

Midterm Adjustments to the FY 2015 Budget - Reallocation Adjustment

PDS98500 - Public Defender Services Commission 11000 - General Fund

Reallocate Funding for Assigned Counsel

Stephen Hunt, Financial Director
860-509-6416



Priority: 1
Creation Date: 10/11/2013

Description and Reason/Measure of Impact

Consolidating SID 12076 "Assigned Counsel - Criminal", SID 12417 "Assigned Counsel - Child Protection" and SID 12499 "Family Contracted Attorneys/AMC" will ensure a greater level of fiscal accountability, tighter annual management of allocated funds, increased ability to project fiscal needs and eliminate concerns regarding unnecessary expenditure of funds.

Assigned Counsel fiscal demands are based upon variables such as crime rates, abuse and neglect findings by DCF, unusually costly cases and other unpredictable events that vary year to year. Consolidating these funds allows the agency to apply the funds where they are needed the most without requiring additional time for FAC or early release of holdbacks.

Payment delays cause a reduction of quality representation for the Assigned Counsel clients. It can be frustrating for attorneys that handle both criminal and child protection matters when one SID exhausts its funding prior to receiving its next allotment. This results in timely payment for certain cases while delaying payment for others. In the past this has led to high quality attorneys to cease working with this agency.

The Assigned Counsel Unit is in the process of consolidating all billings into a single invoicing system. This will help prevent potential payment for overlapping time, as it would not be possible for attorneys to enter the same time/date on the same bill. However, currently the agency is required to use separate bills since they are paid from separate accounts.

Assigned Counsel are all contracted attorneys who are required to sign the same contract with our agency regardless of the type of case they have been assigned. As a result, it makes budgetary sense to have these funds in a single account.

Financials

Account	2013 Actual	2014 Estimated	2015 Base	2015 Adjustment	2015 Revised	2016 Adjustment - Annualized
12076 - Assigned Counsel - Criminal	0	0	9,986,900	8,011,000	17,997,900	17,997,900
12417 - Assigned Counsel - Child Protection	0	0	7,436,000	-7,436,000	0	0
12499 - Family Contracted Attorneys/AMC	0	0	575,000	-575,000	0	0
Total	0	0	17,997,900	0	17,997,900	17,997,900