



# Cuyahoga County Public Defender

---

2024-2025  
BUDGET PRESENTATION

# Scope of PD Work (23,661 cases in 2022)

---

## Felony

- New felony cases
- Specialized Dockets (MHDD, Drug, Veteran's, HRDV)
- Post-conviction motions

## Municipal

- All Cleveland and Lakewood misdemeanors; initial felony appearances
- Specialized Dockets (MH, Drug, Veteran's, Human Trafficking, Community)
- Post-conviction motions

## Juvenile

- Delinquency cases (Bindovers)
- Parent Representation
- Specialized Dockets

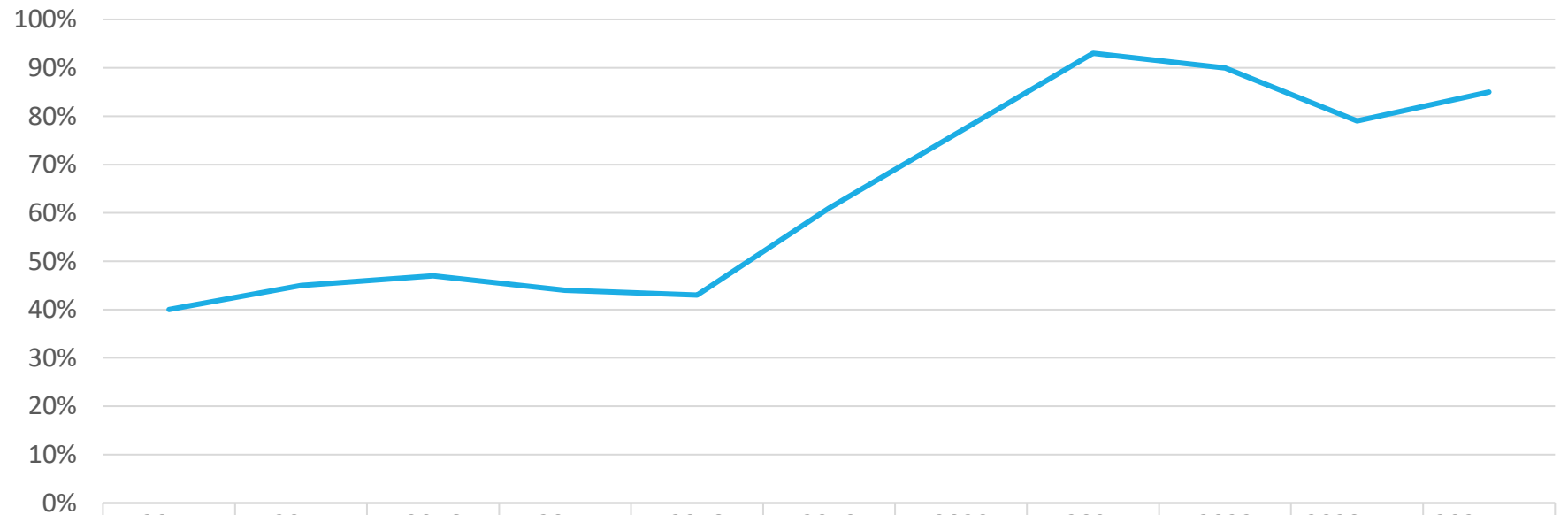
## Appellate

- 8<sup>th</sup> District and OSC appeals
- Post-conviction motions (e.g. new trial)
- Felony expungements
- Parole Hearings

# Budget Trends & Reimbursement

# State Reimbursement Rate for Indigent Defense

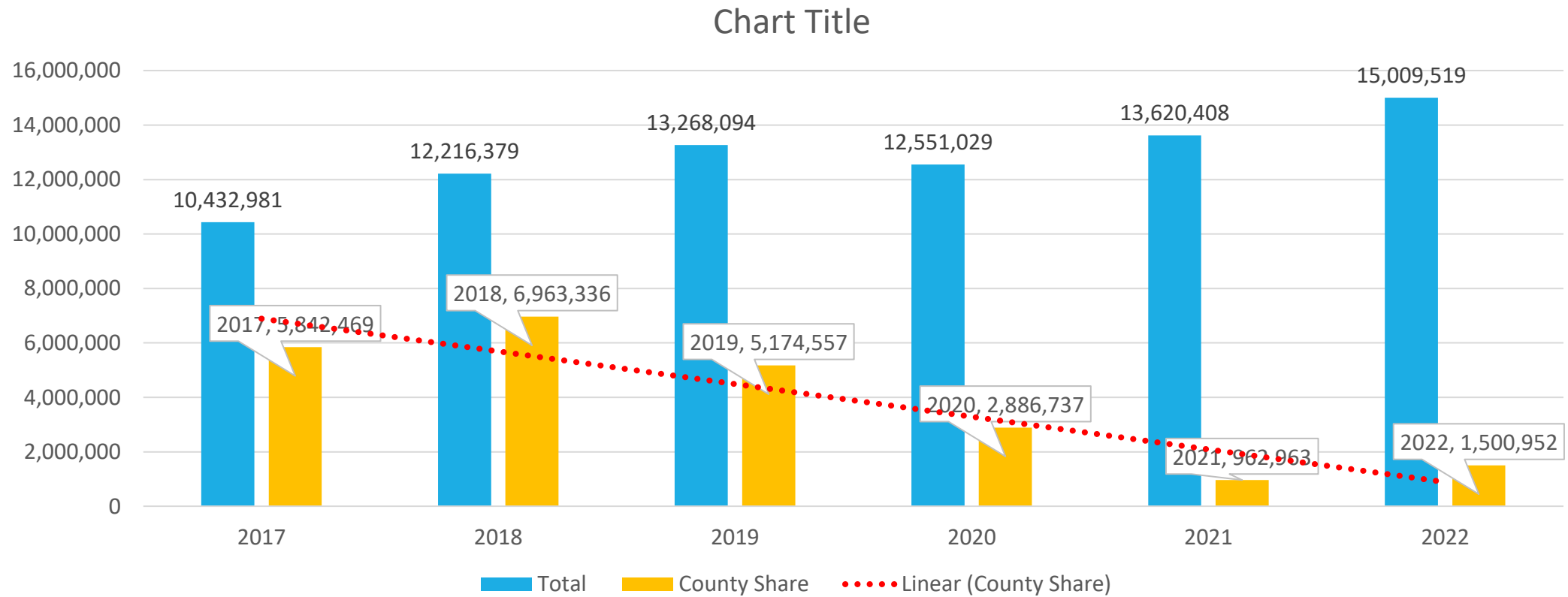
Average Reimbursement Rate



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 est.	2024 est.
— Average Reimbursement Rate	40%	45%	47%	44%	43%	61%	77%	93%	90%	79%	85%

— Average Reimbursement Rate

# PD General Fund Costs (2017 – 2022)



# 2024-2025 Budget

### Source of Funding and How it is Spent

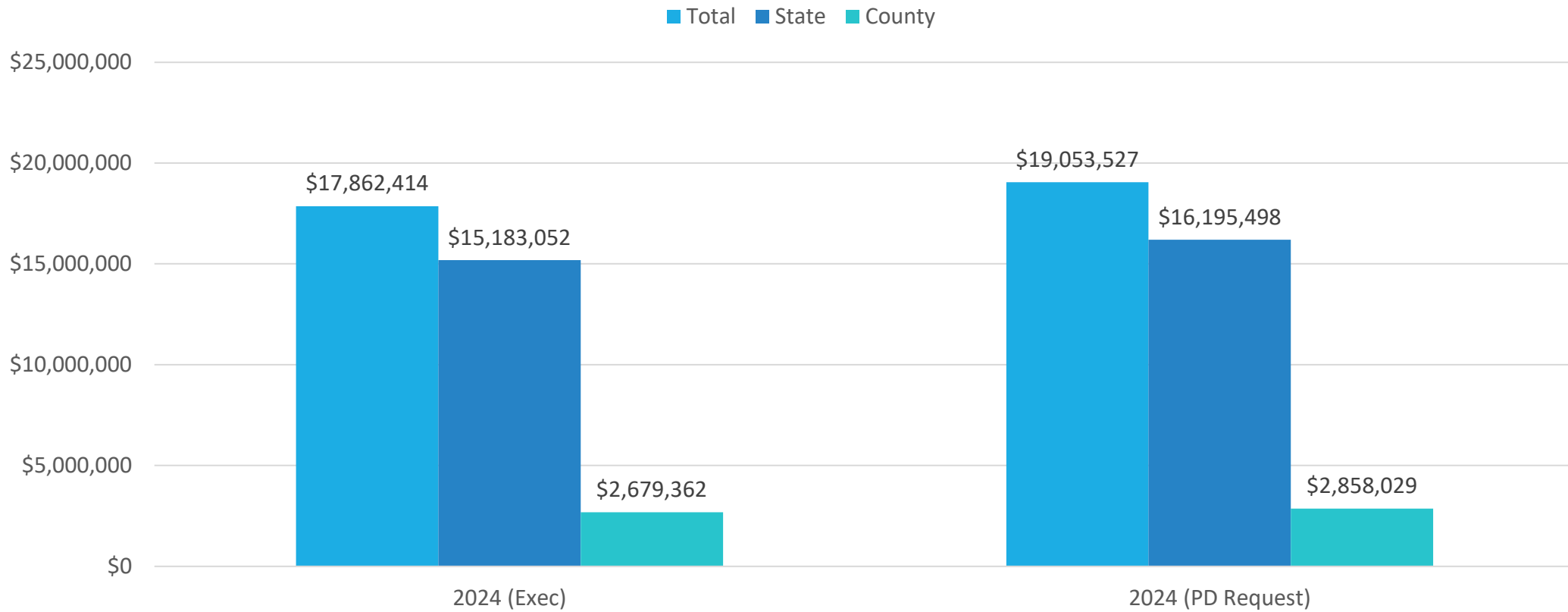
FUNDING	2021 Actuals	2022 Actuals	2023 Adopted Budget	2024 Executive Recommended Budget	2025 Executive Recommended Budget
All Funds (Expenditures)	\$15,856,162	\$17,592,396	\$18,430,924	\$21,698,083	\$22,786,366
HHS Levy Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Fund	\$13,620,409	\$15,009,519	\$15,849,554	\$17,862,414	\$18,894,811
Special Revenue Fund	\$2,235,753	\$2,582,877	\$2,581,370	\$3,835,669	\$3,891,555

EXPENDITURES	2021 Actuals	2022 Actuals	2023 Adopted Budget	2024 Executive Recommended Budget	2025 Executive Recommended Budget
Personnel Services	\$14,053,795	\$15,273,291	\$16,125,268	\$17,497,733	\$17,923,218
Other Expenses	\$1,802,367	\$2,319,105	\$2,305,656	\$4,200,350	\$4,863,148
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,856,162</b>	<b>\$17,592,396</b>	<b>\$18,430,924</b>	<b>\$21,698,083</b>	<b>\$22,786,366</b>
Staff Count	136	151	161	161	161

# County Executive's Recommendation

---

# General Fund Budget Comparison (2024)





# PD Request -2024 General Fund

---

Need	Actual Cost	Cost to County (15%)
Computer Refresh	\$148,227	\$22,234
4 additional positions	\$454,021	\$68,103
Litigation resources	\$52,901	\$7,935
Existing personnel costs	\$535,964	\$80,395
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,191,113</b>	<b>\$178,667</b>

# PD Request -2025 General Fund

---

Need	Actual Cost	Cost to County (15%)
Computer Refresh	\$148,227	\$22,234
4 additional positions	\$459,569	\$68,935
Litigation resources	\$52,901	\$7,935
Existing personnel costs	\$535,964	\$80,395
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,196,661</b>	<b>\$179,499</b>

# Juvenile Attorneys

---



# Vertical Defense

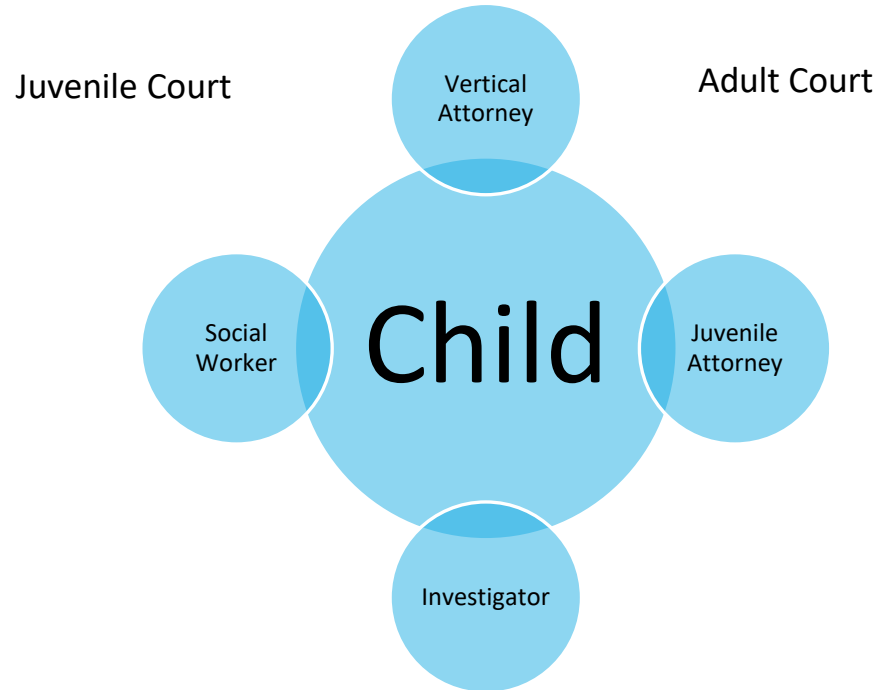
---

PROVIDES HOLISTIC REPRESENTATION TO  
CHILDREN ACCUSED OF DELINQUENT  
ACTS.

# Vertical Defense

---

## THE TEAM



## THE RESULTS

- Nearly 90% of all kids with discretionary bindovers have been kept in juvenile court.
- Roughly 45% of all kids with mandatory bindovers have been kept in juvenile court.
- 3 cases dismissed



# FIRST Program

Offers early intervention services to preserve the family unit without the need for formal court involvement or the unnecessary use of foster care.

Largely funded by 5-year Ohio Supreme Court Parent Representation Grant

## The FIRST Program

Family Intervention Representation & Service Team

### FIRST

The Cuyahoga County Public Defenders FIRST program partners with Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, EDEN Housing, and the Council of Neighborhood Leaders to assist families in the community



### Our Services

- ✓ Legal Advice/Representation
- ✓ Housing Assistance
- ✓ Food Insecurity Support
- ✓ Parental Aid
- ✓ Basic Needs, Direct Services etc.

### About Us

The FIRST program offers pre-petition services to families involved with the Division of Children and Family Services in efforts to preserve the family unit without need for formal court involvement or foster care use.

Cuyahoga County Public Defender Juvenile Division  
9300 Quincy Ave., 5th Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

### Give Us A Call



**216-443-3588**  
jsimmons@cuyahogacounty.us  
Jennifer Simmons

# FIRST Program

- Since April 2021, 71 families (179 children) participated in the program.
- 74.6% of families were directly referred by CCDCFS
- Most common referral reasons: 1) Education; 2) Mental Health; 3) Housing
- 71.2% of FIRST cases were closed as successful
- 61% of FIRST families did not receive a formal DCFS filing within 6 months of completion; and 47.9% did not have one within one year



# Community Engagement Attorney

---





# Community Legal Clinics

---

- Record Sealing/Expungement
- Driver's License
- Cleveland Municipal Court "In the Neighborhood"
- Community Education

# Holistic Defense & Social Workers

---

## SOCIAL WORKERS

- Compassionately meet with clients
- Collect important records and information
- Find meaningful resources
- Help tell the client's story

## FACILITATE GREAT OUTCOMES

- Minimize adult prosecutions of juveniles
- Increase pre-trial release
- Fewer prison/jail sentences
- Shorter prison/jail sentences
- Greater chance of parole & early release

# Impact of Holistic Defense

---

## BETTER OUTCOMES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Pretrial release *decreases* likelihood of conviction

Pretrial detention *increases* likelihood and length of jail/prison sentence

Incarceration substantially *decreases* lifetime earnings and increases the joblessness rate

## REDUCED COSTS TO SOCIETY

*Direct costs* of incarceration: Average annual cost per inmate is \$37,624 (\$103.08/day)

*Societal costs* of incarceration (lost earnings, adverse health effects, impact on family of incarcerated person) are estimated at “three times the direct costs.”

Studies show incarceration has *no effect* on reoffending or slightly increases it