

- Budget should allow commission to deliver its current level of dispute resolution and conflict management services
- Expansion of services unlikely given GRF budget

Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management

Holly Simpkins, Budget Analyst

ROLE

The mission of the Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management is to provide Ohioans with constructive, nonviolent forums, processes, and techniques for resolving disputes. The commission focuses on four program areas — schools, communities, courts, and state and local government — providing dispute resolution and conflict management training, facilitation and mediation services, consultation, and technical program assistance. A staff of seven full-time employees pursues this mandate, partnering with other institutions 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.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
7	\$766,000	\$765,000	\$572,000	\$601,000	Am. Sub. H.B. 94

OVERVIEW

During the FY 2000-2001 biennium, the commission focused primarily on three areas of activity: (1) the Truancy Prevention Through Mediation Project, (2) the School Conflict Management Program, and (3) the Early Childhood Conflict Management Program.

The FY 2002-2003 biennial budget provides a level of funding that should allow the commission to continue delivering its FY 2001 level of services. It does not provide any new funding that would permit expansion of the commission's services to more schools or communities or to provide more training or evaluation of existing programs. The commission had requested supplemental GRF funding for four education-related programs to address truancy prevention, early childhood programming, School Resource Officer training, and school conflict management. These supplemental funds were not appropriated. With virtually a "no-growth" GRF budget, the commission plans to look for other sources of revenue, including federal grants, to give it greater flexibility in making decisions on what programs and services to continue or expand.

The budget to implement the School Conflict Management Program is 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. Temporary law in the department's budget requires it to assist the commission in the development and dissemination of the program and to assign a departmental employee full-time to the commission to provide technical and administrative support.

Over the last six fiscal years, the commission's budget has primarily covered its payroll costs and secondarily supported personal services contracts. A very small percentage of the commission's budget has been used for grants (subsidy). This expenditure pattern is expected to continue in the FY 2002-2003 biennium, as the commission seeks to continue the delivery of dispute resolution and conflict management programs and services by using its own staff. 

FY 2002 - 2003 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>			<i>FY 1999:</i>	<i>FY 2000:</i>	<i>FY 2001:</i>	<i>FY 2002 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2001 to 2002:</i>	<i>FY 2003 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2002 to 2003:</i>
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted						
<i>CDR Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Commission</i>									
GRF	145-401	Commission on Dispute Resolution/Man	\$ 453,002	\$ 632,580	\$573,115	\$ 572,474	-0.11%	\$ 600,824	4.95%
GRF	145-402	School Conflict Management	\$ 1,316	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 454,318	\$ 632,580	\$ 573,115	\$ 572,474	-0.11%	\$ 600,824	4.95%
4B6	145-601	Gifts and Grants	\$ 76,662	\$ 47,252	\$39,357	\$ 160,590	308.04%	\$ 164,605	2.50%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 76,662	\$ 47,252	\$ 39,357	\$ 160,590	308.04%	\$ 164,605	2.50%
3S6	145-602	Dispute Resolution: Federal	\$ 13,429	\$ 17,583	\$39,019	\$ 32,917	-15.64%	\$ 0	-100.00%
Federal Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 13,429	\$ 17,583	\$ 39,019	\$ 32,917	-15.64%	\$ 0	-100.00%
<i>Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Commis</i>			\$ 544,409	\$ 697,415	\$ 651,491	\$ 765,981	17.57%	\$ 765,429	-0.07%