

MISSION

The Office of the Public Guardian ensures the physical and financial safety of persons unable to care for themselves, and when there are no viable alternatives to a public conservatorship. Services are defined and directed by the Superior Court. The Superior Court can appoint the Public Guardian as a conservator of the person only, estate only (for probate), or both person and estate.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

Description	FY 2021-22 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
IG Rev - Federal	35,125	30,000	30,000	0
Service Charges	131,764	80,000	80,000	0
Miscellaneous Rev	10,215	50,000	50,000	0
Other Fin Sources	1,213	0	0	0
Total Revenue	178,317	160,000	160,000	0
Salaries & Benefits	1,228,152	1,386,380	1,455,088	68,708
Services & Supplies	348,434	305,676	273,076	(32,600)
Other Charges	59,736	50,000	50,000	0
Fixed Assets	1,213	0	0	0
Intrafund Transfers	393,043	472,132	496,266	24,134
Total Appropriations	2,030,578	2,214,188	2,274,430	60,242
FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	1,852,261	2,054,188	2,114,430	60,242

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

\$68,708 Increase in Salaries and Benefits primarily due to Board-approved compensation increases.

Services and Supplies

(\$32,600) Decrease in Services and Supplies primarily due to a decrease in General Liability insurance premium expense as the Department's share of overall County claims incurred has decreased from prior years decreasing their Liability insurance premium expense.

Intrafund Transfers

\$26,606 Increase in Intrafund Transfers primarily due to the HHSA Administration and Finance Indirect Cost Rate and Executive Staff Cost Allocation charges that recover the appropriate share of those costs from Public Guardian.

(\$2,472) Decrease in Intrafund Transfers due to a change in budgeting methodology wherein the Mail and Store charges will instead be reflected in the Countywide Cost Allocation Plan.

Health and Human Services Agency

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2023-24

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The mandated Public Guardian Program (PG) establishes and administers conservatorships of persons and/or the estates of individuals who are functionally disabled, to ensure the proper care and treatment of those who are unable to adequately care for themselves or those who are victims of fraud and/or abuse. Public Guardian deputies work in collaboration with County Counsel, the District Attorney’s Office, the courts, and Behavioral Health to provide the least restrictive setting for conserved persons to receive treatment with the goal of regaining the ability for self-care and independence.

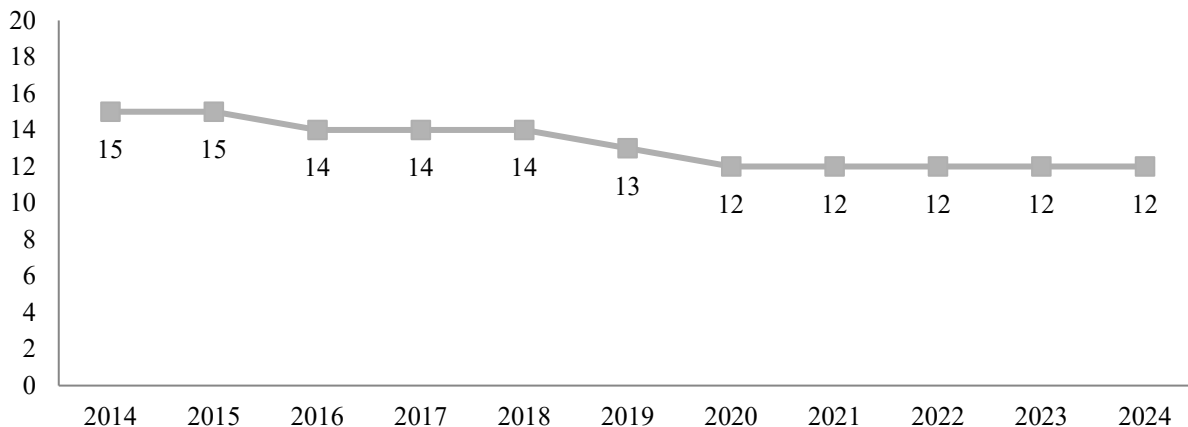
Public Guardian participates in the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) program, which is administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Medi-Cal Administrative Activities leverages allowable State and local revenue to receive Federal reimbursement for approved Medi-Cal activities. Other funding includes Fees for Services and County General Fund.

PENDING ISSUES

Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court legislation (SB 1338) was signed into law in 2022 and requires all counties to establish CARE Courts no later than December 1, 2024. The aim of CARE Courts is to connect people in crisis with a court-ordered Care Plan for up to 12 months, with the possibility to extend for an additional 12 months. The framework provides individuals with a clinically appropriate, community-based set of services and supports including court-ordered stabilization medications, wellness and recovery supports, and connection to social services and a housing plan. The State has provided some planning funds to help the counties implement CARE Courts, but it is unlikely that they will provide any ongoing funding. It is not yet known at this time how much the CARE Court program will affect the Public Guardian or Behavioral Health programs’ budget and staffing requirements, but more will be known over the coming fiscal year.

STAFFING TREND

The Public Guardian staff allocation is recommended to remain unchanged at 12.0 FTE for FY 2023-24.



RECOMMENDED BUDGET

This Budget is recommended at \$2,274,430, which is an increase of \$60,242 (2.7%) when compared to the FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 93% of the funding for the Public Guardian Department. The General Fund cost is \$2,114,430, which is an increase of \$60,242 (2.9%). The increase in General Fund is primarily due to Board-approved compensation increases including salaries, benefits and Indirect Cost Rate charges.

CAO Adjustments

The department requested \$20,000 in additional Temporary Employee appropriations to aid in the administrative tasks in the Department relating to increasing caseloads in the Department. The request was deferred in the Recommended Budget and will be considered in the fall with the Adopted Budget.

Sources & Used of Funds

The General Fund provides the majority of funding for this Department (93%). Other funding comes from service charges (3.5%), Federal Revenue (1.3%), and Misc. Revenue (2.2%).

