

Ohio Historical Society

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- Continued funding at FY 2005 levels may curtail some services and staff levels
- \$1.1 million in each fiscal year is earmarked for local historical projects and institutions

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. 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.

The Ohio Revised Code mandates many Ohio Historical Society functions, which include:

- Administering a state historical museum and maintaining it for public use;
- Establishing a historic marker system;
- Publishing historical information;
- Engaging in research;
- Collecting, preserving, and making available manuscripts, print collections and historical objects, and artifacts pertaining to the history of Ohio;
- Establishing and operating the National Museum of Afro-American History and Culture; and
- Preserving the state archives.

To comply with these mandates, OHS oversees the operations and maintenance of historical, archeological, and natural history sites and museums throughout the state. The Society operates 60 historical sites, preserves and maintains the official state archives, artifacts, documents, and primary source materials, manages the records of more than 3,500 sites and 440 districts on the National Register of Historic Places, 89,200 properties on Ohio's Historic Inventory, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and nearly 38,500 sites on the Ohio Archaeological Inventory, and educates the general public on Ohio history.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
278	\$14,319,655	\$14,294,655	\$14,319,655	\$14,294,655	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Ohio Historical Society in September 2005. Appropriations for the next biennium will support up to 291 employees.

Vetoed Provisions

There were no vetoed provisions for the Ohio Historical Society.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Ohio Historical Society is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1**Ohio Historical Society**

Purpose: To perform various functions, including preservation activities, museum management, grants activities, and site operations.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Ohio Historical Society, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	360-501	Operating Subsidy	\$3,288,274	\$3,288,274
GRF	360-502	Site Operations	\$8,388,725	\$8,388,725
GRF	360-504	Ohio Preservation Office	\$281,041	\$281,041
GRF	360-505	Afro-American Museum	\$754,884	\$754,884
GRF	360-506	Hayes Presidential Center	\$509,231	\$509,231
GRF	360-508	Historical Grants	\$1,097,500	\$1,072,500
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$14,319,655	\$14,294,655
Total Funding: Ohio Historical Society			\$14,319,655	\$14,294,655

This analysis focuses on the following specific programs within the Ohio Historical Society 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: The Ohio Historical Society provides education and interpretation programs and services, delivered both through its network of historic sites and museums and directly to the education community. 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.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted appropriation level will allow the Ohio Historical Society to continue current operations but will not permit further spending to renovate, replace, or fully maintain its resources. The Hayes Presidential Center, for instance, has experienced higher costs for employee health care, energy, and vendor services. An appropriation increase of \$250,000 over FY 2005 funding levels will permit a slight increase in staffing levels in the Educational and Interpretation Services program.

State Archives, Library, and Artifact Collections

Program Description: The Ohio Historical Society 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.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted appropriation for FY 2006 and FY 2007 will allow the Ohio Historical Society to continue current State Archives, Library, and Artifact Collections program operations.

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) identifies, evaluates, registers, and protects Ohio's historic properties. The Local History Office assists over 400 local historical societies and nearly 400 other history-related organizations in the state. It administers the Ohio Historical Markers program.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted budget provides funding for the Historic Preservation and Local History Support program for FYs 2006 and 2007 at FY 2005 funding levels. The appropriation level will allow the Ohio Historical Society 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.

The Historic Grants appropriation item is funded at approximately \$1.1 million in each fiscal year. These funds are earmarked for local history programs and institutions, including: \$250,000 in each fiscal year for the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland; \$225,000 in each fiscal year to the Great Lakes Historical Society in Vermilion; \$75,000 in each fiscal year to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati for the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education; \$100,000 in each fiscal year to the Art Academy of Cincinnati; and \$250,000 in each fiscal year to the Cincinnati Museum Center; \$12,500 in each fiscal year to the Roseville Historical Society; \$125,000 in each fiscal year to the Harbor Heritage

Society Steamship Mather in Cleveland; \$35,000 in each fiscal year to the Castle Farm project in the City of Mason; and \$25,000 in fiscal year 2006 to the Springboro Historical Society Heritage Triangle.

Related temporary law restricts the Ohio Historical Society from charging or retaining an administrative, service, or processing fee for distributing grants or subsidies that the General Assembly has provided to other entities for their site related programs. The Society serves as the fiduciary agent for the distribution of such grants and subsidies to the recipient organizations.

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.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted funding levels for the Institutional Advancement program in FY 2006 and FY 2007 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. The restriction may hinder the Society from meeting its increased membership goals and reducing its reliance on state funds.