

Agency 056

Office of Public Defense

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2007-09 Expenditure Authority	14.5	36,030	18,592	54,622
Supplemental Changes				
Juvenile Initial Appearance Attorneys		1,744		1,744
Parents Representation Program - Whatcom County		531		531
Parents Representation Program - King County		750		750
Parents Representation Mandatory Caseload Adjustment		626		626
FTE Staff Adjustment	1.5			
Subtotal - Supplemental Changes	1.5	3,651		3,651
Total Proposed Budget	16.0	39,681	18,592	58,273
Difference	1.5	3,651		3,651
Percent Change	10.3%	10.1%	0.0%	6.7%

SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES

Juvenile Initial Appearance Attorneys

Under state law, all youth who face juvenile offender charges must have access to counsel at their initial appearance in court. Funding is provided to ensure access to counsel and to reduce juvenile attorney caseloads.

Parents Representation Program - Whatcom County

The Office of Public Defense's plan is to implement the Parents Representation Program in all 39 counties by the end of the 2009-11 Biennium. Presently the program has been, or is being, established in 25 counties. Funding is provided to establish the program in Whatcom County where there has been a significant increase in dependency and termination filings. This program provides indigent parents with effective legal advocacy in such cases, consistent with constitutional requirements.

Parents Representation Program - King County

The Parents Representation Program in King County will be expanded to conflict attorneys, fulfilling an emergent need.

Parents Representation Mandatory Caseload Adjustment

In 2007, caseload levels in the 18 counties in which the Parents Representation Program operates have grown substantially due to increased dependency and termination filings. Additional funds are needed to maintain program standards and case services.

FTE Staff Adjustment

An additional 1.5 FTE staff is required to address the increased funding and workload provided by the 2007 Legislature for the parents representation program, trial level indigent defense program, and technology demands within the agency. The agency will absorb the cost for these staff.