

2025-27 Budget Review

Long Term Care Ombudsman

	2021-23 Actual	2023-25 Legislatively Approved *	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Governor's Budget
General Fund	10,603,753	13,833,416	14,294,236	16,201,351
Other Funds	888,985	1,558,347	1,345,139	1,344,529
Total Funds	11,492,738	15,391,763	15,639,375	17,545,880
Positions	36	41	36	41
FTE	35.50	38.00	35.50	40.50

* Includes legislative and administrative actions through December 2024.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) is to protect individual rights, promote independence, and ensure quality of life for Oregonians living in long-term care and residential facilities and for Oregonians with decisional limitations. The State Long Term Care Ombudsman serves as the agency director. The budget supports three programs:

- **Long Term Care Ombudsman** is a federally mandated program that provides advocacy for individuals living in licensed care settings. Program staff work with a network of certified volunteers to investigate and resolve complaints for people who live in Oregon’s nursing facilities, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, and adult foster homes.
- **Oregon Public Guardian (OPG)** program provides substitute decision making services, as authorized by the court, for people who do not have a relative or friend able to serve in a fiduciary capacity, lack the financial ability to pay someone to serve as a fiduciary, and are at serious and imminent risk of harm or death without a fiduciary. OPG activities range from making residential and medical decisions to handling financial issues.
- **Residential Facilities Ombudsman** program provides advocacy for individuals living in homes licensed and certified for intellectual and/or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions.

An eleven-member Residential Ombudsman and Public Guardian Advisory Board is responsible for monitoring the agency, advising state leadership on programs, and nominating people for the State Long Term Care Ombudsman position as it comes open.

BUDGET ENVIRONMENT

Over 90% of the LTCO budget is General Fund, with the remainder consisting of Other Funds. This level of reliance on the General Fund is expected to increase as inflation and other cost drivers continue to outpace other revenue sources. The Other Funds revenues within LTCO's budget consist primarily of federal Older Americans Act funds that are passed through from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and civil penalties assessed on residential facilities and adult foster homes that serve persons with mental illness or intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Overall, demand for long-term care services is expected to increase as the number of Oregonians aged 65 and up continues to grow, particularly those 75 and older. Each of LTCO's programs rely on trained and fully qualified volunteers. One of the agency's top priorities for the next biennium is to increase the number of trained and fully qualified volunteers, and correspondingly, the number of Oregonians that can be served by each program. The agency request budget included a policy option package seeking \$118,188 General Fund and one position (0.50 FTE) to support volunteer recruitment.

CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL

The 2025-27 current service level (CSL) budget for LTCO is \$15.6 million total funds and 36 positions (35.50 FTE). The General Fund budget of \$14.3 million increased \$460,820, or 3.3%, compared to the 2023-25 legislatively approved budget. This includes personal services and standard inflationary increases, net of the phase-out of five limited duration Deputy Public Guardian positions (2.50 FTE) provided in the 2024 session. The CSL budget also includes a reduction in Other Funds of \$213,208 due to the phase-out of one-time federal funding received from DHS as Other Funds.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET SUMMARY

The Governor's budget is \$17.5 million total funds and 41 positions (40.50 FTE). The Governor's budget includes an investment of \$1.9 million General Fund to restore and make permanent the five Deputy Public Guardian positions (5.00 FTE) added as limited duration in the prior biennium. This will allow the Public Guardian program to retain trained staff and continue to serve an estimated 260-280 individuals through guardianship.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A copy of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Annual Performance Progress Report can be found on the LFO website: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/APPR/APPRProposed_LTCO_2024-09-30.pdf

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