

Office of the Consumers' Counsel

Role and Overview

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) is a state agency that represents consumers in Ohio's 4.5 million households regarding their electric, natural gas, telephone, and water services from investor-owned utilities. OCC's mission is to advocate for Ohio's residential utility consumers through representation and education in a variety of forums. To fulfill this mission, the OCC represents consumers in cases before state and federal regulatory agencies and courts including the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and the Supreme Court of Ohio, among others. The Consumers' Counsel's federal efforts include involvement with the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) where Ohioans are impacted by the decisions regarding energy and capacity markets and by the cost of electricity transmission. OCC's accomplishments in cases (including when working with others) have resulted in significant financial savings for residential consumers and at times for all utility customers, including business customers. The OCC also educates consumers about utility issues that affect them. This education is accomplished through OCC's website, social media, outreach efforts, and through publications for organizations and consumers throughout Ohio. The Ohio Attorney General appoints the nine members of the Consumers' Counsel Governing Board. The Chair of the Governing Board is Mr. Gene Krebs. The members serve three-year terms and represent three constituencies: residential consumers, family farmers, and labor. The Board is responsible for appointing the Consumers' Counsel and Deputy Consumers' Counsel who manage the agency. The OCC has approximately 40 employees.

More information regarding the Office of the Consumers' Counsel is available at www.occ.ohio.gov.

Agency Priorities

- Serve as the statutory representative for Ohio's residential utility consumers regarding their electric, gas, telephone, and water utility services.
- Advocate for residential consumers in legal proceedings at the state and federal levels for outcomes that promote the affordability of utility services with adequate service quality.
- Participate in legislative processes to assist with facilitating outcomes for affordable and quality utility services for residential consumers in Ohio, and assist members with constituent issues involving utility services.
- Educate consumers about important utility issues, including options in the competitive market, that will help them make wise choices and save money on their utility bills.
- Recruit and retain a staff with suitable knowledge and expertise for fulfilling the agency's mission, vision, and core values regarding Ohio consumers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

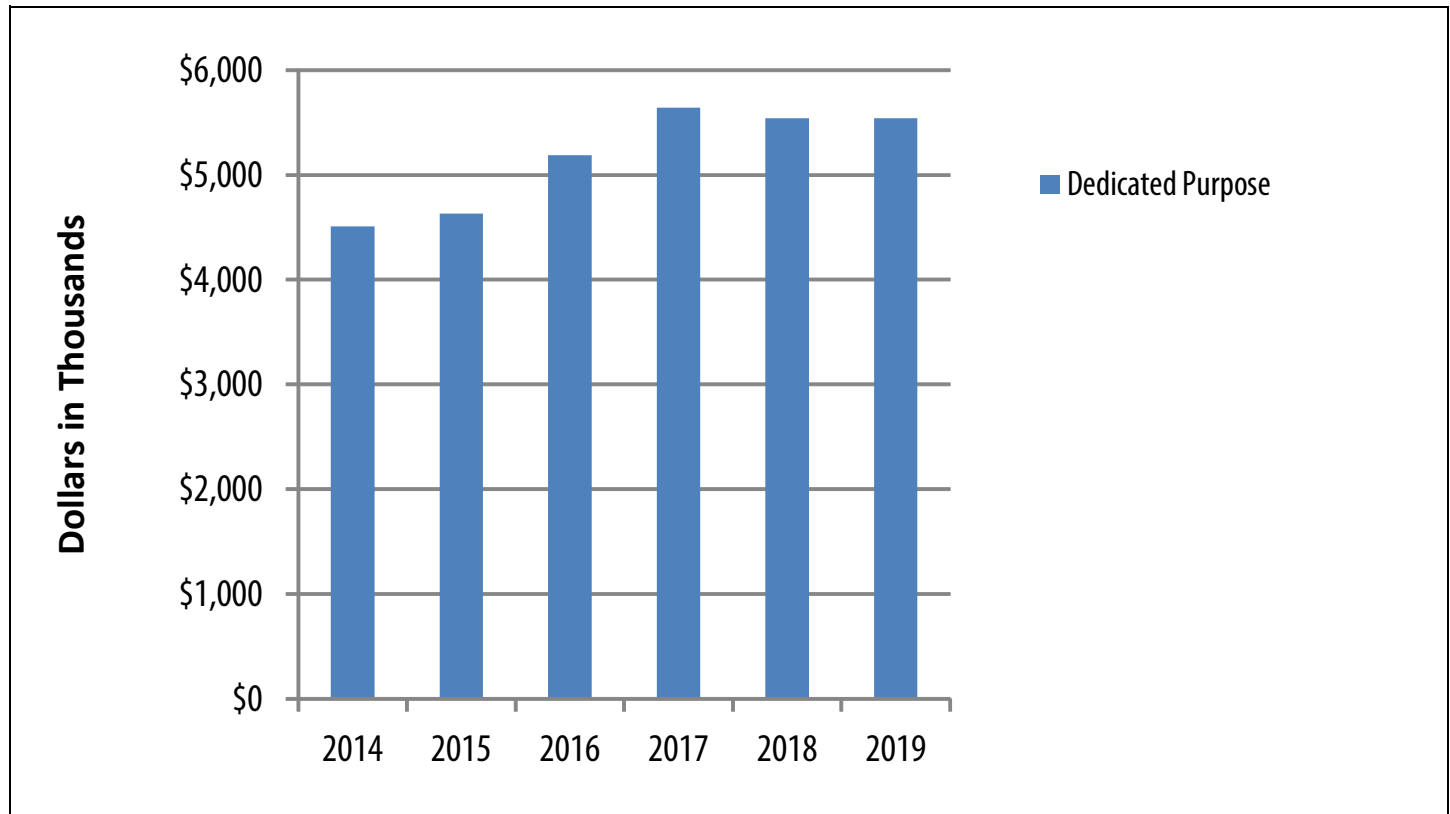
Funding Recommendation for 2018 and 2019

- All Funds: Funding for fiscal year 2018 is \$5.5 million (or a 1.8% decrease from fiscal year 2017). Funding for fiscal year 2019 is \$5.5 million (or a 0.0% increase from fiscal year 2018).

The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

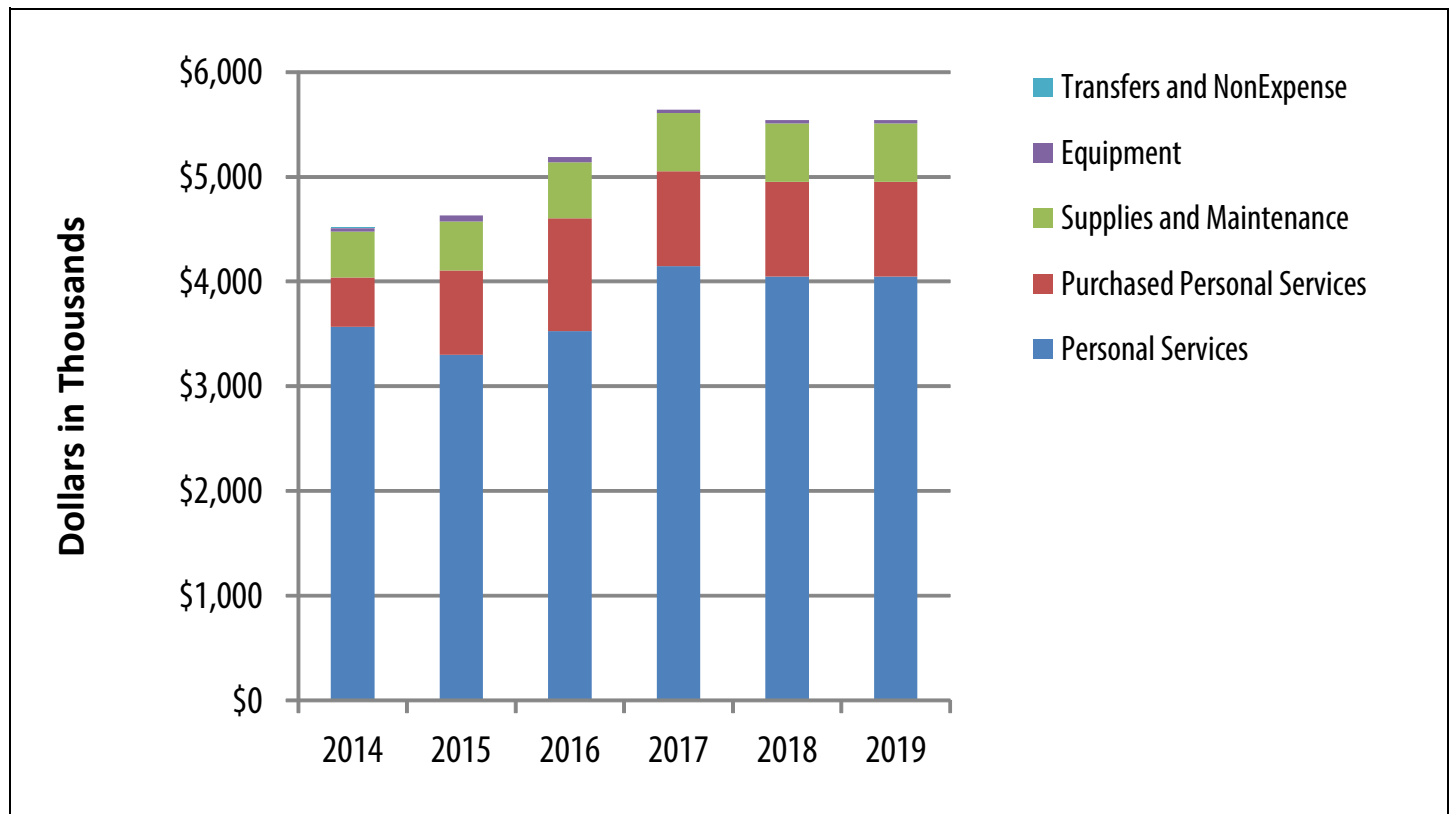
- Save Ohioans money on their utility bills through advocacy. In this regard, there are approximately 4.5 million consumer households that could collectively save hundreds of millions of dollars or more.
- The Consumers' Counsel will provide legal services on behalf of Ohio's residential utility consumers for litigation or settlement in cases where the affordability and quality of utility services are at issue.
- The Consumers' Counsel will participate in legislative processes to provide decision-makers and others with relevant information, analysis, and recommendations on impacts of potential legislation on Ohio utility consumers, including to assist members with constituent issues involving utility services.
- Provide education and outreach to empower Ohio consumers in their use of utility services through in-person speeches, publications, online information (including web site and social media), and other efforts.
- The Consumers' Counsel needs to recruit and retain employees with suitable knowledge and expertise in this highly technical field to be effective on behalf of Ohio consumers for lowering or moderating increases in their utility bills.

Budget Fund Group Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Budget Fund Group	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 16-17	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
Dedicated Purpose	4,509	4,629	5,186	5,641	8.8%	5,541	-1.8%	5,541	0.0%
Total	4,509	4,629	5,186	5,641	8.8%	5,541	-1.8%	5,541	0.0%

Expense Account Category Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Expense Account Category	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 16-17	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
Personal Services	3,570	3,300	3,525	4,149	17.7%	4,049	-2.4%	4,049	0.0%
Purchased Personal Services	469	808	1,079	902	-16.4%	902	0.0%	902	0.0%
Supplies and Maintenance	439	467	535	560	4.7%	560	0.0%	560	0.0%
Equipment	31	55	47	30	-36.0%	30	0.0%	30	0.0%
Transfers and Non-Expense	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	4,509	4,629	5,186	5,641	8.8%	5,541	-1.8%	5,541	0.0%

Office of the Consumers' Counsel

Program Series 1: Consumer Advocacy (148A0)

The Consumer Advocacy program (148B1) maintains the general operations of the Consumers' Counsel and provides support for legal representation, outreach, and education to Ohio's residential utility consumers.

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2017	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
5F50	053601	Operating Expenses	5,641,093	5,541,093	-1.8%	5,541,093	0.0%
Total for Consumer Advocacy			5,641,093	5,541,093	-1.8%	5,541,093	0.0%

State of Ohio**Office of the Consumers' Counsel****Line Item Summary by Budget Fund Group**

			Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
5F50	053601	Operating Expenses	4,509,074	4,629,232	5,185,888	5,641,093	5,541,093	-1.8%	5,541,093	0.0%
Total Dedicated Purpose			4,509,074	4,629,232	5,185,888	5,641,093	5,541,093	-1.8%	5,541,093	0.0%
Grand Total Office of the Consumers' Counsel			4,509,074	4,629,232	5,185,888	5,641,093	5,541,093	-1.8%	5,541,093	0.0%