Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name The Ohio Standardbred Development Commission

Point of Contact Christopher Dragone

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Ohio Standardbred Development Commission (OSDC) was created in section 3769.085 of the Revised Code. The OSDC oversees expenditures of the Ohio Standardbred Development Fund (OSDF) The OSDF allocates and approves Ohio Sire Stakes (OSS) races and conditions supported by the OSDF.

Money from the fund is used to promote Standardbred breeding and racing in Ohio by providing money for purses. Only horses sired by a stallion registered with the Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) are eligible to enter OSS races.

The OSDC meets several times a year, giving horsemen, track managements and the public a chance to provide imput about OSS conditions and races for the following year. OSDC members receive imput from stakeholders(horsemen, track managers, breeders and owners of associated businesses) throughout the year. OSDC members regularly attend when live racing takes place. There were 459 racing dates at commercial standardbred racetracks and 117 racing dates at county fairs in 2023.

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

The OSDF has one employee on a part- time basis that works for the commission. Administrative responsibilities have been taken on by the Ohio Harness Horsemens Association, which includes marketing and advertising. Two other OSRC employees, including the Executive Director and the Fiscal Officer, work with the OSDC to assist in attaining its primary purpose. While the amount of money available for distribution varies annually, the workload remains the same for this agency. Administrative costs are paid by the OSDF.

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

The OSDF is funded by taxes paid on wagers made at four commercial standardbred racetracks and 62 county fairs; from the distribution of a portion of tax money paid by the lottery Terminal proceeds approved by the OSRC; and from distributions of Video Lottery Terminal proceeds approved by the OSRC. Purses for OSS races supported by the OSDF amounted to $6.5 million in 2023.

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

The OSDC consists of three members appointed by the governor. No member receives any compensation. Although members are entitled to actual and necessary expenses, no member has requested to be reimbursed for any expenses during the past five years.

Additional notes