



Office of Public Defense
2025-27 Regular Budget Session
Policy Level - 1N - Public Defense Grants

Agency Recommendation Summary

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests funding to increase public defense improvement grants to counties and cities under Chapter 10.101 RCW, and to implement a new Innovation Grant. Trial level criminal defense is in crisis in Washington, without enough public defense attorneys to represent indigent persons facing criminal charges. In spite of steadily increasing public defense costs borne by local jurisdictions, state funding for trial level criminal public defense has remained stagnant for nearly 20 years. Washington is one of only 13 states that provide little or no state funding for criminal public defense. Cities and Counties need supplemental funding in order to provide adequate indigent defense.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Staffing						
FTEs	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$40,449	\$40,416	\$80,865	\$40,416	\$40,416	\$80,832
Total Expenditures	\$40,449	\$40,416	\$80,865	\$40,416	\$40,416	\$80,832

Decision Package Description

See attached PDF.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

See attached PDF.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

See attached PDF.

Workforce Assumptions:

See attached PDF.

Historical Funding:

See attached PDF.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

See attached PDF.

Performance Outcomes:

See attached PDF.

Equity Impacts

Community Outreach and Engagement:

See attached PDF.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

See attached PDF.

Target Communities and Populations:

See attached PDF.

Community Inputs and Incorporation:

See attached PDF.

Other Collateral Connections

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

Not applicable.

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable.

State Workforce Impacts:

See attached PDF.

Intergovernmental:

See attached PDF.

Stakeholder Impacts:

See attached PDF.

State Facilities Impacts:

See attached PDF.

Changes from Current Law:

See attached PDF.

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

See attached PDF.

Governor's Salmon Strategy:

Not applicable.

Reference Documents

[1N Funding for RCW 10.101 Public Defense Grants & New Innovation Grants.pdf](#)
[1N Public Defense Grants - 2024 Grant Application - Attachment A.docx](#)
[1N Public Defense Grants - Memo to WSSC on Workload - Attachment C.pdf](#)
[1N Public Defense Grants - Proposed County Calculations - Attachment B.docx](#)

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Obj. A	\$314	\$314	\$628	\$314	\$314	\$628
Obj. B	\$78	\$78	\$156	\$78	\$78	\$156
Obj. E	\$37	\$4	\$41	\$4	\$4	\$8
Obj. G	\$20	\$20	\$40	\$20	\$20	\$40
Obj. N	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$80,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$80,000

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