

Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability					
	2015-17 Actual	2017-19 Legislatively Adopted	2017-19 Legislatively Approved *	2019-21 Current Service Level	2019-21 Agency Request Budget
General Fund	196,415	245,362	252,710	258,880	306,701
Total Funds	196,415	245,362	252,710	258,880	306,701
Positions	1	1	1	1	1
FTE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.63

* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2018.

Program Description

The Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability is an agency of the Judicial Branch of government that investigates and acts upon complaints of judicial misconduct or disability. The basis for a finding of misconduct is a violation of the Oregon Code of Judicial Conduct. The Commission employs one individual, a half-time Executive Director. The budget is fully supported by General Fund.

The Commission's workload is variable, and depends upon the number of complaints it receives, and upon the number and complexity of any investigations and prosecutions that it initiates in response to those complaints. The Commission receives two General Fund appropriations to fund its activities. The Administration appropriation supports regular and ongoing costs, including the initial reviews of the complaints. Approximately 69% of the Administration appropriation is used to compensate the Commission's sole, half-time employee. The remainder is used for the services & supply costs of operating the office, and for reimbursing commissioners for travel expenses.

The Commission receives a second appropriation for Extraordinary Expenses. This appropriation finances the costs of investigating and prosecuting cases, when the Commission determines that a complaint merits such action. These associated expenses are primarily for attorney and other legal fees, and for other investigative costs. When the Commission experiences a significant increase in investigations it must seek additional support from the Legislature, as was the case during the 2015-17 biennium when an additional \$172,000 was provided during the 2016 session for expenses related to complaints the Commission investigated.

Other Significant Issues and Background

The Commission employs one half-time Executive Director (0.50 FTE). This is the only position in the agency. The agency budget request includes a package for \$35,221 General Fund, to expand the position to 0.63 FTE, to better reflect the actual position workload and the number of work hours required. The agency budget request also includes an additional \$12,600 General Fund to pay for up to 20 hours per week of administrative staffing to help the Executive Director with administrative duties such as preparing agendas, processing mail, running records, ordering audio files, and other administrative tasks.