

# Ohio Historical Society

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- Total funding is \$14.69 million in FY 2008 and \$14.61 million in FY 2009, all GRF
- Newly created Historic Preservation Tax Credit program

## OVERVIEW

### Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Historical Society (OHS) is a chartered, not-for-profit corporation that receives state subsidies. It has operated continuously since 1885 and served 7,691 members in FY 2006. As prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC 149.30), the Society was chartered “to promote a knowledge of history and archeology, especially for Ohio.” A 21 member Board of Trustees governs OHS. The Governor appoints nine members and nine are elected by the Society’s membership. The Society’s Board elects the remaining three.

OHS oversees the operations and maintenance of historical, archeological, and natural history sites and museums throughout the state. Topics include African-American history, social and economic history, presidential history, and military history. These sites and museums received more than 300,000 visitors in FY 2006.

OHS maintains the official state archives, collecting and preserving documents pertaining to state and local government operations, as well as records of historical value that the Society may receive from public or private sources. Much of the state archives are accessible through the Society’s web site. Furthermore, OHS operates the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, which is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Recently, OHS has begun administering the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, authorized by H.B. 149 of the 126th General Assembly, effective as of April 2007. The new legislation creates a two-year trial program with a 25% tax credit for up to 100 projects per year. The tax credit will encourage private investment in historic buildings, generate additional jobs, and stimulate economic development within existing communities. The Society anticipates the credit will be used in conjunction with a federal historic rehabilitation tax credit that has been available since 1976. The Society’s Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) administers that program.

Am. Sub. H.B. 119 requires the Legislative Service Commission staff to study the feasibility and potential results of the state’s offering incentives for local control of historical sites currently operated by OHS. Local entities may include municipal corporations, counties, townships, local historical societies, and regional authorities. The act specifies that the incentives to be studied shall include tax credits, capital dollar contributions, and an endowment-matching program.

## Agency in Brief

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
295	\$14.69 million	\$14.61 million	\$14.69 million	\$14.61 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 119

\*Employee count obtained from the Ohio Historical Society for FY 2007. OHS is not a state agency, however, state operating funds support approximately 67% of OHS payroll costs.

## ANALYSIS OF THE BUDGET

### Single Program Series

### Ohio Historical Society

**Purpose:** This one program series comprises all of the Ohio Historical Society's functions, including preservation activities, museum management, grants activities, and site operations. The Society's budget has been divided into four programs: Educational and Interpretation Services; State Archives, Library, and Artifact Collections; Historic Preservation and Local History Support; and Institutional Advancement.

The Society operates 60 historical sites; preserves and maintains artifacts, documents, and primary source materials; manages the records of 3,609 sites and 441 districts on the National Register of Historic Places, 92,019 properties on the Ohio Historic Inventory, and 42,398 sites on the Ohio Archaeological Inventory; and educates the general public on Ohio history.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Ohio Historical Society, as well as the funding levels enacted in Am. Sub. H.B. 119.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	360-501	Operating Subsidy	\$3,649,244	\$3,649,252
GRF	360-502	Site and Museum Operations	\$8,501,781	\$8,501,788
GRF	360-504	Ohio Preservation Office	\$417,516	\$415,381
GRF	360-505	National Afro-American Museum	\$754,884	\$754,884
GRF	360-506	Hayes Presidential Center	\$514,323	\$514,323
GRF	360-508	State Historical Grants	\$853,000	\$775,000
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$14,690,748</b>	<b>\$14,610,628</b>
<b>Total Funding: Ohio Historical Society</b>			<b>\$14,690,748</b>	<b>\$14,610,628</b>

The following programs are within the OHS program series:

- **Program 1.01: Educational and Interpretation Services**
- **Program 1.02: State Archives, Library, and Artifact Collections**
- **Program 1.03: Historic Preservation and Local History Support**
- **Program 1.04: Institutional Advancement**

### Educational and Interpretation Services

**Program Description:** OHS provides an array of education and interpretation programs and services, delivered both through its network of historic sites and museums and directly to the education community. Museum education is included under the Society's mandate under Ohio Revised Code section 149.30. These programs support the 60 historic sites and museums within the state memorial system, the Statehouse Visitor's Center, and the Ohio Historical Center. Publication, public programs, and educational resources, including the National History Day in Ohio, are also provided to the Ohio public.

OHS invested in an educational and interpretive initiative in FY 2006, called REV It Up (Revitalizing Experiences for Visitors). For the Society to remain competitive, these changes were critical and involved revamping exhibits and allocating marketing resources to support this effort. Early

indications point to successful outcomes, but it will take more time to recoup these costs and realize a requisite boost in membership.

Additionally, another notable cost factor for OHS is the ongoing operating costs associated with supporting the Ohio Bicentennial. The Society opened expanded facilities and programs within the state memorial system: Adena in Chillicothe, the Dunbar House in Dayton, and Fort Meigs in Perrysburg.

**Funding Source:** GRF

**Implication of the Budget:** Funding will allow for a continuation of FY 2007 service levels in the Educational and Interpretation Services program. The appropriation level will allow the Society to continue current operations but will not permit further spending to renovate, replace, or fully maintain its resources. The recommendation could have adverse effects on maintenance, conservation of artifacts, operating hours, and retention of staff.

### Temporary Law Provisions

**Historical Grants (Section 299.10).** Of appropriation item 360-508, State Historical Grants, the bill specifies the following earmarks: \$60,000 in FY 2008 for the Paul Laurence Dunbar Home, \$75,000 in each fiscal year for the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, \$350,000 in each fiscal year for the Cincinnati Museum Center, and up to \$18,000 in FY 2008 for the Muskingum River Underground Railroad Historic Marker Project.

### State Archives, Library, and Artifact Collections

**Program Description:** OHS is mandated to administer the archives program for the state of Ohio and its political subdivisions, provide historical information to state agencies, and collect, preserve, and make available historical objects, specimens, manuscripts, and artifacts. This program provides for the acquisition, appraisal, organization, and preservation of the over three million museum artifacts, books, historical manuscripts, photographs, and governmental archival records.

**Funding Source:** GRF

**Implication of the Budget:** Funding will allow for a moderate increase over FY 2007 funding levels for the State Archives, Library, and Artifact Collections program. Additional funds will be used for hiring up to four archivists specializing in the areas of electronic records, state government records, local government records, and processing. Funding will also go towards conducting a comprehensive review of storage space.

### Historic Preservation and Local History Support

**Program Description:** The Historic Preservation and Local History Support program of the Ohio Historical Society encompasses two distinct programs.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) is the official historic preservation office of Ohio under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470 Title I, Section 101). The OHPO identifies, evaluates, registers, and protects Ohio's historic properties. In part, its activities are regulatory. The Office nominates properties to the National Register, certifies local governments, and reviews applications for federal rehabilitation tax credits.

The Local History Office assists over 400 local historical societies and nearly 400 other history-related organizations in the state. It also administers the Ohio Historical Markers program.

**Funding Source:** GRF

**Implication of the Budget:** Funding provides for continuing FY 2007 funding levels for the Historic Preservation and Local History Support program. The appropriation level will allow OHS to continue current operations but will restrict technical services and support. For instance, the current processing time for National Register nominations will continue to delay and hinder development projects. Staff retention may also become an issue.

**New Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.** Funding increased to line item 360-504, Ohio Preservation Office, to administer the newly created Historic Preservation Tax Credit program. This increase will help OHS carry out the activities of the new tax credit program, in collaboration with the Department of Development. This program will require 1.5 additional FTEs.

## **Institutional Advancement**

**Program Description:** The Ohio Historical Society's Institutional Advancement program manages activities to increase nonstate funding support for the Society and to promote the Society's program and services to its audiences (both current and potential). Development activities, including a marketing program and membership building serve to increase funding for the Society's programs. The Society hopes that a greater emphasis on this program will result in increased revenue, additional dues-paying members, and more funding from private and public sources.

**Funding Source:** GRF

**Implication of the Budget:** Funding will not allow the Society to devote any additional resources, such as new staff, to seeking new grants and gifts or to marketing projects that earn revenue for the Society. This may hinder the Society from meeting its increased membership and attendance goals, which would reduce its reliance on state funds.

**FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts**

**All Fund Group**

**Line Item Detail by Agency**

*FY 2005:*      *FY 2007 Adj.*      *FY 2008*      *% Change*      *FY 2009*      *% Change*  
*FY 2006:*      *Appropriations:*      *Appropriations:*      *2007 to 2008:*      *Appropriations:*      *2008 to 2009:*

**Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

**Version: Enacted**

**OHS Historical Society, Ohio**

Agency	Line Item	Description	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007 Adj.	FY 2008	% Change 2007 to 2008	FY 2009	% Change 2008 to 2009
GRF 360-403	Adena-Worthington Home		\$ 145,500	---	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
GRF 360-501	Operating Subsidy		\$ 3,288,274	\$ 3,288,274	\$ 3,288,274	\$ 3,649,244	10.98%	\$ 3,649,252	0.00%
GRF 360-502	Site and Museum Operations		\$ 7,993,225	\$ 8,388,725	\$ 8,388,725	\$ 8,501,781	1.35%	\$ 8,501,788	0.00%
GRF 360-503	Ohio Bicentennial Commission		\$ 56,419	---	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
GRF 360-504	Ohio Preservation Office		\$ 281,041	\$ 281,041	\$ 281,041	\$ 417,516	48.56%	\$ 415,381	-0.51%
GRF 360-505	National Afro-American Museum		\$ 754,884	\$ 754,884	\$ 754,884	\$ 754,884	0.00%	\$ 754,884	0.00%
GRF 360-506	Hayes Presidential Center		\$ 509,231	\$ 509,231	\$ 509,231	\$ 514,323	1.00%	\$ 514,323	0.00%
GRF 360-508	State Historical Grants		\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,097,500	\$ 1,072,500	\$ 853,000	-20.47%	\$ 775,000	-9.14%
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 14,778,574</b>	<b>\$ 14,319,655</b>	<b>\$ 14,294,655</b>	<b>\$ 14,690,748</b>	<b>2.77%</b>	<b>\$ 14,610,628</b>	<b>-0.55%</b>
<b>Historical Society, Ohio Total</b>			<b>\$ 14,778,574</b>	<b>\$ 14,319,655</b>	<b>\$ 14,294,655</b>	<b>\$ 14,690,748</b>	<b>2.77%</b>	<b>\$ 14,610,628</b>	<b>-0.55%</b>