



Dollars in Thousands

ABS024 Recommendation Summary **Office of Public Defense** **2024 First Supplemental Budget Session** **OPD2024 - OPD 2024 Supplemental**

	Average Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
CB T0PL Current Biennium Base	38.2	136,745	10,279	147,024
2023-25 Current Biennium Total	38.2	136,745	10,279	147,024
Total Carry Forward Level	38.2	136,745	10,279	147,024
Percent Change from Current Biennium	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
	0.0	0	0	0
Total Maintenance Level	38.2	136,745	10,279	147,024
Percent Change from Current Biennium	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Policy – Other Changes				
PL BA St. v. Blake Public Defense	3.0	0	2,863	2,863
PL BB NGRI Attorney Vendor Rate	0.0	366	0	366
PL BC Recruitment Specialist Team	1.5	642	0	642
PL BD Evaluation of Public Defense Svcs.	0.0	320	0	320
PL BE Parents Representation Pgm Training	0.6	534	0	534
PL BF Client Emergency Funds	0.0	50	0	50
PL BG OPD Office Relocation	0.0	0	335	335
PL BH "Lead" Social Work Contract	0.0	81	0	81
PL BJ Support Staff Reclassification	0.0	251	0	251
Policy – Other Total	5.1	2,244	3,198	5,442
Subtotal - Policy Level Changes	5.1	2,244	3,198	5,442
2023-25 Total Policy Level	43.3	138,989	13,477	152,466
Percent Change from Current Biennium	13.4%	1.6%	31.1%	3.7%

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PL BA St. v. Blake Public Defense

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests \$2,863,000 and continuation of 6.0 FTEs for Fiscal Year 2025 for ongoing statewide public defense services and statewide coordination in response to the State v. Blake decision. Continued funding will sustain OPD coordination with statewide partners, and will ensure that counties are sufficiently resourced for ongoing Blake resentencing defense, eligible individuals' right to counsel is upheld, and community members are notified of potential Blake relief. The Blake decision made all previous convictions of simple drug possession void. Individuals who are incarcerated or are serving DOC community custody must be resentenced in light of Blake's impact on criminal history scoring. (Judicial Stabilization Trust Account-State)

PL BB NGRI Attorney Vendor Rate

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests funding that will allow the agency to include newly authorized not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) attorney contracts in the Fiscal Year 2025 attorney vendor rate adjustment that the Legislature previously approved for OPD's other client services contracts. (General Fund-State)

PL BC Recruitment Specialist Team

To address the shortage of public defense attorneys, particularly in rural counties, the Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests ongoing funding to coordinate statewide public defense recruitment efforts. A Recruitment Specialist Team will include 3.0 FTEs to assist county and city public defense systems by engaging with students at universities and law schools, providing grant funding and technical assistance to establish legal internship programs, and delivering trainings to counties and cities struggling with public defense recruitment/retention. (General Fund-State)

PL BD Evaluation of Public Defense Svcs.

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests one-time funding to contract with an independent subject-matter expert organization to conduct a statewide evaluation of county and city public defense services to help inform OPD and the Legislature on the most effective methods to support, monitor, and resource local public defense services and ensure constitutionally sufficient representation of indigent individuals in all jurisdictions. (General Fund-State)

PL BE Parents Representation Pgm Training

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests funding to ensure stable, professional training resources for OPD Parents Representation Program staff and approximately 300 client services contractors. OPD requests 1.0 FTE training coordinator to develop and coordinate training resources for the Parents Representation Program. (General Fund-State)

PL BF Client Emergency Funds

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests ongoing funding to address emergency safety issues and other urgent needs that occasionally arise for indigent clients served by the Parents Representation Program. Examples include securing short-term safety for parent clients experiencing domestic violence, as well as covering emergency moving services, utility bills, transportation, and food assistance. Failure to quickly and effectively address these needs can adversely impact a client's dependency case and their ability to successfully reunify with their children. (General Fund-State)

PL BG OPD Office Relocation

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests one-time funding to relocate its office and support the relocation project led by the Office of Financial Management Facilities Oversight and Planning team. Funding is requested for tenant improvements, technology infrastructure, new office furniture, and moving expenses. Funding is requested from the biennial JSTA fund in the event moving costs are split between FY 2024 and FY 2025. (Judicial Stabilization Trust Account-State)

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PL BH "Lead" Social Work Contract

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests funding to cover one-half the cost of a "lead" social work contract to be shared equally between the RCW 71.09 Program (sex offender civil commitment) and RCW 10.77 Program (not guilty by reason of insanity). The lead contractor is responsible for developing a strategic social service plan and performance standards, providing ongoing specialized training for other contractors, and managing the case assignment process for social work services in both programs.

This Decision Package will fund the RCW 71.09 share of the lead social work contract. The RCW 10.77 share is funded within existing resources. (General Fund-State)

PL BJ Support Staff Reclassification

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests funding to reclassify the agency's Program and Administrative Assistants to a salary commensurate with the work that is performed and the experience required for these positions. (General Fund-State)

Report Number: ABS024

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