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

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<tr>
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<th>Central Administration</th>
<th>Public Defenders Office</th>
<th>Office of Conflicts Counsel</th>
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<td>$3,596.3 GF</td>
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Holistic Defense in Action

- Family
- Criminal Case
- Employment
- Benefits
- Health
- Immigration
- Finance
- Housing

Client
Holistic Defense at ODS

- Partners for Justice Advocates
- Post Disposition Matters
- Community Engagement
- Legislative Advocacy
- Trial/Appellate Attorney
- Forensic Social and Mitigation Specialists
- Intake and Investigation
- Client
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

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>FY22 GF Operating Budget</td>
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<td>FY22 Personnel Contingency</td>
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<td>FY23 Recommended Enhancements:</td>
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<td>Body Worn Camera Program:</td>
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<td>Year 1 FTE Establishment</td>
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<td>Lease Escalators</td>
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<td>Contractual Positions to FTEs</td>
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<td>Forensic Social and Mitigation Specialists*</td>
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<td>FY23 Governor’s Recommended Budget:</td>
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*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