Office of Civil Legal Aid

2027-29 Regular Budget Session

Policy Level - A3 - Appointed Counsel for Tenants

Agency Recommendation Summary

Eviction filings in Washington are at record high levels. March and July 2026 had the highest monthly filing totals since statewide tracking began in 2016. The Appointed Counsel for Indigent Tenants Program has opened 38,947 cases, avoided an eviction in 74% of closed cases with a known outcome, and recorded $75.6 million in savings across closed cases since the program began in 2021[SP1.1]. This package requests $4,117,000 per year and $8,234,000 for the biennium. The request maintains fiscal year 2027 (FY 2027) funding levels and adds $1,117,000 annually for six contracted attorney lines in the highest-volume counties. Without the continuation of FY 2027 funding, OCLA will lose roughly 16 contracted attorney lines and about 1,550 case assignments a year. The six additional contracted attorneys allow the program to meet the demand of the current filing volume, which remains approximately 47% above the FY 2019 baseline.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary *Dollars in Thousands*	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2028	2029	2027-29	2030	2031	2029-31
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	$4,117	$4,117	**$8,234**	$4,117	$4,117	**$8,234**
Total Expenditures	**$4,117**	**$4,117**	**$8,234**	**$4,117**	**$4,117**	**$8,234**

Decision Package Description

See attached.

Assumptions and Calculations

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

n/a

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

n/a

Workforce Assumptions:

n/a

Historical Funding:

n/a

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

n/a

Performance Outcomes:

n/a

Equity Impacts

Community Outreach and Engagement:

n/a

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

n/a

Target Communities and Populations:

n/a

Community Inputs and Incorporation:

n/a

Other Collateral Connections

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

n/a

Puget Sound Recovery:

n/a

State Workforce Impacts:

n/a

Intergovernmental:

n/a

Stakeholder Impacts:

n/a

State Facilities Impacts:

n/a

Changes from Current Law:

n/a

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

n/a

Governor's Salmon Strategy:

n/a

Reference Documents

2027-29 Decision Package RTC - Stout Report.pdf
OCLA PL-A3 2027-29 Decision Package RTC - Calculations.pdf
OCLA PL-A3 Decision Package RTC - UD Filings.pdf
OCLA PL-A3 Decision Package RTC DP.pdf

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 *Dollars in Thousands*	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2028	2029	2027-29	2030	2031	2029-31
Obj. C	$4,117	$4,117	**$8,234**	$4,117	$4,117	**$8,234**

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