

FY 2008 - 09 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (Ethics Commission) is an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. The purpose of the Ethics Commission is to promote and enforce high standards of ethical conduct in government and to build and maintain confidence in public servants.

As part of the Enabling Strategies strategic area, the Ethics Commission is dedicated to restoring public trust in the administration of government by informing the public and private sector about the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics laws and by seeking strict compliance with these laws. The Ethics Commission is authorized to investigate complaints and render advisory opinions related to the following County or municipal ordinances: Code of Ethics/Conflicts of Interest; Lobbyist Registration and Reporting; Citizens' Bill of Rights; Ethical Campaign Practices; and Whistleblowing. Community outreach and educational programs are also crucial components of the Ethics Commission. The Ethics Commission hosts a wide array of programs to educate the public on issues concerning ethics, good governance, and accountability through town hall meetings, panel discussions, training workshops, and local and national conferences and forums.

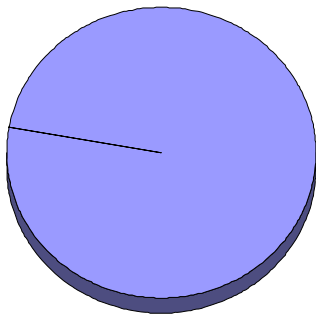
The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction extending to municipalities within Miami-Dade County that are covered by one or more of the ordinances under the Ethics Commission's authority. Its jurisdiction also extends to lobbyists, contractors, and vendors.

FY 2008-09 Adopted Budget

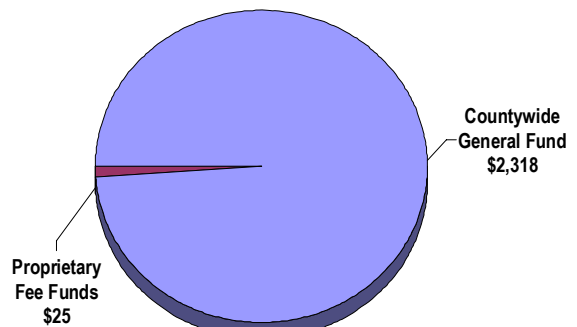
Expenditures by Activity (dollars in thousands)

Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

\$2,343

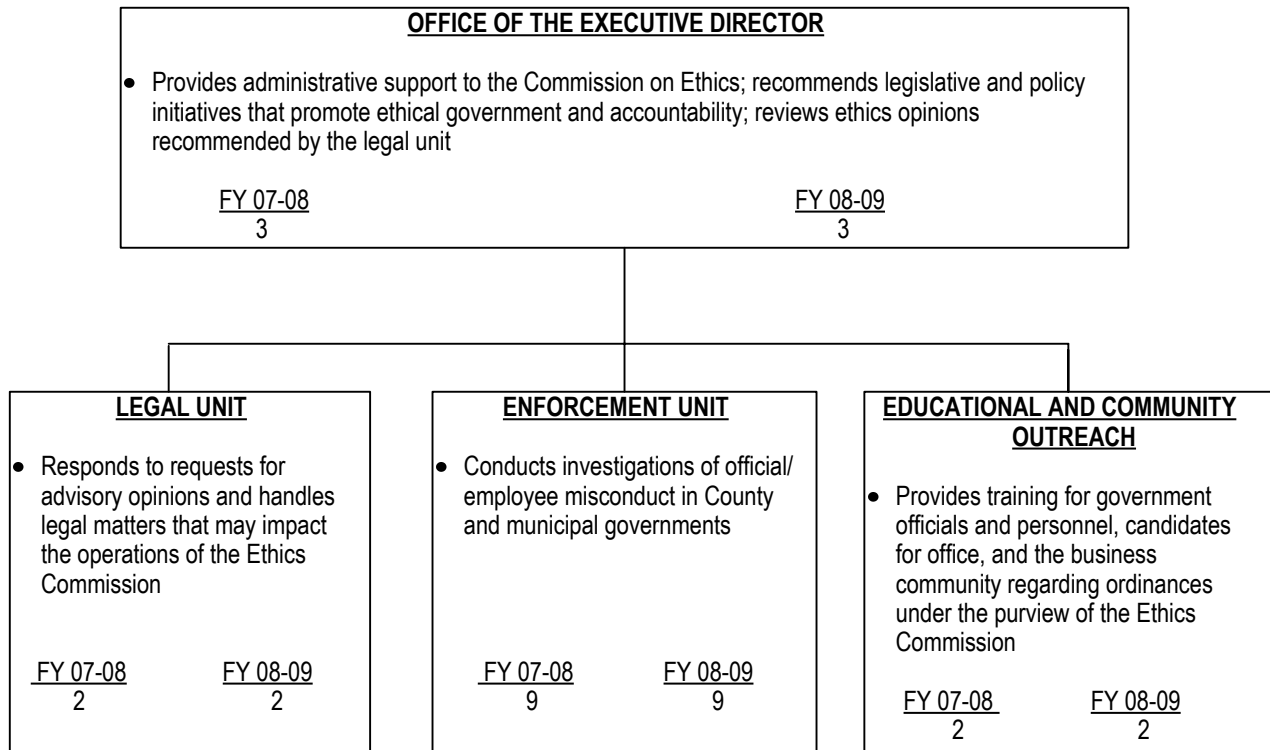


Revenues by Source (dollars in thousands)



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TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 06-07	Budget FY 07-08	Adopted FY 08-09
Revenue Summary			
General Fund Countywide	1,965	2,222	2,318
Lobbyist Trust Fund	25	25	25
Total Revenues	1,990	2,247	2,343
Operating Expenditures Summary			
Salary	1,436	1,582	1,684
Fringe Benefits	366	413	444
Other Operating	180	239	205
Capital	8	13	10
Total Operating Expenditures	1,990	2,247	2,343

(dollars in thousands)	Total Funding		Total Positions	
Expenditure By Program	Budget FY 07-08	Adopted FY 08-09	Budget FY 07-08	Adopted FY 08-09
Strategic Area: Enabling Strategies				
Commission on Ethics and Public Trust	2,247	2,343	16	16
Total Operating Expenditures	2,247	2,343	16	16

SELECTED ITEM HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS

Line Item Highlights	(dollars in thousands)				
	Actual FY 05-06	Actual FY 06-07	Budget FY 07-08	Actual FY 07-08	Budget FY 08-09
Travel	4	5	6	0	6
In-Service Training	1	1	2	0	1

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DIVISION: COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust promotes and enforces high standards of ethical conduct in government and builds and maintains confidence in public servants.

- Recommends legislative and policy initiatives that promote ethical government and accountability; serves as community liaison for outreach activities, including speeches, media events, reports, and publications
- Tries cases before the Ethics Commission and refers cases for criminal prosecution or other disposition(s) with appropriate agencies
- Responds to requests for advisory opinions by officials, employees, and contractors under the authority of the Ethics Commission
- Conducts investigations of official/employee misconduct in County and municipal governments and files complaints with the Ethics Commission or processes complaints that are filed by the general public to be heard by the Ethics Commission
- Provides training for government officials and personnel, candidates for office, and the business community regarding ordinances under the purview of the Ethics Commission

Strategic Plan Outcome - Measures

- ES9-2: Alignment of priorities throughout the organization

Objectives	Measures	FY 06-07		FY 07-08		FY 08-09
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
Improve the image of County Government	Number of individuals receiving Ethics training*	1,650	948	1,650	1,000	1,000

* The training target has been revised to reflect more accurate timeline for training sessions

BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Continue to provide the public with access to register their complaints and concerns via the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust "Ethics Complaint Hotline"
- Continue to increase the public's awareness of the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and its mission
- Increase the public's awareness of Whistleblowing legislation and provide the public access to register their concerns

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Budget Enhancements or Reductions and Additional Comments

- In March 2007, the Ethics Commission established the Ethics, Integrity, and Accountability (EIA) Task Force to examine the County's Ethics Ordinance as well as other County initiatives that foster open and transparent government in an effort to maintain public trust; a final report with recommendations will be presented to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners in the summer of 2008
- In FY 2007-08, the Ethics Commission expanded its model student Ethics Program to reach approximately 200 students in alternative schools; the program is administered by Miami-Dade Public Schools
- In FY 2007-08, the Ethics Commission began a series of ethics workshops for board members and executives of non-profit agencies receiving County funding
- In FY 2008-09, the Ethics Commission will continue to provide ethics training and community outreach to County departments and municipalities and will develop a training video to assist with these activities
- In FY 2008-09, the Ethics Commission will continue to render advisory opinions and review ethics complaints related to the following County or municipal ordinances: Code of Ethics/Conflicts of Interest; Lobbyists Registration and Reporting; Citizen's Bill of Rights; Ethical Campaign Practices; Whistleblowing; and will continue to pursue legislative changes to strengthen County ordinances and rules promoting greater accountability and transparency
- In FY 2008-09, the Ethics Commission will continue to work with the Department of Human Resources to implement the online ethics refresher training course and the online whistleblowing course for County employees
- In FY 2008-09, the Ethics Commission will hold its second annual Ethics and the Media Conference
- In FY 2008-09 the Ethics Task Force will be recommending that the Board of County Commissioners establish a new sanction for the Ethics Commission to impose against individuals that violate the ethics ordinance; the new sanction would require offenders to turn over any profits received as a result of their unethical behavior; this activity may generate additional revenues for the County
- The FY 2008-09 Adopted Budget includes two restored positions; one Investigator and one Community Outreach Specialist, if revenues are generated to support additional positions, overages will be granted during FY 2008-09

Department Operational Unmet Needs

Description	Startup Costs/ Non Recurring Costs	Recurring Costs	Positions
Hire one Legal Secretary to assist in responding to legal matter and provide research support	\$2	\$38	1
Total	\$2	\$38	1