



Ohio Sunset Review
Committee Agency
Questionnaire

Agency Name Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC)

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OOCIC's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) was created by the General Assembly in 1986 under Ohio Revised Code Section 177. The purpose of OOCIC is to provide a mechanism by which local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies can combine to effectively investigate and prosecute organized criminal enterprises impacting multiple jurisdictions. ORC 177 grants the authority for subpoena power, expanded jurisdiction for local law enforcement agencies participating in the task force, and confidentiality (177.02 (F)) required to insure the integrity of the investigation.

The goals and objectives are to provide administrative, technical, and prosecutorial support to the task forces.

Administrative support includes funding for the purchase of contraband, information, travel, training, equipment, office space, phones, and clerical support.

Technical support is provided by furnishing equipment which includes computers, vehicles, audio/video surveillance equipment, recording devices, etc. OOCIC also provides the services of a Forensic Audio/Video Laboratory and Intelligence Analyst services.

Along with the County Prosecutor's Office and/or the U.S. Attorney's Office, OOCIC will provide experienced legal support for the task forces. OOCIC is only able to assist in the prosecution of a case upon a request by the local county prosecutor's office and/or the U.S. Attorney's Office.

OOCIC's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

Task Forces:

The first OOCIC task force was formed on August 11, 1988. The Commission has authorized 138 task forces since the Commission's creation, including the 46 new task forces in the last five years.

These task forces have included operations that have investigated Illegal Gambling, Home Invasion/Homicides, Mortgage Fraud, Organized Retail Theft, Counterfeit Checks, Narcotics, Vehicle Theft, Burglary/Fencing, Package Interdiction, Bulk Cash Smuggling, and Human Trafficking. Over 287 law enforcement agencies have participated in OOCIC task forces (this does not include the number of cooperating agencies).

Task Force Statistics for 2015-2019

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Indictments:	554	589	487	585	607
Arrests	800	900	731	753	772
HT* Victims Rescued	201	177	280	264	371
HT* Tips Received	182	310	339	432	395
U.S. Currency Seized	\$ 4.4**	\$ 5.6**	\$ 5.4**	\$ 4.0**	\$ 6.2**
Street Value of Drugs Seized	\$ 28.5**	\$ 33.4**	\$ 25.4**	\$ 57.5**	\$ 45.9**

* (Human Trafficking)

** (currency & street value listed as millions)

Forensic A/V Lab:

The OOCIC Forensic Audio/Video Analysts Lab has been in operation since January 2001. Cases submitted have involved high profile cases of homicide, armed robbery, sexual abuse, hit skip, and burglary. The analysts work resulted in the identification of numerous suspects through enhancements of license plates, vehicles, clothing, and/or facial identification that was not previously possible, given the quality of the original surveillance video or photos.

Statistics for 2015 - 2019:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
# of Cases Submitted	219	237	225	192	176
Cases from # of Counties	55	54	53	47	43
Cases from # of Agencies	122	124	111	94	82

OOCIC's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff (continued)

Organized Crime Intelligence Analyst Activity:

The Organized Crime Intelligence Analyst assists task forces as well as federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with compiling reports of raid books, phone toll databases, entity searches, association/link charts, time-lines/flow charts, etc. This service is in high demand as it provides the task forces intelligence necessary to further their investigations, a service most agencies do not have the manpower to perform.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Phone Tolls (subscribers)	12,982	23,272	11,898	18,153	34,293
Phone Calls entered	1,506,477	1,811,781	719,534	1,006,445	1,807,031
Searches/Databases/Charts	3,992	4,033	3,809	3,909	2,654

OOCIC Staffing:

In 2015, OOCIC had 15 staff members including the Executive Director. Budget restraints over the past few years have resulted in combining staff responsibilities and now we currently have 12 positions. We have become more efficient, even with our increased workload. As more agencies discover the value of OOCIC, more staff may be necessary.

OOCIC's current staff is 9 (includes Executive Director) plus 3 vacancies:

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Chief Legal Counsel

Operations Coordinator

Commission Investigator

3 Forensic Audio/Video Analysts (two positions currently vacant)

2 Organized Crime Intelligence Analysts (one position currently vacant)

OOCIC/Task Force Equipment Specialist

Task Force Support Specialist

OOCIC's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

OOCIC was not directly funded by the legislature between the years 2015-2019. Funding for the operation of the Commission and support staff was included in the budget of the Ohio Attorney General (Fund 4190 under the State Special Revenue Fund). GFR was not a funding source for OOCIC between 2015-2019.

OOCIC's budget funds the Executive Director and support staffs salaries, OOCIC facility and operational costs, task force officer's worker's compensation, AV Lab equipment, office/computer equipment, and task force operational costs. Task force operational costs includes the funding for the purchase of contraband, information, travel, training, surveillance and investigative equipment, office space, utilities, phones, and supplies.

OOCIC's annual expenditures for OOCIC operations have varied, according to the number of active task forces, type of task forces, and open staff vacancies. A breakdown of OOCIC's expenditures for fiscal years 2015 - 2019 are listed below:

2015	\$ 2,632,762.00*	
2016	\$ 2,143,277.00*	
2017	\$ 2,303,984.00*	
2018	\$ 1,921,697.00*	Budget constraints in place
2019	\$ 1,898,193.00*	Budget constraints in place

* (figures represent actual operating cost expenditures of OOCIC; does not include expenditures from pass thru accounts or transfers)

The Commission did not provide any funding for law enforcement agency payroll costs, but the Commission did cover worker's compensation for law enforcement officers assigned to the task forces as required by statute under ORC 177. **

OOCIC's FY20 Budget Appropriations are from a variety of sources as illustrated below (not including holding accounts or pass-thru funds):

Attorney General Funds allocated to OOCIC:	\$ 2,046,700.00
GRF Operating Expenses**	\$ 500,000.00
5TL0 Organized Crime Law Enforcement Trust Fund**	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,646,700.00

In addition, OOCIC was awarded a COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 for period of 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2021. Legislature also approved the availability of up to \$3,400,000 through OCJS funding for new OOCIC major drug interdiction task forces focusing on cartel trafficking interdiction**

** Further explanation under legislative changes section on page 6 of questionnaire

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

OOCIC is composed of seven members. The attorney general, by statute, is the chair of the Commission.

The statute requires the other six members to be two county sheriffs, two county prosecutors, and two chiefs of police who are appointed by the governor and who serve for three-year terms. No more than four shall be members of the same political party.

The members of the Commission serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Current OOCIC Commission members:

Dave Yost (R)	Ohio Attorney General, Chairperson
Victor Viglucci (D)	Portage County Prosecuting Attorney
Judy C. Wolford (R)	Pickaway County Prosecuting Attorney
Larry Mincks (R)	Washington County Sheriff
Tim Bailey (D)	Marion County Sheriff
Jeffrey Kruithoff (I)	Springboro Police Chief
Vacant Police Chief	Waiting on appointment by Governor

The Commission appoints an Executive Director to manage OOCIC's day to day operations, support staff, and established task forces.

The Executive Director and all employees of the Commission are members of the unclassified service as defined in section 124.11 of the Ohio Revised Code.

OOCIC recommended legislative changes to improve organizational efficiency:

Changes in legislation that have been made to improve OOCIC's efficiency since last Sunset Review:

ORC. 177.05 – Establishment of Organized Crime Law Enforcement Trust Fund – fund was established for the purpose of receiving reimbursement of expenses OOCIC incurred in the investigation of criminal activity through a task force. Funds are to be used to purchase, replace, update, or maintain equipment used by task forces or local law enforcement agencies. (131st General Assembly, eff. 4/6/2017) (Reference on budget page 4 as 5TL0 Organized Crime Law Enforcement Trust Fund)

ORC 177.02 – amended to allow Commission to reimburse a political subdivision any costs associated with salary and benefits through the Organized Crime Commission Fund (R042) in ORC 177.011. (Amended by 133rd General Assembly, HB 166 eff 10/17/2019) No funding was allocated in FY20 for this expenditure.

HB 166 effective 10/17/2019 also provided funding for OOCIC as follows:

GRF Operating Expenses – allocated \$500,000.00 each year FY20 & FY21 for the AG to support narcotic task forces

HB 166 also provided funding under Recovery Ohio – allows for OCJS to fund up to \$3,400,000.00 for FY20 & FY21 to local law enforcement agencies to create narcotic task forces that focus on cartel trafficking interdiction. Task Forces to be designated Ohio Organized Crime Commission Task Forces subject to approval and supervision of the Commission.

OOCIC Recommended Legislative Changes:

- 1) Amend HB166, Appropriation item 761403, Recovery Ohio Law Enforcement to include language for the Commission to accept funding from OCJS for the purpose of purchasing equipment and operational costs for the created narcotic task forces and OOCIC's costs of administering the OCJS grant funding. This legislative change would allow OOCIC to retain the equipment purchased through the Ohio Recovery funds and assist future major drug interdiction task forces led by local law enforcement agencies.
- 2) Explore possibility of removing the requirement that OOCIC be subject to ongoing sunset review

Additional Notes:

The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) plays an important role in combating organized criminal groups that prey on Ohio citizens. OOCIC provides a mechanism for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to join together when no single agency has the resources necessary to effectively investigate a criminal organization operating in multiple jurisdictions. OOCIC, by statute, provides task forces expanded jurisdictions and subpoena power.

As criminal enterprises adopt new concepts and technologies to further their criminal activities, law enforcement will have to meet the challenge by bringing their resources together. OOCIC has the authority and resources to bring together law enforcement agencies to combat criminal operations in an efficient and effective manner.