

**RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

The Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Public Guardian Division’s budget is recommended at \$2,341,940, which is an increase of \$48,803 (2.1%) when compared to the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 93.6% of the funding for the Public Guardian Division. The General Fund cost is \$2,191,940, which is an increase of \$58,803 (2.8%). The increase in General Fund is primarily due to Board-approved compensation and benefit increases including salaries, benefits, and Indirect Cost Rate charges.

**DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY**

Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
IG Rev - Federal	40,250	30,000	30,000	0
Service Charges	140,251	80,000	70,000	(10,000)
Miscellaneous Rev	5,248	50,000	50,000	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>185,749</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>
Salaries & Benefits	1,337,777	1,473,795	1,492,313	18,518
Services & Supplies	223,929	273,076	283,465	10,389
Other Charges	55,700	50,000	50,000	0
Intrafund Transfers	466,046	496,266	516,162	19,896
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>2,083,453</b>	<b>2,293,137</b>	<b>2,341,940</b>	<b>48,803</b>
<b>FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,897,704</b>	<b>2,133,137</b>	<b>2,191,940</b>	<b>58,803</b>

**MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES**

Revenues

*Service Charges*

(\$10,000)    Decrease in Public Guardian Fee revenue to align budget with projected revenue.

Appropriations

*Salaries and Benefits*

\$17,704    Increase in CalPERS employer’s contribution, primarily due to increases to the County’s unfunded accrued liability payment.

\$9,437    Increase in Salaries and Benefits expenses primarily due to Health Insurance cost increases and employee step increases.

(\$15,516)    Decrease in Retiree Health Program charges due to a rate holiday to conserve General Fund costs.

\$6,893    Increase in Workers' Compensation premium charge.

*Services and Supplies*

\$7,000    Increase in Panoramic licensing costs due to contractual increases.

# Health and Human Services Agency

## RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

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\$1,689 Increase in General Liability insurance premium expense.

\$1,700 Increase across multiple objects to align budget with actual costs.

### *Intrafund Transfers*

\$19,896 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 the programs.

## 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.

## 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. 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; staff will closely measure and monitor impacts during the implementation and return to the Board with an update if needed.

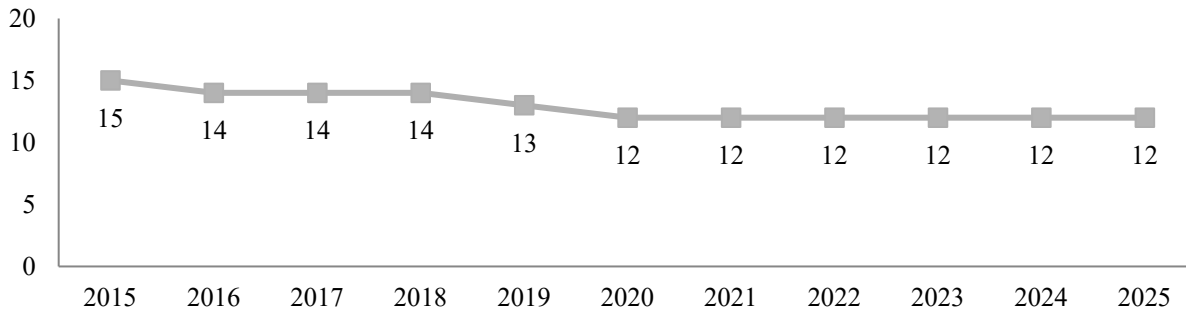
## STAFFING TREND

The Public Guardian staff allocation is recommended to remain unchanged at 12.0 FTE for FY 2024-25.

# Public Guardian

## RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

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### SOURCES & USED OF FUNDS

The General Fund provides the majority of funding for this Division (93.6%). Other funding comes from service charges (3%), Federal Revenue (1.3%), and Misc. Revenue (2.1%).

