

The Agency

Rhode Island Ethics Commission

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Ethics Commission came into existence on July 25, 1987, when its members were appointed pursuant to Title 36, Chapter 14 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The operations of the Ethics Commission include formulating policies and regulations relating to the conduct of public officials and employees; investigating and adjudicating complaints alleging violations of the Code of Ethics; maintaining files on more than 4,000 Financial Disclosure Statements per year; issuing advisory opinions to public officials and employees at their request regarding the application of the Code of Ethics to a specific situation, and educating public officials, employees and members of the public as to the requirements of the Code of Ethics and the functions of the Commission.

The staff of the Commission is headed by an Executive Director/Chief Prosecutor, who is hired by the Commission. The Commission's operations are funded solely with state general revenues.

Agency Objectives

Ensure that public officials and employees adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct, respect the public trust, avoid the appearance of impropriety, and not use their position for private gain or advantage.

Respond efficiently and thoroughly to public inquiries regarding requirements of the Code of Ethics for public officials and employees.

Thoroughly investigate complaints alleging violations of the provisions of the Code of Ethics in a timely manner.

Expand the use of technology in all aspects of the Commission's operations and ensuring greater public access to information and more effective use of investigative and informational resources.

Provide educational and informational seminars, programs and publications for public officials and employees and the public-at-large regarding codes of conduct for public servants and the workings of the Ethics Commission.

Statutory History

Title 36 Chapter 14 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the Ethics Commission, sets forth the legislative provisions of the Code of Ethics and defines the Commission's advisory, investigative and adjudicative powers.

The Budget

Rhode Island Ethics Commission

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	1,053,300	1,183,251	1,226,516	1,233,487	1,256,562
Operating Supplies and Expenses	156,590	152,727	172,500	169,670	173,875
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,209,890	\$1,335,978	\$1,399,016	\$1,403,157	\$1,430,437
Capital Purchases and Equipment	12,399	7,051	6,293	6,293	7,293
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,222,289	\$1,343,029	\$1,405,309	\$1,409,450	\$1,437,730
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	1,222,289	1,343,029	1,405,309	1,409,450	1,437,730
Total Expenditures	\$1,222,289	\$1,343,029	\$1,405,309	\$1,409,450	\$1,437,730
FTE Authorization	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-	-
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	58.3%	58.9%	58.3%	58.3%	58.3%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	16.6%
Program Measures					
Percentage of Investigations Completed within 180 Days of Filing	96.0%	87.5%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%
The Percentage of Advisory Opinion Requests Responded to within 30 Days of Receipt	27.6%	52.4%	60.0%	60.0%	66.1%