



Public Defender 2025-26 Proposed Budget

HEATHER ROGERS
Public Defender
June 4, 2025



MLK March for Freedom

Presentation Overview



Our Mission



How We Are Organized



Budget Overview



Fiscal & Staffing Details



Federal/State Risks & Emerging Issues



Request & Questions



Mission

To courageously defend the accused. To demand equal justice for all. To empower our clients with inspired advocacy in the courtroom and community. We are on a mission to elevate public defense, one client at a time.

State & Federal Funding Risks



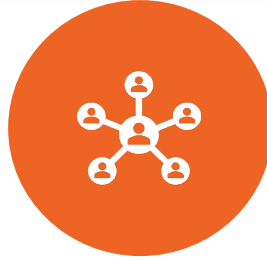
Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)

- The BSCC has concluded its **Public Defense Pilot Program**, which supported **statutorily mandated post-conviction relief**.
- Over the past three years, the program provided a total of **\$1,016,673** in funding:
 - **FY 2022–23:** \$354,416
 - **FY 2023–24:** \$345,617
 - **FY 2024–25:** \$316,640

Services



DEDICATED
DEFENSE TEAMS



INTERDISCIPLINARY
WRAPAROUND
SUPPORT



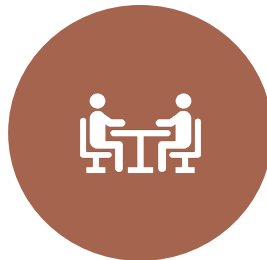
24/7 EMERGENCY
DEFENSE



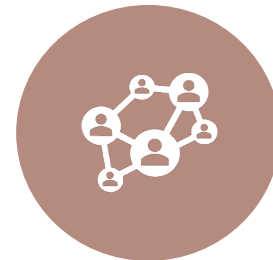
COLLATERAL
CONSEQUENCES
& REENTRY



EARLY
REPRESENTATION



VERTICAL
REPRESENTATION



HOLISTIC
DEFENSE



COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Public Defender Summary of Proposed Budget

	2024-25 Adopted	2025-26 Proposed	Amount of Change	Percent Change
Revenues	\$810,029	\$1,463,299	\$653,270	80.6%
Expenses	\$18,088,506	\$19,193,122	\$1,103,616	6.11%
General Fund Contribution	\$17,095,964	\$17,729,823	\$633,859	3.707%
Other Fund Contribution	\$405,000	\$407,582	\$2,582	0.638%
Funded Staffing	64.00	64.00	0.00	0%

Major Budget Changes from Adopted Revenues

	Amount	Title of change in revenue
↓	\$ 70,850	Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)
↓	\$ 316,640	Public Defense Pilot Program (program concluded)
↑	\$ 523,378	One-time Assembly Bill (AB) 1869 backfill
↑	\$ 402,651	AB 177 backfill (realigned from General County Revenues to PDO)

Major Budget Changes from Adopted Expenses

	Amount	Title of change in expenditure/expense
↑	\$ 886,780	Negotiated salary and benefits
↑	\$ 112,471	GSD services and charges
↑	\$ 50,874	Increase in operations for a new Human Resource and Payroll System, regular annual increases for software licenses and services, a copier and training
↑	\$96,431	Increase contract amount for conflict firm to accommodate contract negotiations
↑	\$97,767	Increase amount for panel program support retaining attorneys, paralegals, investigators, among others

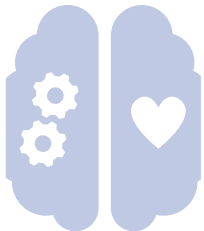
Emerging Issues



Parity between the prosecution and defense **corrects systemic inequities**



Prosecutors are aggressively prosecuting **new felonies** under Proposition 36



We are at the **forefront of policy issues and solutions** related to homelessness and mental health & substance use disorders



Aggressive immigration enforcement requires culturally-responsive services for noncitizens



Ineffective public defense leads to wrongful conviction, lawsuits, and unnecessary incarceration



Upstream solutions forged through Community-Based Whole Person Defense lead to **downstream savings** and **improved outcomes**

Public Defender

Approve the Proposed Budget for Public Defender and any Supplemental Materials, which includes:

- Revenues of \$1,463,299
- Expenses of \$19,193,122
- General Fund Contribution of \$17,729,823
- Other Funds Contribution of \$407,582
- Staffing of 64.0 funded FTEs
- Funding for conflict indigent defense



3rd Annual All-Defender Spring Training