

# Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management

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- Commission's dilemma: How to contain increasing costs of doing business while maintaining service delivery system?

## OVERVIEW

### Duties and Responsibilities

The Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management's mission is to provide Ohioans with constructive, nonviolent forums, processes, and techniques for resolving disputes. The Commission focuses on three program areas – schools, community and court connections, and state and local government – providing dispute resolution and conflict management training, facilitation and mediation services, consultation, and technical program assistance.

With a current staffing level of six full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, the Commission pursues this broad mandate, partnering with other institutions to leverage resources and 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

The following table selectively summarizes Commission appropriations and staffing information.

Commission In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
6	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$470,000	\$470,000	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

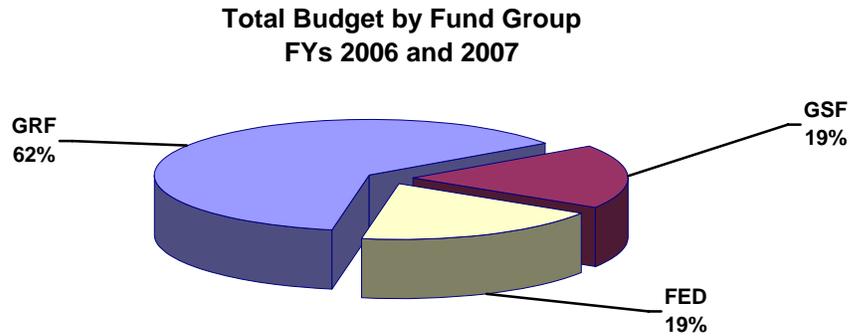
\*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 2005.

### Vetoed Provisions

The Commission is not directly affected by any of the items contained in Am. Sub. H.B. 66 that were vetoed by the Governor.

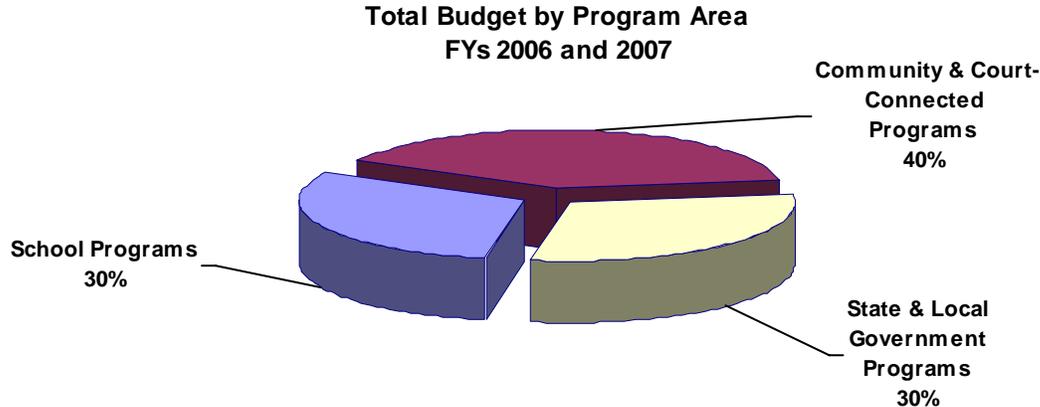
### Expense by Fund Group Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total appropriations (FYs 2006 and 2007) by fund group. This information is shown for the GRF and for all funds.



### Expense by Program Area Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total appropriations (FYs 2006 and 2007) by program area. This information is shown for the GRF and for all funds.



### Notable Fiscal Matters

From a fiscal perspective, the Commission most notably:

- Eliminated one full-time equivalent (FTE) staff person in FY 2004;
- Experienced, in FY 2005, the loss of the GRF-funded school conflict management grant program, which was jointly administered by the Department of Education and the

Commission, as the funding was eliminated under Am. Sub. H.B. 95, the main operating appropriations act of the 125th General Assembly;

- Decreased its operating expenses by eliminating staff wage increases and out-of-state travel, cutting in-state travel, eliminating staff professional development, and reducing printing and mailing costs by using its web site to distribute information; and
- Expects, based on estimates from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), a significant future increase in the cost of fiscal and payroll services provided by DAS's Central Services Agency.

## ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

This analysis of the enacted budget focuses on the Commission's services and activities, which are organized into the three program series noted immediately below.

- **Program Series 1: School Programs**
- **Program Series 2: Community and Court Programs**
- **Program Series 3: State and Local Government Programs**

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### Program Series 1

### School Programs

**Purpose:** To provide primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions with collaborative, nonviolent conflict management skills.

**Program Description:** This set of Commission services and activities involves: (1) providing public elementary, middle, and high schools training, resource materials, and technical assistance to implement building and district-wide conflict management programs, and (2) working with Ohio colleges and universities to integrate conflict management into undergraduate and graduate education curricula.

**Funding Sources:** (1) GRF, (2) nonfederal grants, and (3) reimbursement for the cost of printing publications and resource materials.

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** With the amount of funding appropriated in the enacted budget, the Commission anticipates being able to maintain current school program service levels due to its recent success at leveraging GRF dollars with federal and private grants funds and its focus on collaborative programming and service delivery.

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**Program Series 2****Community and Court-Connected Programs**

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**Purpose:** To promote dispute resolution processes and affect conflict management skills by working with community organizations and courts to provide constructive, nonviolent forums and methods for resolving disputes.

**Program Description:** Under the Community and Court-Connected Program, the Commission: (1) works to improve elementary, middle, and high school attendance by using mediation to address issues that can cause repeated unexcused absences and lead to juvenile court involvement (Truancy Prevention Through Mediation Program), and (2) provides consultation and technical assistance to initiate and expand community-based dispute resolution programs and services.

**Funding Sources:** (1) GRF, (2) nonfederal grants, (3) reimbursement for the cost of printing publications and resource materials, and (4) federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant.

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** With the amount of funding appropriated in the enacted budget, the Commission anticipates that it will be able to maintain current community and court-connected program service levels due to its recent success at leveraging GRF dollars with federal and private grant funds and its focus on collaborative programming and service delivery.

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**Program Series 3****State and Local Government Programs**

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**Purpose:** To work with state and local government agencies to increase the use of dispute resolution and conflict management in all aspects of public policy development.

**Program Description:** This set of programs includes the following services and activities: (1) workplace mediation, a service that provides state employees access to mediation services to informally resolve workplace conflict, (2) conflict resolution services for government officials, a program that provides a referral network of local officials who assist with the assessment and resolution of a variety of government disputes, and (3) public disputes, a program that provides impartial third-party dispute resolution assistance to elected and appointed government officials, community leaders, and the public.

**Funding Sources:** (1) GRF, (2) nonfederal grants, and (3) reimbursement for the cost of printing publications and resource materials.

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** According to the Commission, in the past two fiscal years, it has experienced increased demand for public policy facilitation and in-house training services, attributable in part to the elimination of the Office of Budget and Management's Office of Quality Services. With the amount of funding appropriated in the enacted budget, the Commission anticipates that it will be able to maintain current state and local government program service levels due to its recent success at leveraging GRF dollars with federal and private grant funds and its focus on collaborative programming and service delivery. In addition, GRF funds in this program area are, in part, offset through Ohio's Statewide Indirect Cost Allocation Plan.