Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

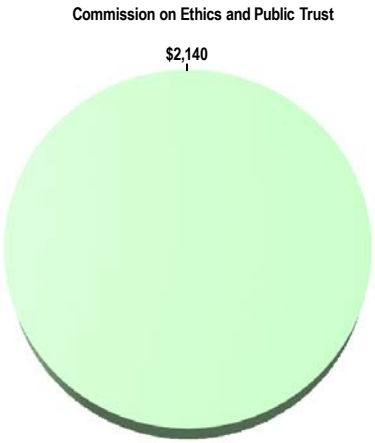
The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (Ethics Commission) is an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. The purpose of the Ethics Commission is to promote and enforce high standards of ethical conduct in government and to build and maintain confidence in public servants.

As part of the General Government strategic area, the Ethics Commission is dedicated to reinforcing 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 and Conflict 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's mission. 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, and training workshops, as well as local and national conferences and forums.

The Ethics Commission, by Board ordinance, has jurisdiction extending to municipalities within Miami-Dade County. Its jurisdiction also extends to certain lobbyists, contractors, and vendors.

FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget

Expenditures by Activity
(dollars in thousands)



Revenues by Source
(dollars in thousands)

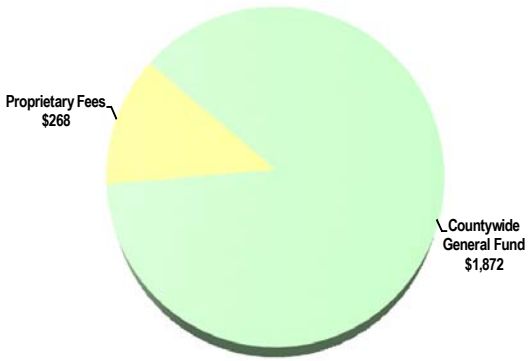


TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Provides administrative support to the Ethics Commission; recommends legislative and policy initiatives that promote ethical government and accountability; reviews ethics opinions recommended by the legal unit; supervises and participates in ethics training programs for public officials, employees, and candidates for elected office
- Provides training for government officials and personnel, candidates for office, students, and the business community regarding ordinances under the purview of the Ethics Commission and ethical practices in government
- Responds to requests for advisory opinions and handles legal matters that may impact the operations of the Ethics Commission
- Conducts investigations of official/employee misconduct in County and municipal governments

FY 14-15	FY 15-16
14	14

The Department's FY 2015-16 Table of Organization includes one part-time position totaling 0.5 FTE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 12-13	Actual FY 13-14	Budget FY 14-15	Proposed FY 15-16
Revenue Summary				
General Fund Countywide	1,712	1,717	1,835	1,872
Lobbyist Trust Fund	119	125	70	70
Transfer From Other Funds	4	0	0	0
Carryover	34	136	0	143
Fees and Charges	53	41	40	55
Total Revenues	1,922	2,019	1,945	2,140
Operating Expenditures Summary				
Salary	1,296	1,347	1,365	1,426
Fringe Benefits	253	314	372	388
Court Costs	0	0	0	0
Contractual Services	39	1	10	1
Other Operating	170	178	172	156
Charges for County Services	20	24	22	165
Capital	4	2	4	4
Total Operating Expenditures	1,782	1,866	1,945	2,140
Non-Operating Expenditures Summary				
Transfers	4	0	0	0
Distribution of Funds In Trust	0	0	0	0
Debt Service	0	0	0	0
Depreciation, Amortizations and Depletion	0	0	0	0
Reserve	0	0	0	0
Total Non-Operating Expenditures	4	0	0	0

(dollars in thousands) Expenditure By Program	Total Funding Budget FY 14-15	Total Funding Proposed FY 15-16	Total Positions Budget FY 14-15	Total Positions Proposed FY 15-16
Strategic Area: General Government				
Commission on Ethics and Public Trust	1,945	2,140	14	14
Total Operating Expenditures	1,945	2,140	14	14

SELECTED ITEM HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS

Line Item Highlights	(dollars in thousands) Actual FY 12-13	Actual FY 13-14	Budget FY 14-15	Projection FY 14-15	Proposed FY 15-16
Advertising	0	0	2	0	0
Fuel	1	1	1	1	1
Overtime	0	0	0	0	0
Rent	90	92	92	92	97
Security Services	1	0	1	0	0
Temporary Services	0	0	0	0	0
Travel and Registration	2	4	3	4	5
Utilities	10	10	17	14	12

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; liaises with the community through 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 and/or employee misconduct in County and municipal governments and 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, students, and the business community regarding ordinances under the purview of the Ethics Commission and ethical practices in government

Strategic Objectives - Measures

- GG1-3: Foster a positive image of County government

Objectives	Measures			FY 12-13 Actual	FY 13-14 Actual	FY 14-15 Budget	FY 14-15 Projection	FY 15-16 Target
Improve the image of County Government	Number of complaints filed	IN	↔	40	55	45	50	50
	Number of requests for opinions and inquiries filed	IN	↔	354	361	300	275	300
	Number of investigations handled*	OP	↔	186	201	190	175	180
	Ethics trainings and workshops	OP	↔	342	410	480	400	425
	Number of Lobbyist Appeals**	IN	↔	32	48	45	10	15

* The number of investigations handled is directly related to number of investigators on staff.

** Due to change in County Code that revised expenditure reporting requirements, the projection and target for lobbyist appeals has been adjusted.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Each year the Ethics Commission conducts Ethical Governance Day, which involves placing hundreds of volunteer speakers in high school classrooms in the County to address students on citizenship ethics
- The FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget includes a transfer of $70,000, as required under Ordinance 10-56, from the Office of the Clerk Lobbyist Trust Fund to support ethics training and conference expenditures including but not limited to educational materials, food and non-alcoholic beverages, and personnel expenditures
- In FY 2015-16, the Ethics Commission will continue to hold workshops for both County and municipal board members and executives of non-profit agencies receiving funding, as well as students and candidates for elected office
- The Ethics Commission will continue to pursue legislative changes to strengthen County ordinances and rules to promote greater accountability and transparency
- The FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget includes the addition of a part-time staff attorney position