

**Public Defender**  
**RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2022-23**

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**MISSION**

The mission of the Public Defender is to provide legal representation for people charged with criminal offenses who cannot afford to hire private counsel. The Public Defender’s Office provides quality legal services in a compassionate and professional manner, providing constitutional balance to the El Dorado County legal system.

**DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY**

Description	FY 2020-21 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
IG Rev - State	391,415	497,170	873,751	376,581
Service Charges	0	20,000	20,000	0
Other Fin Sources	3,777	53,000	6,000	(47,000)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>395,192</b>	<b>570,170</b>	<b>899,751</b>	<b>329,581</b>
Salaries & Benefits	3,696,534	4,011,071	4,941,395	930,324
Services & Supplies	315,341	696,330	763,780	67,450
Other Fin Uses	3,621	0	0	0
Intrafund Transfers	61,810	58,614	72,499	13,885
Intrafund Abatement	(10,267)	0	0	0
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>4,067,039</b>	<b>4,766,015</b>	<b>5,777,674</b>	<b>1,011,659</b>
<b>FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,671,847</b>	<b>4,195,845</b>	<b>4,877,923</b>	<b>682,078</b>

**MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES**

**Revenues**

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*State Revenue*

\$376,581      Increase due in part to the anticipated growth in Public Safety Sales Tax (Proposition 172). Total revenue for the Public Defender is projected to grow by \$159,087 for a total of \$501,637, which represents 2.4% growth over the estimated FY 2021-22 actual receipts. The remainder of the increase (\$217,494) is grant funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to fund the Public Defender’s Public Defense Pilot Program, approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 19, 2022.

*Other Financing Sources*

(\$47,000)      Decrease in funding from Public Safety Realignment. Prior year allocation included funding to serve as a match to BSCC grant funding.

# Public Defender

## RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2022-23

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### Appropriations

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#### *Salaries and Benefits*

\$930,324 Increase in permanent employee salaries (\$430,297) includes Board-approved salary increases, salary for a Paralegal allocation that was added in FY 2021-22 but funded through salary savings, and the addition 1.0 FTE Paralegal I/II Limited Term and 0.5 FTE Sr. Office Assistant. CalPERS retirement costs are increasing by \$127,290. Health insurance premium cost is increasing by \$255,000 as a result of budgeting the department's eight vacancies at the highest benefit level. Workers' Compensation insurance premium is increasing by \$44,000 after a rate holiday in FY 2021-22. Other Compensation is increasing by \$25,140 for lead pay for Lead Attorney and Longevity pays that were inadvertently omitted in FY 2021-22. Tahoe Differential is increasing by \$20,474 due to the increase of staffing in the Tahoe Basin by 0.5 FTE.

#### *Services and Supplies*

\$67,450 Increase of \$20,030 in General Liability insurance premium after a rate reduction in FY 2021-22. Increase in Professional Services (\$40,000) related to the grant-funding pilot program. The remainder of the increase is due to anticipated cost increases in the department's usual Services and Supply purchases.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

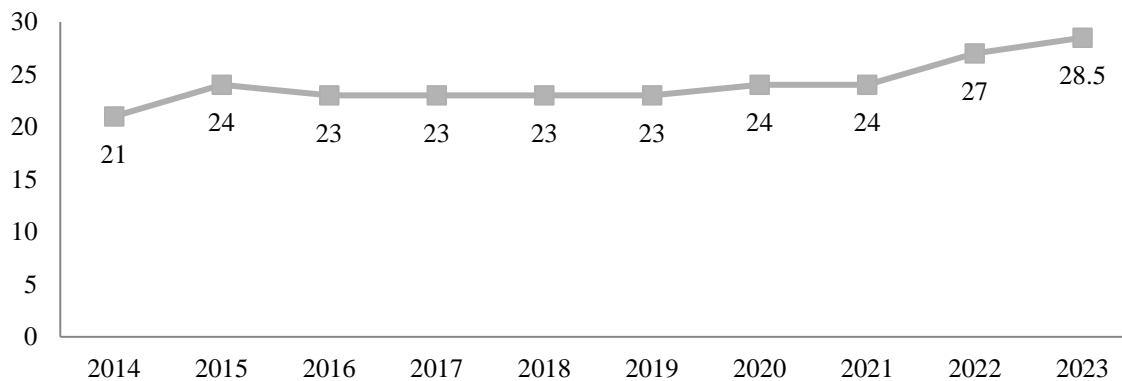
The functions of the Public Defender's Office are defined by California state law and the County Charter. The Public Defender provides legal representation, including investigative services, to adults and juveniles charged with criminal offenses who cannot afford to retain the services of a private attorney. The department also represents those who require conservatorship, as they are unable to care for themselves and/or manage their financial affairs. The department is a partner in several specialty courts, such as Veterans' Court, Behavioral Health Court, Proposition 36/Drug Court, and the Family Wellness Court with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. The department also participates in standing committees, such as the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). Clients of the department include:

- Adults accused of felonies or misdemeanors who cannot afford private counsel, including both new cases and violations of probation (VOP), and those requiring mandatory community supervision (MCS) or post-release community supervision (PRCS);
- Juveniles accused of felonies or misdemeanors whose parents cannot afford private counsel, including both new cases and VOP;
- Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conservatees (mentally ill persons who are gravely disabled) on petitions to establish or re-establish conservatorship, on petitions for involuntary psychotropic medication, and on writs for involuntary psychiatric hospitalization;
- Probate conservatees (seniors and developmentally delayed persons who are unable to care for themselves) on petitions to establish the initial conservatorship and/or on petitions to renew the conservatorship; and

- Clients in specialty courts, such as Behavioral Health Court, Veterans' Court, Proposition 36/Drug Court, and Family Wellness Court, when accepted into those programs as part of the overall justice mandate to reduce recidivism and facilitate re-entry into the community.

### STAFFING TREND

Staffing for the Public Defender's Office has changed little over the last ten years. The recommended staff allocation for FY 2022-23 is 28.5 FTEs, which includes an increase 0.5 FTE Sr. Office Assistant in the South Lake Tahoe office and the addition of 1.0 Paralegal I/II-Limited Term for the Public Defense Pilot Program, funded by a grant from the BSCC.



### RECOMMENDED BUDGET

This Budget is recommended at \$5,777,674, which is an increase of \$1,011,659 (21%) when compared to the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 84% of the funding for the department, and total General Fund support is increased by \$682,078 (16.3%) when compared to the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget.

### Sources & Uses of Funds

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The department is primarily funded with discretionary General Fund revenue; however, the department does receive a share of the Public Safety sales tax (\$501,637), as well as funding from Public Safety Realignment (\$6,000). The Public Safety Realignment funding will be used for staff training. This budget also includes the first year of grant funding from the BSCC for the Public Defense Pilot Program (\$217,494).

