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Office of Administrative Hearings

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<https://www.mn.gov/oah>

AT A GLANCE

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH):

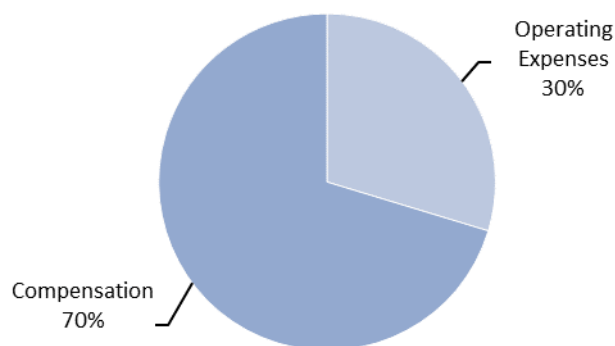
- Annually receives almost 10,000 workers compensation disputes involving 7,500 workers and their employers, insurers, and medical providers.
- Has served over 250 state agencies and local units of government involving over 200 unique areas of administrative law since the court's creation in 1975.
- Is the largest of three Executive Branch courts with over 60 full-time equivalents located in St. Paul and Duluth that serve the entire State of Minnesota.

PURPOSE

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) renders justice through fair, timely, and impartial administrative hearings and high-quality dispute resolution services.

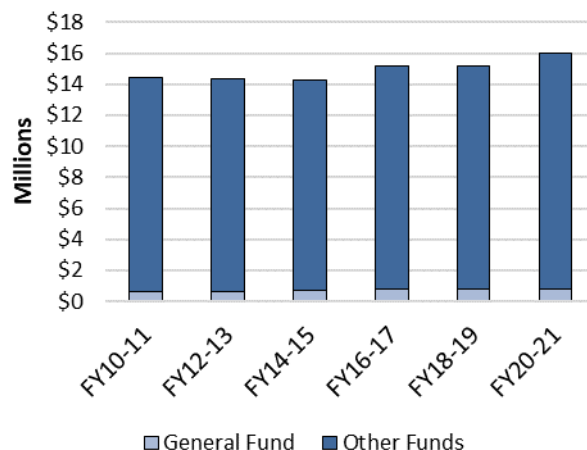
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2021 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The agency's funding comes from three sources:

1. Workers' Compensation Fund (68% of total funding)
2. Administrative Law Enterprise Fund (29% of total funding)
3. General Fund (3% of total funding)

General fund appropriations of \$409,000 per fiscal year represent no more than 3% of total agency funding and support a limited scope of work: municipal boundary adjustments; fair campaign practice complaints; and certain data practices matters.

STRATEGIES

OAH is an energetic, responsive, and respected service provider to Minnesotans, state and local governments, and the workers' compensation system.

OAH respects the tenets of procedural fairness in our hearing rooms and workplace:

- **Voice.** We ensure the opportunity for each person to express their own viewpoint.
- **Respect.** We treat everyone with courtesy and dignity.
- **Neutrality.** We apply the laws and rules consistently and fairly.
- **Trust.** We make unbiased and transparent decisions.
- **Understanding.** We communicate in plain language.
- **Helpfulness.** We provide quality services.

We practice these values by:

- Applying the law impartially, competently, and diligently.
- Assisting others in understanding court procedures and processes.
- Fostering understanding of Minnesota's administrative law and workers' compensation laws.
- Fully considering information from everyone involved.
- Listening with a genuine interest in the needs, problems, and concerns of others.
- Promoting equity through the practice of intercultural competency and the elimination of bias.
- Striving to reflect the diversity of Minnesota within our workforce.
- Using a cooperative team approach to solve problems.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Workers' Compensation: Total new cases	9,159	8,917	FY21, FY22
Quality	Workers' Compensation: Average days from report of settlement to filing of stipulation	60	44	FY21, FY22
Quantity	Administrative Procedures Act: Total new cases	501	704	FY21, FY22
Quality	Administrative Procedures Act: Combined complexity value of new cases	1,206	1,666	FY21, FY22
Result	Court wide: Number of email subscription subscribers, validating quality and helpfulness of information communicated	923	6641	FY20, FY22

The primary legal authority for the Office of Administrative Hearings:

M.S. 14 Administrative Procedure (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=14>)
M.S. 115 Water Pollution Control; Sanitary Districts (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115>)
M.S. 176 Workers' Compensation (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=176>)
M.S. 211B Unfair Campaign Practice Complaints (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/211B>)
M.S. 414 Municipal Boundary Adjustments (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=414>)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Enacted Budget	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>								
1000 - General	376	389	380	755	409	409	2,760	694
2800 - Environmental	20	34	41	59	50	50	50	50
2830 - Workers Compensation	6,751	8,462	7,807	7,855	7,831	7,831	9,768	9,816
3010 - Coronavirus Relief	6							
5201 - Administrative Hearings	2,390	2,602	2,712	3,461	3,457	3,457	3,457	3,457
5202 - Workers Comp Transcript	4	4	1	2	2	2	2	2
Total	9,548	11,490	10,942	12,132	11,749	11,749	16,037	14,019
Biennial Change			2,035		424		6,982	
Biennial % Change			10		2		30	
Enacted Budget Change from Base							6,558	
Enacted Budget % Change from Base							28	

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Enacted Budget	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		24		25				
Direct Appropriation	400	404	405	605	409	409	2,760	694
Transfers In				125				
Transfers Out		8						
Cancellations		31						
Balance Forward Out	24		25					
Expenditures	376	389	380	755	409	409	2,760	694
Biennial Change in Expenditures				370		(317)		2,319
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				48		(28)		204
Enacted Budget Change from Base								2,636
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								322

2800 - Environmental

Balance Forward In		30		9				
Transfers In	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Cancellations		46						
Balance Forward Out	30		9					
Expenditures	20	34	41	59	50	50	50	50
Biennial Change in Expenditures				46		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				84		0		0
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								0

2830 - Workers Compensation

Balance Forward In		1,080		24				
Direct Appropriation	7,831	7,831	7,831	7,831	7,831	7,831	9,768	9,816
Transfers Out		75						
Cancellations		374						
Balance Forward Out	1,080		24					
Expenditures	6,751	8,462	7,807	7,855	7,831	7,831	9,768	9,816
Biennial Change in Expenditures				450		0		3,922
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				3		0		25
Enacted Budget Change from Base								3,922

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24 FY25		Enacted Budget FY24 FY25	
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								25

3010 - Coronavirus Relief

Direct Appropriation	6							
Transfers In	5							
Transfers Out	5							
Cancellations	0							
Expenditures	6							
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(6)		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures								
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								

5201 - Administrative Hearings

Balance Forward In	575	292	256	292	348	408	348	408
Receipts	2,100	2,544	2,748	3,517	3,517	3,517	3,517	3,517
Balance Forward Out	284	234	292	348	408	468	408	468
Expenditures	2,390	2,602	2,712	3,461	3,457	3,457	3,457	3,457
Biennial Change in Expenditures				1,181		741		741
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				24		12		12
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								0

5202 - Workers Comp Transcript

Balance Forward In	47	45	44	44	47	50	47	50
Receipts	2	3	2	5	5	5	5	5
Balance Forward Out	45	44	44	47	50	53	50	53
Expenditures	4	4	1	2	2	2	2	2
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(4)		1		1
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(54)		16		16
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2023 Appropriations	409	409	409	818
Forecast Base	409	409	409	818
Change Items				
Deficiency Funding	196			
Maintain Current Service Levels		26	35	61
Public Comment Portal		2,075		2,075
Supplemental Case Load Management		250	250	500
Total Enacted Budget	605	2,760	694	3,454
Fund: 2830 - Workers Compensation				
FY2023 Appropriations	7,831	7,831	7,831	15,662
Forecast Base	7,831	7,831	7,831	15,662
Change Items				
Maintain Current Service Levels		1,482	1,552	3,034
Courtroom Security		157	117	274
Effective Court Services		298	316	614
Total Enacted Budget	7,831	9,768	9,816	19,584
Dedicated				
Fund: 5201 - Administrative Hearings				
Planned Spending	3,461	3,457	3,457	6,914
Forecast Base	3,461	3,457	3,457	6,914
Total Enacted Budget	3,461	3,457	3,457	6,914
Fund: 5202 - Workers Comp Transcript				
Planned Spending	2	2	2	4
Forecast Base	2	2	2	4
Total Enacted Budget	2	2	2	4
Revenue Change Summary				
Dedicated				
Fund: 5201 - Administrative Hearings				
Forecast Revenues	3,517	3,517	3,517	7,034
Total Enacted Budget	3,517	3,517	3,517	7,034
Fund: 5202 - Workers Comp Transcript				

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Forecast Revenues	5	5	5	10
Total Enacted Budget	5	5	5	10
Non-Dedicated				
Fund: 1000 - General				
Forecast Revenues	165	165	165	330
Total Enacted Budget	165	165	165	330
Fund: 2830 - Workers Compensation				
Forecast Revenues	2	2	2	4
Total Enacted Budget	2	2	2	4

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
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Deficiency Funding

This funding allows the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to address a shortfall in its funding for FY 2023. OAH lacked sufficient funding to handle the number of cases that it was statutorily obligated to address. This funding alleviates that shortfall.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	196	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditures	196	0	0	0	0	0	0

Maintain Current Service Levels

This provision provides additional operating funds to maintain the current level of service delivery at OAH.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	26	35	61	35	35	70
Expenditures	0	26	35	61	35	35	70

2830 - Workers Compensation Fund Cost (Savings)	0	1,482	1,552	3,034	1,552	1,552	3,104
Expenditures	0	1,482	1,552	3,034	1,552	1,552	3,104

Public Comment Portal

This funding will allow OAH to create an accessible, easily-navigated, web-based portal to collect and publish public comments on proposed rules and to update its case management system to include electronic record access, filing, and service for rulemaking and contested cases. These enhancements will increase accountability and public engagement in rulemaking.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	2,075	0	2,075	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	2,075	0	2,075	0	0	0

Courtroom Security

This funding will allow OAH to add modern security screening for its eleven courtrooms at the St. Paul location.

2830 - Workers Compensation Fund Cost (Savings)	0	157	117	274	117	117	234
Expenditures	0	157	117	274	117	117	234

Effective Court Services

This funding will allow OAH to effectively maintain its existing workers' compensation electronic filing system and to add 2 FTE to support workers' compensation judges in earlier completion of findings and orders.

2830 - Workers Compensation Fund Cost (Savings)	0	298	316	614	316	316	632
Expenditures	0	298	316	614	316	316	632

Supplemental Case Load Management

This funding is a permanent increase to OAH's funding to help ensure that it is able to address all its data practices and campaign-related cases in future years.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	250	250	500	250	250	500
Expenditures	0	250	250	500	250	250	500