



Ohio Sunset Review Committee

Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name: Ohio Small Government Capital Improvements Commission

Point of Contact: Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works Small Government Administrator

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:

The Ohio Small Government Capital Improvements Commission approves grants and loans to villages and townships with populations in the unincorporated areas of less than 5,000 in population. A limited number of project applications for Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding not selected by the 19 Public Works District Integrating Committees may be chosen by the committees as part of their statutory responsibilities to compete for Small Government funding at the statewide level. Therefore, the Small Government program is a "second chance" for eligible small governments to apply for OPWC funds. The Small Government Commission is responsible for affirming or overruling the project recommendations by the Administrator.

Ref: ORC 164.02(C) Commission Creation; ORC 164.02(D) Commission Responsibilities; ORC 164.051 Administrator's Powers and Duties

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

Up to 95 total applications are submitted annually. The Administrator, a full-time OPWC staff member who maintains additional responsibilities, scores the applications, and recommends about 50 or so based on available funding. Once voted on by the Small Government Commission, the funded applications are distributed to the OPWC's four program staff members to administer.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:

Small Government Program capital funds are provided as a statutory 10% set-aside from the OPWC's administered State Capital Improvement Program. This program was created in 1987 and renewed in 1995, 2005 and 2014 by amendments creating Sections 2k, 2m, 2p and 2s, Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution. These Constitutional provisions allow the State to use its general revenues as debt support to issue general obligation bonds, up to \$200 million in fiscal years 2022 to 2026. Therefore, the Small Government Program currently receives \$20.0 million annually.

The OPWC aligns its budget to reflect the administrative effort to manage all three of its programs. This is approximately 60% State Capital Improvement Program, 20% Local Transportation Improvement Program, and 20% Clean Ohio Conservation Program. The administrative effort necessary to manage all OPWC programs is less than one-half of 1% of the OPWC's total program funding.

Ref: ORC 164.08(B)(1) Funding; ORC 164.05(A)(8) Appointment of Administrator

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

The Small Government Commission is made up of 10 members of which the seven voting members are appointed by the seven voting members of the Ohio Public Works Commission. The three ex officio members consist of the directors of the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency, and the chair of the Ohio Water Development Authority. Voting members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. In the past three years, the OPWC has incurred \$197 in reimbursable expenses for the Small Government Commission.

Ref: ORC 164.02(C)

Additional notes:

The OPWC, as part of its capital bill request, has asked a revision to OPWC's statutory language, R.C. 164.02, to exempt the Small Government Commission from review by the sunset review committee as follows:

(F) Sections 101.82 to 101.87 of the Revised Code do not apply to the Ohio small government capital improvements commission.

R.C. 101.82, the statute that lists exemptions to sunset committee review, includes the OPWC which administers the projects approved by the Small Government Capital Improvements Program. The Small Government Capital Improvements Program is a statutorily required program for which there is an OPWC administrator, appointed by the OPWC director (ORC 164.05(A)(8)), who recommends projects annually to the Small Government Capital Improvements Commission for their formal approval. If the Ohio Small Government Capital Improvements Commission no longer existed, a change in statute would be required to name an authority to approve the Administrator's recommendations.