 100 to 300 judges.
- Consider the business of justice and make recommendations: Court funding, jury and facility management, court costs and fees, and other issues of court administration will be considered and recommendations for improvement will be made to the judiciary and other government agencies.
- Consider the problems pertaining to the administration of justice: The system of justice, which includes a multitude of agencies and institutions that interact with courts and judges, will be considered and recommendations for improvement will be made to the judiciary and other government agencies.
- Preparation and publication of comprehensive Ohio Jury Instructions for use by Ohio judges: The committee will provide updates at least three times per year and as needed.
- Promote public confidence: Judges will be assisted with community outreach programs. Hundreds of copies of eight separate citizen guide brochures will be distributed throughout Ohio at no taxpayer expense. Judges will consider the role of the judge in the community and make recommendations for improvement.



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010			FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
General Revenue	916	899	789	800	1.4%	720	-10.0%	720	0.0%
General Services	316	332	303	350	15.4%	350	0.0%	350	0.0%
Totals	1,232	1,231	1,092	1,150	5.3%	1,070	-7.0%	1,070	0.0%

State of Ohio
Judicial Conference of Ohio



(in Thousands) Expense Account Category	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY10-11	FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
Personal Services	772	775	753	786	4.4%	752	-4.3%	752	0.0%
Purchased Personal Services	186	179	65	63	-3.4%	62	-1.6%	62	0.0%
Supplies & Maintenance	253	267	267	287	7.7%	247	-13.8%	247	0.0%
Equipment	19	10	6	12	91.9%	7	-43.7%	7	0.0%
Transfers & Non-Expense	1	1	2	3	24.2%	3	-9.1%	3	0.0%
Totals	1,232	1,231	1,092	1,150	5.3%	1,070	-7.0%	1,070	0.0%

Program Series 1: Judicial System Review (135A0)

The Judicial Conference is an independent agency and integral part of the judicial branch. The conference has one program series, the Judicial System Review, which contains one program also named Judicial System Review (135B1). This program studies the work of the several courts of Ohio, encourages uniformity in the application of the law, promotes an exchange of experience within the judiciary, reviews the system of justice throughout the state and recommends improvements. The conference's committees of judges provide expertise and practical insight and jury instructions. It provides information to the executive and legislative branches, reviews and comments on proposed legislation, and provides information to the public. Rotary funds support a database, an online directory, a website, assistance to six judicial associations and a comprehensive set of pattern jury instructions.

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2011	FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	800,000	720,000	-10.0%	720,000	0.0%
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	350,000	350,000	0.0%	350,000	0.0%
Total for Judicial System Review			1,150,000	1,070,000	-7.0%	1,070,000	0.0%

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Line Item Summary By Budget Fund Group

			Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	915,518	898,610	789,121	800,000	720,000	-10.0%	720,000	0.0%
Total for General Revenue			915,518	898,610	789,121	800,000	720,000	-10.0%	720,000	0.0%
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	316,177	332,420	303,222	350,000	350,000	0.0%	350,000	0.0%
Total for General Services			316,177	332,420	303,222	350,000	350,000	0.0%	350,000	0.0%
TOTAL Judicial Conference of Ohio			1,231,694	1,231,030	1,092,343	1,150,000	1,070,000	-7.0%	1,070,000	0.0%