Long Term Care Ombudsman

	2011-13 Actuals	2013-15 Leg. Approved*	2015-17 CSL LFO	2015-17 Governor's
General Fund	1,583,563	3,784,880	6,066,619	6,128,415
Other Funds	644,092	703,321	726,536	536,299
Total Funds	2,227,655	4,488,201	6,793,155	6,664,714
Positions	12	24	25	25
FTE	11.25	16.81	24.25	25

^{*} includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2014

Program Description

The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) is a federally-mandated consumer protection program under the federal Older Americans Act. The LTCO supports a network of certified volunteers to investigate and resolve complaints for those who live in Oregon's nursing facilities, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, and adult foster homes. Program duties were recently expanded (SB 626 in 2013) to cover facilities serving individuals who have mental illness or intellectual/developmental disabilities. Under SB 1553 (2014), the agency became responsible for providing guardian and conservator services for eligible persons without relatives or friends willing or able to serve as guardians or conservators.

CSL Summary and Issues

The 2015-17 CSL is significantly higher than the current biennium's budget due to the full phase-in of a 2013-15 program expansion that extended the agency's portfolio to cover mental health treatment and intellectual/developmental disabilities facilities. It also fully phases-in the Public Guardian and Conservator program.

Policy Issues

The Governor's Budget restores part of a position that would otherwise be lost due to a result of the reduction in federal revenues; these have been impacted by sequestration. The agency's data analyst position is also increased to full-time.

Other Significant Issues and Background

This small agency faces an ongoing challenge in developing two new programs; while resources appear to be adequate there are still budget and program implementation risks.

Continuing to monitor federal dollars received from the Department of Human Services to ensure they are budgeted appropriately and tied to updated federal estimates. In addition, monies from civil penalties (paid by an adult foster home licensed to provide care to persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities) are now being transferred from DHS to LTCO and should be evaluated for use in the LTCO budget once revenue trends are established.

Co-Chairs' Budget Framework Discussion

No specific budget details or issues were identified in the Co-Chairs' budget framework for this agency.