

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

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# LBO Redbook

## Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

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### Quick look...

- The Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA): (1) advises the Governor, the Ohio General Assembly, and state government agencies on all matters affecting Hispanic/Latino Ohioans, (2) connects Latino communities, and (3) builds the capacity of Latino community organizations.
- The Commission consists of an 11-member board appointed by the Governor and is supported by three full-time and one intermittent staff. The executive budget will allow the Commission to maintain staff and service levels.
- The executive budget proposes \$516,248 in FY 2026 and \$533,670 in FY 2027.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 148321, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$430,508	\$409,354	\$338,343	\$490,000	\$466,248	\$483,670
% change	-4.9%	-17.3%	44.8%	-4.8%	3.7%
<b>Dedicated Purpose Fund 6010 ALI 148602, Special Initiatives</b>					
\$86,220	\$656,869	\$395,582	\$125,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
% change	661.9%	-39.8%	-68.4%	-60.0%	0.0%
<b>Total funding:</b>					
\$516,728	\$1,066,223	\$733,925	\$615,000	\$516,248	\$533,670
% change	106.3%	-31.2%	-16.2%	-16.1%	3.4%

### Agency overview

The purpose of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA) is to advise the Governor, the Ohio General Assembly, and state government agencies on all matters affecting Hispanic/Latino Ohioans. The Commission also connects these communities across the state of Ohio and builds networks through organizational partnerships and grants. The Commission serves over half a million individuals that make up Ohio's Hispanic/Latino community. The Commission works with the five Hispanic chambers of commerce to assist Hispanic-owned businesses.

The Commission consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor. The Commission's day-to-day operations are the responsibility of the Executive Director, who is appointed by the governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Commission has three full-time and one intermittent staff that are dedicated to three program areas: the Public Policy Center, the Latino Community Network, and the Organizations Development Center. These programs are discussed in more detail below.

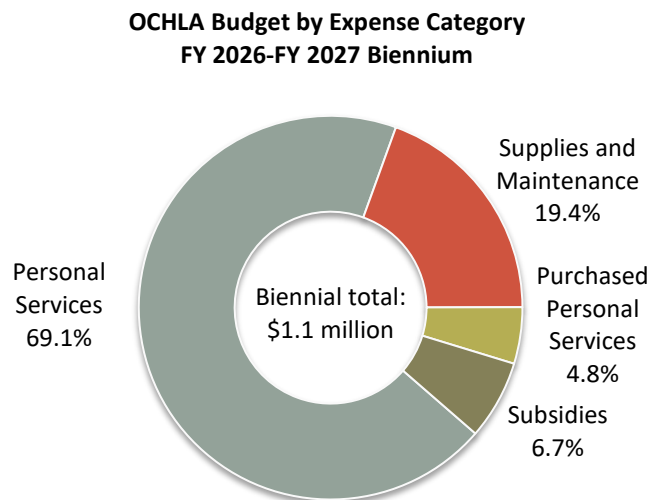
## Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

### Overview

The Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA) receives 90.5% of its funding from the GRF; the remaining 9.5% is from grants, gifts, and other revenue credited to the Gifts and Miscellaneous Fund (Fund 6010), a fund within the Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) Group. From both revenue sources combined, the executive budget appropriates \$516,248 for FY 2026 and \$533,670 for FY 2027. These amounts appear to be sufficient for the Commission to retain its existing three full-time and one intermittent staff. According to the Commission, their decrease in requested GRF appropriations stem from reduced spending in the previous biennium due to staff vacancies. Requested funding remained flat. Though the Commission is receiving less GRF funding than in the previous biennium, they are confident that their staff will be able to accomplish the stated goals of the organization. In the upcoming FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium, the Commission will continue to provide constituent services, inform and advise executive and legislative leaders on related policy matters, and develop, coordinate, and assist public and private organizations that serve Spanish-speaking people.

### Executive recommendations by expense category

The chart below shows the \$1.1 million proposed budget for the biennium by expense category. Of the Commission's FY 2026-FY 2027 biennial expenses, personal services account for 69.1%, 19.4% for supplies and maintenance, including rent and information technology and other services provided by the Department of Administrative Services, 6.7% for subsidies, and 4.8% for purchased personal services.



### Latino Mental Health Navigator Project

In FY 2020, the Commission first received a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (to be renamed the Department of Behavioral Health under the proposed budget) to administer and finance the Latino Mental Health Navigator Project. The

project's purpose is to reduce disparities in availability, accessibility, and quality of behavioral health care services for the Hispanic/Latino community.

The Mental Health Navigator projects identified and targeted structural barriers, promoted engagement in mental health care, and facilitated navigation of systems of care. As a result of the interagency agreement, the Latino Mental Health Navigator grant funded seven Latino-serving organizations and served close to 20,000 clients last year. Since its inception, the Commission has received four rounds of funding for the project: (1) \$150,000 in October 2019, (2) \$885,939 in January 2022, (3) \$325,000 in July 2023, and (4) \$325,000 in December 2024. The Commission plans to seek continued funding for the Latino Mental Health Navigator Project.

## **Program offices**

The Commission has three program offices to carry out its mission: the Public Policy Center, the Latino Community Network, and the Organizations Development Center. Each office sponsors community programs and activities.

### **Public Policy Center**

The Public Policy Center builds the civic engagement capacities of Hispanic Ohioans and advises the Governor and General Assembly on issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino community. The Center advises the Governor and the state legislature on issues that include education and workforce development, justice and civil rights, health and safety, and immigration.

### **Latino Community Network**

The Latino Community Network is run by a full-time community liaison and connects over 500 Hispanic-serving organizations with the nearly half a million members of Ohio's Latino community. The Network serves as a hub to engage with community leaders on a regular basis; uses social media, marketing, and e-campaigns; and assists communities with challenges, such as a lack of English language skills and knowledge of how to navigate the American system. Additionally, the Network conducts training events on relevant issues that bring together Hispanic-serving organizations, state government, and other local resources, and hosts the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala in October of each year.

### **Organizations Development Center**

The Organizations Development Center builds the capacity of private and nonprofit organizations that serve Hispanic Ohioans. The Center develops training programs for community leadership, workforce development training programs, grant writing classes, civic engagement initiatives, and other training sessions that increase capacity in the Latino community. The Center generates revenue through gifts and grants.