

# Office of Defense Services (ODS)

**FY23 Joint Finance Committee Hearing  
February 17, 2022**



# The ODS Mission

To ensure our clients' Sixth Amendment rights to an effective lawyer and to a fair trial are respected and realized.

To defend indigent adults accused of a crime, and children accused of a delinquent act

Right to counsel is guaranteed - Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Delaware Constitution (Article I, Section 7), and case law

# Agency Overview

## Office of Defense Services

### Central Administration

- Executive Team
- HR/Fiscal
- Information Technology
- Training and Development
- Intake Unit

### Public Defenders Office

- Attorneys
- Forensic Social Specialists
- Mitigation Specialists
- Legal and Administrative Support Staff
- Investigators
- Partners for Justice Advocates
- Third Party Experts

### Office of Conflicts Counsel

- Managing Attorneys
- Forensic Social Specialists
- Legal and Administrative Support Staff
- Third Party Experts
- Contract Attorneys

**\$3,596.3 GF**

**30.0 FTE**

**4.0 C/S**

**\$16,739.1 GF**

**131.0 FTE**

**6.0 C/S**

**4.0 Contractors**

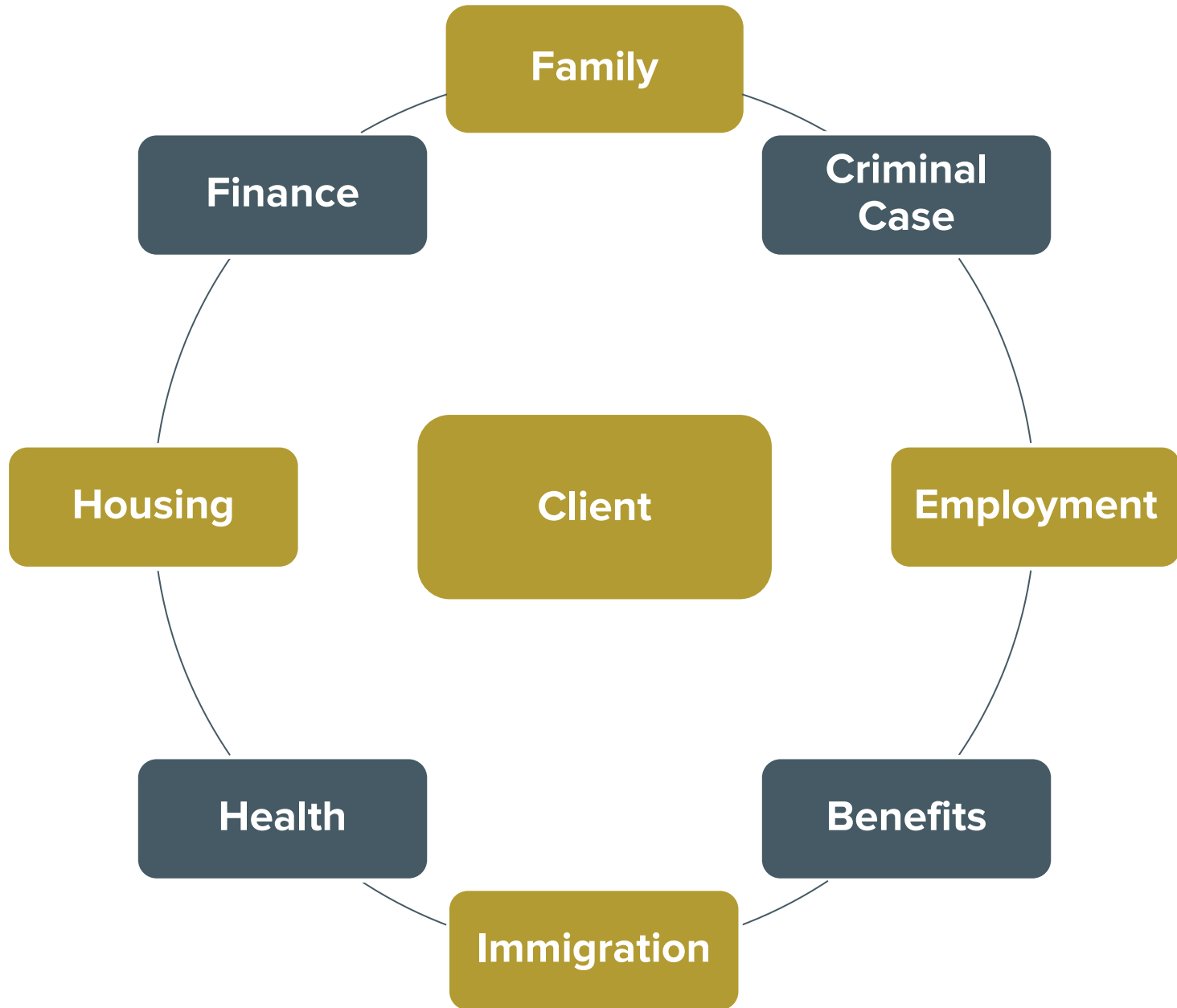
**\$7,008.6 GF**

**9.0 FTE**

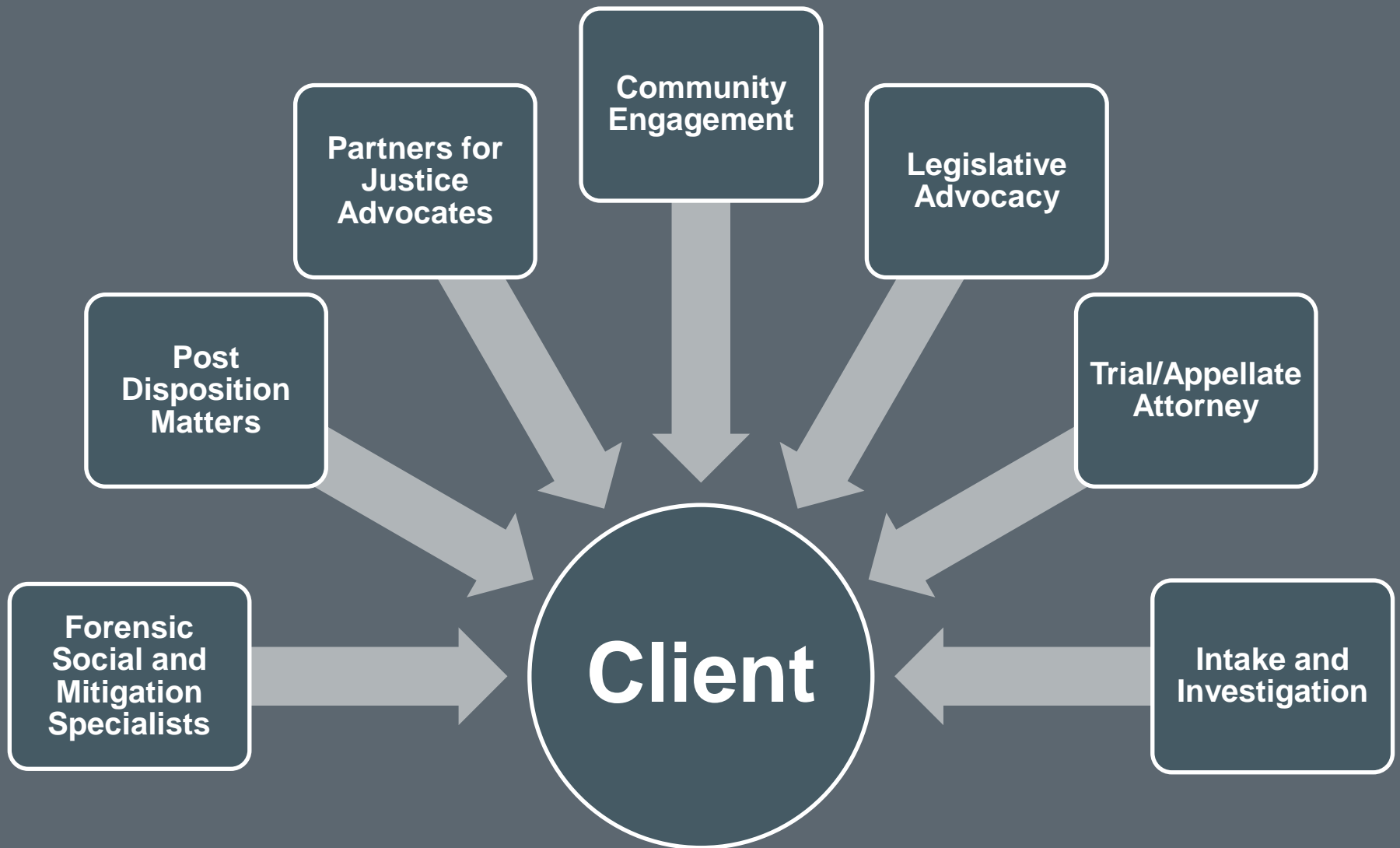
**2.0 C/S**

**34.0 Contractors**

# Holistic Defense in Action



# Holistic Defense at ODS



# Prior Year Accomplishments

- ✓ Continuity of operations
- ✓ Legislative impact
- ✓ HB 115 – Minimum age of prosecution
- ✓ SB 111 & SB 112 – Clean Slate
- ✓ HB 215 – Custodial Interrogations
- ✓ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- ✓ Named one of Delaware Top Workplaces

# FY23 Governor's Recommended Budget

	FTE	\$'000
<b>FY22 GF Operating Budget</b>	<b>162.0</b>	<b>27,344.0</b>
<b>FY22 Personnel Contingency</b>		<b>186.3</b>
<b>FY23 Recommended Enhancements:</b>		
<b>Body Worn Camera Program:</b>		
Year 1 FTE Establishment	<b>8.0</b>	
<b>Lease Escalators</b>		
Annual Kent and Sussex lease inflator		<b>3.4</b>
<b>Contractual Positions to FTEs</b>		
Forensic Social and Mitigation Specialists*	<b>3.0</b>	<b>115.2</b>
<b>FY23 Governor's Recommended Budget:</b>	<b>173.0</b>	<b>27,648.9</b>

*\*Net impact of increased personnel costs and reduced contractual expenses*

# Ongoing Initiatives

- Recruitment and Retention
  - Attorney Salary Matrix Update
- Partners for Justice Advocates
  - Commitment to statewide program post grant expiration
- Community Engagement and Outreach
  - Community Engagement Specialist
- Post Disposition activities
  - Expungement Clinics, pardons, commutations and other collateral matters





- Recruiting and retaining quality attorneys and support staff is fundamental to delivering the State's Constitutional obligation.
- Zealous community engagement and client advocacy will allow the office to continue to employ a holistic defense model and aid re-entry and reform.
- As a publicly funded law firm, these additional resources will allow the office to continue, and enhance, the provision of representation for the indigent community.

# Thank You