

## Public Defender Services Commission

### PDS98500

#### Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	451	451	451	451	451	504	506

#### Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	48,056,784	49,247,719	51,267,598	54,782,499	54,782,499	58,196,969	58,383,519
Other Expenses	1,559,656	1,561,619	1,565,163	1,565,163	1,565,163	1,565,163	1,589,903
<b>Other Current Expenses</b>							
Assigned Counsel - Criminal	20,837,403	31,313,988	33,764,004	30,508,488	30,508,488	37,784,482	41,354,960
Expert Witnesses	2,316,202	2,575,600	2,775,604	2,775,604	2,775,604	2,775,604	2,775,604
Training And Education	272,039	119,747	119,748	119,748	119,748	119,748	119,748
<b>Agency Total - General Fund</b>	<b>73,042,084</b>	<b>84,818,673</b>	<b>89,492,117</b>	<b>89,751,502</b>	<b>89,751,502</b>	<b>100,441,966</b>	<b>104,223,734</b>

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

## Policy Revisions

### Provide Funding to Increase Assigned Counsel Rates

Assigned Counsel - Criminal	-	-	3,570,478	7,140,956	3,570,478	7,140,956
<b>Total - General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,570,478</b>	<b>7,140,956</b>	<b>3,570,478</b>	<b>7,140,956</b>

#### Legislative

Provide funding of \$3,570,478 in FY 26 and \$7,140,956 in FY 27 to increase assigned counsel rates by approximately 9.5% in each fiscal year.

### Provide Funding for Public Defender Translators

Personal Services	805,516	805,516	805,516	805,516	-	-
Assigned Counsel - Criminal	(805,516)	(805,516)	-	-	805,516	805,516
<b>Total - General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>805,516</b>	<b>805,516</b>	<b>805,516</b>	<b>805,516</b>
<b>Positions - General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>

#### Governor

Transfer funding of \$805,516 from the Assigned Counsel account to the Personal Services account in both FY 26 and FY 27 to hire 13 translators.

#### Legislative

Provide funding of \$805,516 to the Personal Services account in both FY 26 and FY 27 to hire 13 translators.

### Provide Funding for Veterans' Services

Personal Services	-	-	-	186,550	-	186,550
Other Expenses	-	-	-	24,740	-	24,740
<b>Total - General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>211,290</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>211,290</b>
<b>Positions - General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

**Background**

Section 14 of PA 25-95, *An Act Concerning Assorted Proposals to Recognize and Honor the Military Service of Members of The Armed Forces and Veterans in Connecticut*, excludes service-connected disability benefits from income eligibility determination for public defender services effective FY 27.

**Legislative**

Provide funding of \$211,290 and two positions to support an expected case load increase associated with PA 25-95.

**Maintain the Eligibility Threshold of 250% of Federal Poverty Level**

Personal Services	(3,414,470)	(3,414,470)	-	-	3,414,470	3,414,470
Assigned Counsel - Criminal	(2,900,000)	(2,900,000)	-	-	2,900,000	2,900,000
<b>Total - General Fund</b>	<b>(6,314,470)</b>	<b>(6,314,470)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,314,470</b>	<b>6,314,470</b>
<b>Positions - General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>

**Background**

The Public Defender Services Commission (PDS) bases its eligibility thresholds to receive services on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Prior to January 1, 2025, PDS had set the eligibility threshold at 200% of FPL. Section 201 of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget, raised this threshold to 250% of FPL for an individual to qualify for services.

**Governor**

Reduce funding by \$6,314,470 in FY 26 and FY 27 to reduce the eligibility threshold from 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 200% of FPL.

**Legislative**

Maintain funding and the eligibility threshold of 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and increase the position count by 20 to reflect current staff.

## Current Services

**Annualize Funding to Increase Public Defender Eligibility Thresholds**

Personal Services	1,964,470	1,964,470	1,964,470	1,964,470	-	-
Assigned Counsel - Criminal	1,450,000	1,450,000	1,450,000	1,450,000	-	-
<b>Total - General Fund</b>	<b>3,414,470</b>	<b>3,414,470</b>	<b>3,414,470</b>	<b>3,414,470</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Positions - General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>

**Background**

The Public Defender Services Commission (PDS) bases its eligibility thresholds to receive services on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Prior to January 1, 2025, PDS had set the eligibility threshold at 200% of FPL. Section 201 of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget, raised this threshold to 250% of FPL for an individual to qualify for services.

**Governor**

Provide funding of \$3,414,470 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to annualize the costs associated with the increase in the eligibility threshold.

**Legislative**

Same as Governor, except 20 new positions are provided.

**Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements**

Personal Services	4,159,385	4,159,385	4,159,385	4,159,385	-	-
<b>Total - General Fund</b>	<b>4,159,385</b>	<b>4,159,385</b>	<b>4,159,385</b>	<b>4,159,385</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Background**

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

**Governor**

Provide funding of \$4,159,385 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

**Legislative**

Same as Governor

**Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements**

Assigned Counsel - Criminal	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	-	-
<b>Total - General Fund</b>	<b>(1,000,000)</b>	<b>(1,000,000)</b>	<b>(1,000,000)</b>	<b>(1,000,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Governor**

Reduce funding by \$1 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect current agency requirements.

**Legislative**

Same as Governor

**Totals**

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	89,492,117	89,492,117	89,492,117	89,492,117	-	-
Policy Revisions	(6,314,470)	(6,314,470)	4,375,994	8,157,762	10,690,464	14,472,232
Current Services	6,573,855	6,573,855	6,573,855	6,573,855	-	-
<b>Total Recommended - GF</b>	<b>89,751,502</b>	<b>89,751,502</b>	<b>100,441,966</b>	<b>104,223,734</b>	<b>10,690,464</b>	<b>14,472,232</b>

Positions	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	451	451	451	451	-	-
Policy Revisions	-	-	33	35	33	35
Current Services	-	-	20	20	20	20
<b>Total Recommended - GF</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>