

# 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, the Jail Diversion program, and the Incompetent to Proceed program.

## **Decision Package:**

The Public Defender submitted one decision package.

- Funding for two Juvenile Crossover Case Managers (\$150,470) to continue support for juvenile offenders transitioning out of foster care.
  - These positions were added in FY18 as a pilot program to assess the effectiveness of the program. Between March 2019 and April 2020, 36 youths received services from the Crossover Case Managers. They received a wide array of services from psychiatric counseling, to obtaining social assistance benefits, to scheduling medical and dental appointments. The clients ranged in age from 12 to 19 years old.
  - These positions will be able to leverage grant funding through June 2023. The grant from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) totals \$1.2M, with \$400,000 per year for FY21, FY22, and FY23.
  - These positions are State FTE and the County reimburses the State directly.

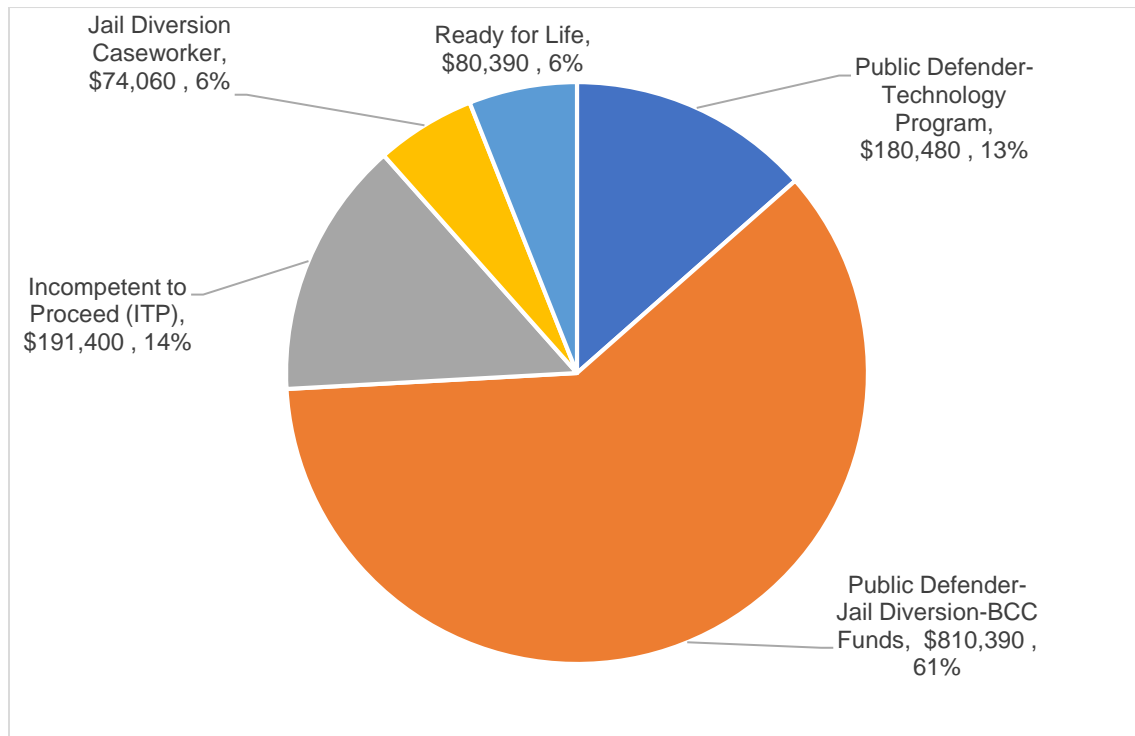
## **Budget Summary**

The County's portion of the Public Defender's budget is used to maintain and replace various technology according to a planned replacement schedule. It supports the Jail Diversion program, the Incompetent to Proceed program, and the Ready for Life program. A portion of the FY21 budget request is funded from the Document Recording Fee (\$186,880). Other General Fund revenue (\$1,149,840) supports 86.0% of the expenditure budget.

The Public Defender's Budget Request is \$73,060 (5.9%) below the target provided by The County, which only applies to the Jail Diversion, Incompetent to Proceed, and Ready for Life programs.

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## Budget by Program:



## Expenditures

	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budget	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Request
Operating Expenses	\$930,782	\$1,095,396	\$1,311,103	\$1,499,180	\$1,511,955	\$1,309,750
Capital Outlay	\$125,030	\$4,564	\$4,190	\$145,800	\$145,800	\$26,970
<b>Total GF</b>	<b>\$1,055,812</b>	<b>\$1,099,960</b>	<b>\$1,315,293</b>	<b>\$1,644,980</b>	<b>\$1,657,755</b>	<b>\$1,336,720</b>

## Revenues

	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budget	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Request
Document Recording Fee	\$150,800	\$153,920	\$146,010	\$139,070	\$139,070	\$186,880
General Fund Support	\$905,012	\$946,040	\$1,169,283	\$1,505,910	\$1,518,685	\$1,149,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,055,812</b>	<b>\$1,099,960</b>	<b>\$1,315,293</b>	<b>\$1,644,980</b>	<b>\$1,657,755</b>	<b>\$1,336,720</b>
Document Recording Fee %	14.3%	14.0%	11.1%	8.5%	8.4%	14.0%
GF Support %	85.7%	86.0%	88.9%	91.5%	91.6%	86.0%

- Total expenses for the Public Defender are decreasing in the FY21 Request by \$308,260 (18.7%) to \$1.3M.

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- Operating expenses decreasing by \$189,430 (12.6%) to \$1.3M.
  - Includes communications, office supplies, and computer monitor replacements.
  - Also includes funding for the Jail Diversion and Chronic Inebriate programs, as well as expenditures related to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant (Baker Act Attorney).
  - The County also funds a 'Ready for Life' therapist and two 'Incompetent to Proceed' therapists.
  - The Public Defender has requested funding to continue with the two Juvenile Crossover Case Managers (see "Decision Package" request above).
- Capital Outlay is decreasing by \$118,830 (81.5%) to \$26,970.
  - The number of computers that are scheduled for replacement is significantly lower in FY21 than FY20.