

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

GENERAL COUNSEL

BUDGET ACTIVITY 10: GENERAL COUNSEL

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

STRATEGIC GOAL/OBJECTIVE	ACTUAL 2002	ESTIMATE 2003	ESTIMATE 2004
Strategic Goal EM: Embrace high standards of ethics, management, and accountability.			
FTE			
Headquarters	317	319	319
Field	240	237	237
Subtotal	557	556	556
S&E Cost (Dollars in Thousands)			
Personal Services	\$54,565	\$56,006	\$57,519
Travel	979	1,175	1,235
Printing	93	108	110
Other Services	1,905	1,688	2,175
Supplies	103	105	107
Claims & Indemnities	255	157	163
Subtotal	57,900	59,239	61,309

EXPLANATION OF PERFORMANCE

Means and Strategies

The Office of General Counsel proposes \$61.309 million in Salaries & Expenses funding to support Strategic Goal EM: Embrace high standards of ethics, management, and accountability.

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) plays a vital role in supporting the Department in the accomplishment of its goals of assuring decent and affordable housing, enabling all Americans to achieve homeownership, providing resources for communities to build strong neighborhoods, preventing homelessness, and enforcing fair housing laws. OGC provides legal opinions, advice and services in the development of policies with respect to all departmental programs and activities with primary responsibility for the development of HUD program regulations.

The principal workload of the General Counsel's Office consists of providing advice to program managers; preparing memoranda on legal problems arising under HUD programs; representing the Department in litigation and administrative hearings; and drafting, reviewing, and clearing regulations and legislation and legislative and regulatory materials. Foremost, however, OGC supports the Department's efforts to focus on its core mission of homeownership, affordable housing and economic development.

Within the OGC, the Office of Enforcement (OE) ensures the public trust by [protecting residents, increasing the quality of housing and eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse. Enforcement workload is case referrals from the Offices of Housing, Public and Indian Housing, Community Planning and Development, and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (for non-civil rights cases), and referrals for action by the Mortgage Review Board.

The General Counsel's Office is a prime and active advocate in the Department for ethical conduct. It bolsters the Departments' accountability by providing legal services to the program administrators, Regional Directors and Field Office managers from Legal Centers in the Field and supports the Troubled Agency Recovery Centers and the Single Family Homeownership Centers. It provides training and advice concerning ethical issues to all members of the Department.

Salaries and Expenses, Housing and Urban Development
Budget Activity 10: General Counsel

The General Counsel's Office encourages ethical behavior among the Department's program participants through the provision of legal opinions and advice as well as through the appropriate enforcement actions when necessary.

Resource Management Information

The Office of General Counsel is requesting a total of 556 FTE in support of Strategic Goal EM in fiscal year 2003 and 556 FTE in fiscal year 2004.