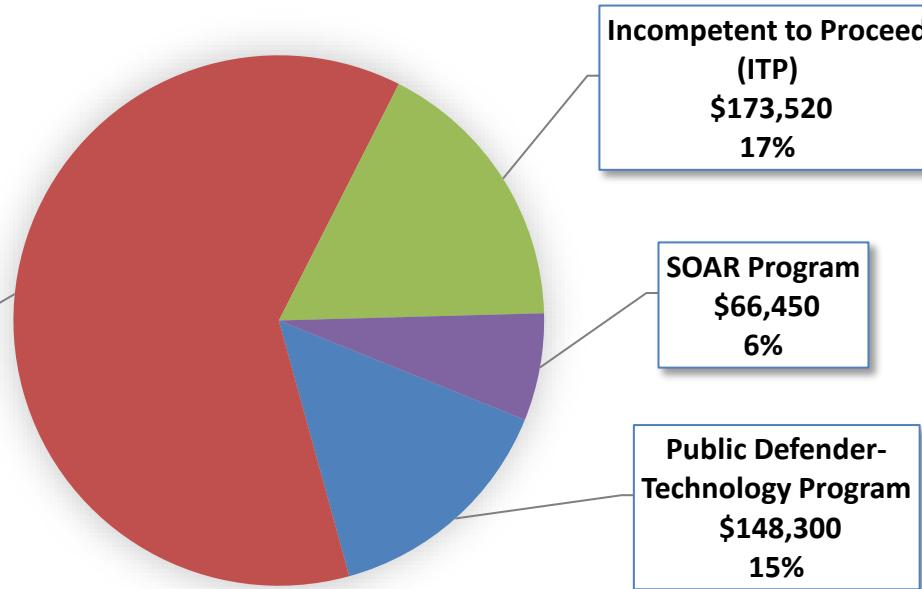


PUBLIC DEFENDER

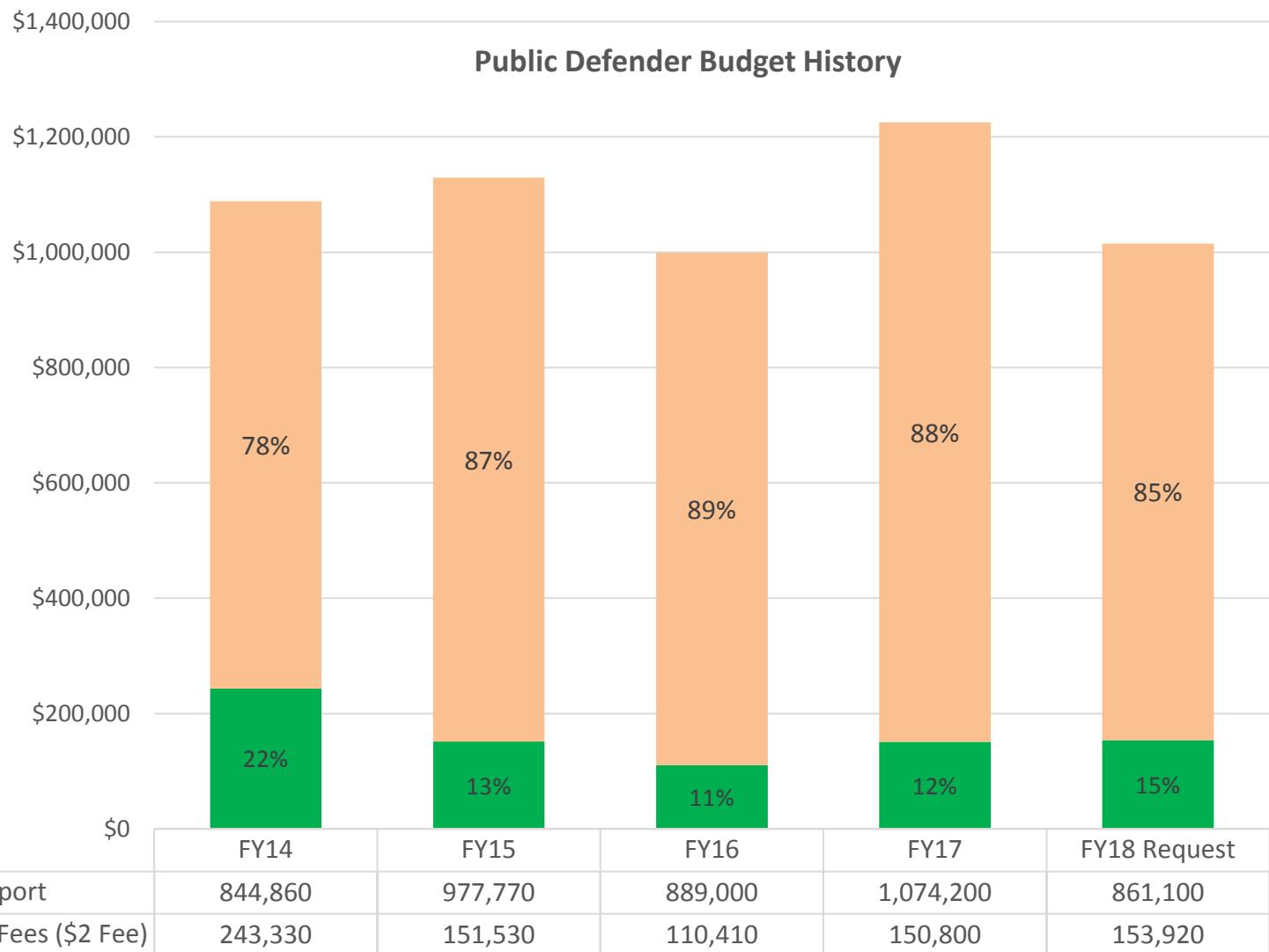
FY18 Budget Request by Program



The Public Defender Budget is supported by multiple funding sources. The portion of the budget related to General Fund support reflects a \$202,390 (18.8%) decrease from FY17 budget. A large portion of this decrease, \$196,830, is related to the yearly changes associated with the annual computer replacement schedule along including one-time additional funding for Revolve upgrades.

The Public Defender has submitted a decision package requesting reimbursement for two new full-time State funded Crossover Case Managers positions in an effort to reduce case worker turnover and workload. The Case Managers will work to reunite families and to introduce the families to local resources to reduce or prevent homelessness. The recurring annual reimbursement costs for both positions is \$125,000.

The Public Defender Technology program is intended to be funded by Article V revenues and does not have a target. The Jail Diversion, ITP, and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) programs are discretionary and are funded by General Fund revenues. These programs have met the FY18 budget target which represents an inflationary increase over the FY17 budget appropriation for these programs. However, Article V revenues are not fully funding the required programs. Article V of the State Constitution requires counties to provide funding for all reasonable and necessary technology and communications functions for the Judiciary, State Attorney, and Public Defender.



PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Public Defender's office provides legal advice, counsel, and defense services to needy and financially indigent citizens accused of crimes, as required by Florida law. The County portion of the budget funds Article V related technology requirements, Jail Diversion, Incompetent to Proceed (ITP) programs, and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR). The Public Defender does not have any County staff, although funding provided by the County enables hiring of staff to support specific programs.

Program Descriptions		FY18	
		Budget Request	FTEs
Public Defender-Technology Program	Article V of the State Constitution requires the counties to provide all reasonable and necessary technology and communications functions for the Judiciary, State Attorney, and Public Defender. Funding is partially supported by Court fees.	148,300	-
Public Defender-Jail Diversion-BCC Funds	This program is a collaborative effort of the Public Defender, State Attorney, Pinellas County Sheriff, the Judiciary, and local service providers to reduce the incidence and length of incarceration of individuals diagnosed with mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder.	626,750	-
Incompetent to Proceed	Since FY07, the Board of County Commissioners has funded a program for case management assistance to non-violent criminal misdemeanor offenders who have mental health issues. These persons are not eligible for other jail diversion programs which are only available to felony offenders.	173,520	-
SOAR Program	The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program allows for Social Security disability benefits to be received in three to six months, as opposed to the one to three years on a regular application. Funding is for one position in the Public Defender's Office to assist clients in having benefits available when they are released from jail. For FY18, the Human Services Department has \$118,380 budgeted for additional SOAR expenses.	66,450	-
TOTAL		1,015,020	-

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Organizational Chart
July 1, 2014

