

Public Defender
RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The Public Defender’s Office Budget is recommended at \$6,191,687, which is a decrease of \$96,453 (1.5%) when compared to the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 80.9% of the funding for the department, and total General Fund support is increased by \$111,005 (2.3%) when compared to the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
IG Rev - State	901,894	800,255	615,968	(184,287)
IG Rev - Federal	0	222,000	220,000	(2,000)
Service Charges	0	20,000	0	(20,000)
Other Fin Sources	12,969	349,992	348,821	(1,171)
Total Revenue	914,864	1,392,247	1,184,789	(207,458)
Salaries & Benefits	4,482,347	5,444,554	5,407,245	(37,309)
Services & Supplies	465,166	838,961	779,892	(59,069)
Other Charges	120,269	0	0	0
Fixed Assets	6,969	0	0	0
Intrafund Transfers	388	4,625	4,550	(75)
Total Appropriations	5,075,139	6,288,140	6,191,687	(96,453)
FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	4,160,276	4,895,893	5,006,898	111,005

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenues

State Revenue

(\$14,931) Decrease in Public Safety Sales Tax revenue due to reduced revenue in FY 2023-24 that will impact FY 2024-25.

(\$169,356) Decrease in State Revenue due to a reduction in Public Defense Pilot Program grant revenues.

Federal Revenue

(\$2,000) Decrease in Federal Revenue due to an adjustment made to the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant based in the appropriate annual breakdown.

Service Charges

(\$20,000) Decrease in Service Charges due to the intermittent nature of fees for conservatorship cases.

Public Defender

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

\$238,790	Increase in Salaries and Benefits due to the addition of 1.0 FTE Investigator I/II (Public Defender) and 1.0 FTE Paralegal I/II that will be funded with Criminal Fee Backfill special revenue funds.
\$35,125	Increase in Salaries and Benefits expenses primarily due to Health Insurance cost increases and employee step increases.
\$21,703	Increase in Workers' Compensation premium charge.
(\$36,851)	Decrease in Retiree Health contribution due to a rate holiday to conserve General Fund costs.
(\$296,076)	Decrease in Salaries and Benefits due to the deletion of 2.0 FTE Limited Term Deputy Public Defender I/II and 1.0 FTE Limited Term Program Assistant.

Services and Supplies

\$16,205	Increase in General Liability premium charge.
\$7,368	Increase in various objects due to grant-budgeted Services and Supplies.
(\$21,142)	Decrease due to adjustments across multiple objects to align the budget to actual costs.
(\$61,500)	Decrease in Computer System Maintenance and Professional and Specialized Services due to one-time costs associated with the Filevine case management implementation in FY 2023-24.

MISSION

The mission of the Public Defender is to provide legal representation for people appointed by the courts who are either charged with criminal offenses or who need legal representation in certain civil matters, who cannot afford to hire private counsel, yet their liberty interests are at stake. 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.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The functions of the Public Defender's Office are defined by United States law, California state law, and the County Charter. The Public Defender provides wide-ranging legal representation, including investigative services, to people appointed by the courts who cannot afford a private attorney. This includes adults and juveniles charged with criminal offenses, people who require conservatorship when they can't care for themselves due to a mental illness or dementia and/or can't manage their financial affairs, persons who are involuntarily held in a psychiatric facility and/or who are involuntarily medicated, persons who are facing contempt of court cases (family court and civil court cases), and the department will represent those persons in CARE Court, which begins in December 2024. The department is a partner in several specialty courts, such as Veterans' Court, Mental Health Diversion Court, Behavioral Health Court, and

the Family Wellness Court with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. The department also participates in standing committees, such as the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). Clients of the department include:

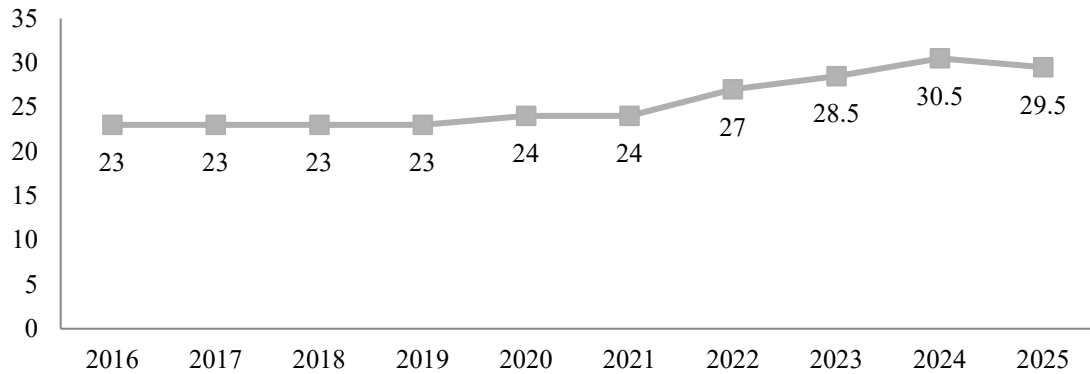
- Adults accused of felonies or misdemeanors who cannot afford private counsel, including both new cases and violations of probation (VOP), and those requiring mandatory community supervision (MCS) or post-release community supervision (PRCS);
- Juveniles accused of felonies or misdemeanors, including 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 and Limited 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, including legal work protecting their monies and investments from fraud and undue influence and including jury trials and court trials
- Persons who are facing involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations and persons facing involuntary psychotropic medication, including writ proceedings.
- Clients in specialty courts, such as Veterans' Court, Mental Health Diversion Court, Behavioral Health 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.
- Persons who are facing contempt of court charges brought by private attorneys and/or private persons in Family Law Court or other civil matters, when liberty interests are at stake, including contested hearings and trials.
- Persons who are referred to CARE Court, a new initiative from the State of California, to help manage the crisis of mental illness in our communities.

STAFFING TREND

Staffing for the Public Defender's Office has changed little over the last ten years. The recommended staff allocation for FY 2024-25 is 29.5 FTEs, which includes the addition of 1.0 FTE Investigator I/II (Public Defender) and 1.0 FTE Paralegal I/II and the deletion of 2.0 FTE Deputy Public Defender I/II – Limited Term and 1.0 FTE Program Assistant – Limited Term.

Public Defender

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25



SOURCES & USES OF FUNDS

The department is primarily funded with discretionary General Fund revenue; however, the department does receive a share of the Public Safety sales tax (\$489,214), 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 grant funding from the BSCC for the Public Defense Pilot Program (\$126,754), grant revenue from the Edward Byrne JAG Program (\$220,000), AB 143 Criminal Backfill funding (\$238,790), and Public Defender Sub Account funding (\$104,031).