

# Washington State Office of Public Defense

## 2024 City Status Report

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## City of Aberdeen

2022 Population	17,013
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	21.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$52,181
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$59,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Aberdeen delivers public defense services through a contract system. The City contracts with one primary firm which provides representation on all non-conflict public defense cases. The remaining cases are assigned to local private attorneys who are paid on a per-case basis.

The City has adopted local public defense standards (Resolution No. 2015-02), and has adopted a case weighting policy for purposes of calculating attorney caseloads.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$403,844.33
Amount spent per capita	\$23.74
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,521
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	89.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,204

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Aberdeen received its first public defense improvement grant in 2017. In 2024, the City utilized state funds for providing defense representation at both in- and out-of-custody at first appearance calendars and for interpreter services for confidential defense attorney-client meetings.

## City of Anacortes

2022 Population	17,637
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	8.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$89,788
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$15,000

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

Public defense services in the City of Anacortes are primarily delivered through a small public defense office consisting of one attorney and one support staff. Three contract attorneys are utilized for overage and conflict cases.

The City has adopted local public defense standards (Chapter 2.18), which mandate that all public defense attorneys shall abide by the standards set forth by the American Bar Association, Washington Bar Association, the Washington Supreme Court, etc.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$310,233.09
Amount spent per capita	\$17.59
City misdemeanor cases filed	356
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	20.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	313

### Use of State Funds:

The City of Anacortes used RCW 10.101 funds to increase compensation and contract to secure additional attorneys to primarily represent individuals in conflict cases.

## City of Asotin

2022 Population	1,204
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	5.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$88,750
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$2,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Asotin delivers public defense services through an appointment system administered by the Asotin County District Court. The Court assigns cases on a rotating basis, and the City pays the ordered rate.

The City has adopted local public defense standards (Chapter 2.16), which outlines qualifications and monitoring of public defense attorneys.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$5,727.00
Amount spent per capita	\$4.76
City misdemeanor cases filed	18
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	15.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	15

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Asotin anticipates using its RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase public defender compensation.

## City of Battle Ground

2022 Population	20,743
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	7.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$100,185
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$14,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

Public defense representation in the City of Battle Ground is provided through contracts with four attorneys.

The City has adopted public defense standards by resolution (Resolution No. 23-01) which incorporates by reference the Washington State Bar Association’s Standards for Indigent Defense Services and the Standards set forth by the Washington Supreme Court in CrRLJ 3.1 Stds.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$133,792.78
Amount spent per capita	\$6.45
City misdemeanor cases filed	509
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	24.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	539

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Battle Ground used state funds to sustain increases to contract attorney compensation. This increase has helped the City compete for quality attorneys in light of caseload limits and higher compensation rates payed by nearby jurisdictions. In addition, the City used grant funds to support defense investigatory services, fund interpreter services for attorney-client communications, and to reimburse the cost of training for public defense attorneys.

## City of Bremerton

2022 Population	43,505
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	14.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$74,399
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$17,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Bremerton delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with one primary law firm to handle the eligible cases in Bremerton Municipal Court. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list and are paid a flat fee for each case. The Court provides office space within its facility for attorneys to meet confidentially with clients.

The City has adopted public defense standards by resolution (Resolution No. 3221). Attorneys are required to participate in annual training relating to public defense and report non-public defense attorney hours.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$364,370.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.38
City misdemeanor cases filed	896
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	20.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	814

**Use of State Funds:**

Bremerton continued to use state funds to sustain a variety of improvements to public defense services. The City focused on retention issues by increasing compensation, reimburse training and travel costs, and to fund interpretation for attorney-client communications.

## City of Burien

2022 Population	52,066
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	12.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$90,597
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$10,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

Burien administers contractual public defense services with one private firm as the primary provider. Conflict attorneys are available to the City through an appointment system with an agreed upon rate.

The City adopted public defense standards (Burien Municipal Code 9.150) referencing required compliance with WSBA Standards for Indigent Defense Service and the Standards set forth by the Washington Supreme Court (CrRLJ 3.1 Stds). Attorneys are required to attend regular trainings related to indigent defense practice and trial advocacy skills.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$264,070.00
Amount spent per capita	\$5.07
City misdemeanor cases filed	748
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	14.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	435

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Burien used its state grant funds to develop Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion programs, thereby redirecting accused individuals away from the court system, into services to reduce recidivism and attorney caseloads.

## City of Chehalis

2022 Population	7,439
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	14.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$68,021
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$17,500

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Chehalis delivers public defense services through a contract system with three private attorneys. As all attorneys are not associated with each other, conflicts are addressed by reassigning a case to an attorney without a conflict.

The City has adopted local public defense standards (Resolution 17-2021) stating the City will abide by the Washington State Bar Association Standards for Indigent Defense, which includes public defender training requirements.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$92,422.50
Amount spent per capita	\$12.42
City misdemeanor cases filed	324
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	43.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	334

### Use of State Funds:

The City of Chehalis used state funds to sustain increases to contract attorney compensation and supporting the use of interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings. In 2025, the City has anticipates a possible use of funds for repurposing existing municipal court space for attorney-client meetings.

## City of Cheney

2022 Population	13,255
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	34.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$47,039
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$15,000

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Cheney delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with one primary attorney to handle the cases in Cheney Municipal Court. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list and are paid a flat fee for each case.

The City has adopted an ordinance with local public defense standards (Chapter 2.33). The city has also adopted OPD's Model Public Defense Case Weighting Policy for purposes of weighting public defense caseloads.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$50,900.00
Amount spent per capita	\$3.84
City misdemeanor cases filed	151
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	11.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	155

### Use of State Funds:

The City of Cheney reported using 2024 RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase compensation for public defense attorneys and to provide defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars.

## City of College Place

2022 Population	9,902
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	11.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$59,768
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$4,000

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

This is the first time the City of College Place has applied for, and been granted, RCW 10.101 public defense improvement funds. The City delivers public defense services through a contract system with two private attorneys. Cases are heard in the Walla Walla District Court.

The City has adopted an ordinance with local public defense standards (Chapter 2.58). These Standards adopt the caseload standards established by the Washington Supreme Court.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$73,615.00
Amount spent per capita	\$7.43
City misdemeanor cases filed	281
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	28.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	191

### Use of State Funds:

The City of College Place used RCW 10.101 funds in 2024 for the purposes of increasing attorney compensation to add conflict defense attorney services after a previous attorney ended their contract with the City.

## City of Covington

2022 Population	20,777
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	5.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$126,730
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$3,000

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

This is the first time the City of Covington has applied for, and been granted, RCW 10.101 public defense improvement funds. The City delivers public defense services through a contract system with two private attorneys. Cases are heard in the Walla Walla District Court.

The City has adopted an ordinance with local public defense standards (Ordinance 04-2016). These Standards adopt the caseload standards established by the Washington State Bar Association, which by reference adopts specific case standards, attorney qualification, and training requirements.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$66,150.00
Amount spent per capita	\$3.18
City misdemeanor cases filed	241
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	11.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	137

### Use of State Funds:

The City of Covington used RCW 10.101 funds for the purposes of increasing attorney compensation.

## City of East Wenatchee

2022 Population	14,158
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	13.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$81,050
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$20,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of East Wenatchee delivers public defense services through a contract model. Two contract attorneys provide primary public defense services, while three contract attorneys provide services in the event a conflict develops.

The City has adopted local public defense standards in accordance with RCW 10.101.030 (Resolution 2012-22). These Standards adopt the Standards for Indigent Defense Services of the Washington State Bar Association (Approved June 3, 2011) and the Standards for Indigent Defense (CrRLJ 3.1 Stds) as approved by the Washington Supreme Court by Order No. 25700-A-1008 on September 7, 2012. In the event of a conflict, the City abides by the Supreme Court Standards. These Standards address caseload limits, attorney qualification, and training requirements.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$160,000.00
Amount spent per capita	\$11.30
City misdemeanor cases filed	543
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	38.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	449

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of East Wenatchee utilized its RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase public defender compensation above prior compensation rates.

## City of Everett

2022 Population	110,629
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	14.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$81,502
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$45,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Everett delivers public defense services through a contract model. One firm provides primary public defense services through approximately nine attorneys, while three contract attorneys provide services in the event a conflict develops.

The City has adopted an ordinance with local public defense standards (Chapter 2.108.390). These Standards adopt the Standards for Indigent Defense Services set forth by the Washington State Bar Association (June 3, 2011). These Standards, by reference, address caseload limits, attorney qualification, and training requirements.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,559,259.00
Amount spent per capita	\$14.09
City misdemeanor cases filed	2,517
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	22.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,921

**Use of State Funds:**

In 2024, The City of Everett used its RCW 10.101 grant funds to allow the primary public defense firm to hire a social work services provider to assist public defense clients connect with services needed to overcome treatment and societal barriers, and thereby reduce the attorney workload and recidivism.

## City of Fife

2022 Population	10,999
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	10.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$90,515
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$22,500

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Fife delivers public defense services through a contract model. Three attorneys provide primary public defense services, while three contract attorneys provide services in the event a conflict develops.

The City has adopted public defense standards by resolution (Resolution No. 1629). Fife's Standards include a case weighting policy as allowed under Standard 3 of the Washington State Supreme Court Standards for Indigent Defense (CrRLJ 3.1 Stds).

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$207,231.00
Amount spent per capita	\$18.84
City misdemeanor cases filed	440
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	40.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	328

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Fife used its RCW 10.101 grant funds to continue social work services previously started to provide in-custody mental health and chemical dependency assessments. These social work services assist public defense attorneys by connecting clients with services, helping them to overcome societal barriers.

## City of Granger

2022 Population	3,624
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	17.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$53,287
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$8,000

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Granger delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The City contracts with one primary attorney and two conflict attorneys. If a conflict arises, the case will be assigned to a conflict attorney on a per case compensation basis.

The City has adopted an ordinance establishing standards for public defense services (Ordinance No. 1228). The contract attorneys are required to attend annual training on public defense, and to report hours billed for non-public defense attorney hours.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$21,800.00
Amount spent per capita	\$6.02
City misdemeanor cases filed	96
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	26.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	64

### Use of State Funds:

In 2024, the City of Granger utilized RCW 10.101 funds to increase public defender compensation.

## City of Hoquiam

2022 Population	8,776
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	14.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$51,754
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$22,500

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Hoquiam delivers public defense services through a contract system. The City contracts with two primary attorneys for public defense cases, and one attorney for representation at preliminary appearances.

The City has adopted local public defense standards (Resolution No. 2013-24). These Standards adopt the Washington Supreme Court's caseload limit standards in the Standards for Indigent Defense (CrRLJ 3.1 Stds). Furthermore, the City has adopted training standards requiring public defense attorneys to attend at least seven hours of public defense-related training a year.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$274,220.00
Amount spent per capita	\$31.25
City misdemeanor cases filed	465
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	53.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	332

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Hoquiam received its first public defense improvement grant in 2017. The City used funds in 2024 to provide a public defense attorney to represent individuals at preliminary appearances. In the case of in-custody defendants, the preliminary appearance attorney is able to meet with potential clients prior to the preliminary hearing. Funds were also used to provide interpreter services for confidential public defense attorney-client meetings.

## City of Kelso

2022 Population	12,720
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	19.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$59,462
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$55,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Kelso delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with one primary law firm to represent indigent defendants. Conflict cases are assigned to attorneys who are paid on an hourly basis.

The City has adopted local standards for public defense services (Resolution No. 14-1123) which incorporates by reference the Washington State Bar Association’s Standards for Indigent Defense Services. The contract with the primary public defense firm requires attorneys to attend at least seven hours of public defense training annually, and attorneys must report hours billed annually for nonpublic defense legal services. The attorneys are also required to maintain records detailing their caseloads, dispositions, motion practices, and use of investigation services.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$305,858.91
Amount spent per capita	\$24.05
City misdemeanor cases filed	695
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	54.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	464

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Kelso utilized state RCW 10.101 funds in 2024 for providing public defense representation at all in- and out-of-custody preliminary appearance calendars and interpreter services for confidential public defense attorney-client meetings.

## City of Lacey

2022 Population	53,526
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	10.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$87,277
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$8,000

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Lacey delivers public defense services through a contract system. The City contracts with four primary attorneys for public defense cases, and one attorney for representation in conflict matters.

The City has adopted an ordinance with local public defense standards (Chapter 9.60). These Standards address caseload limits, attorney qualification, and minimum annual training requirements.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$285,979.58
Amount spent per capita	\$5.34
City misdemeanor cases filed	907
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	16.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	482

### Use of State Funds:

The City of Lacey received its first public defense improvement grant in 2022, and since then funds have been used to increase public defender compensation, increase the number of attorneys providing public defense services.

## City of Lake Stevens / Arlington

2022 Population	35,630 / 19,868
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	5.0% / 11.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$118,290 / \$84,919
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$18,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The Cities of Lake Stevens and Arlington both utilize contract public defense systems. Both cities contract with the same law firm to handle all non-conflict public defense cases. The cities jointly applied for state funds to expand public defense services by adding a social work component to the defense team. The social worker assists clients by securing mental, alcohol and drug evaluations, obtaining treatment beds, helping to find housing or safe shelter, and following up with clients to ensure compliance with court-ordered requirements.

The Cities of Lake Stevens and Arlington have adopted local standards for public defense services (Arlington Resolution No. 2014-017, and Lake Stevens Resolution No. 2014-14).

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$146,290 / \$266,776
Amount spent per capita	\$4.11 / \$13.43
City misdemeanor cases filed	Not Listed / 489
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	Unknown / 24.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	341 / 690

**Use of State Funds:**

In 2024, the combined Lake Stevens/Arlington grant funds were used to continue a social work program for the primary firm that contracts with both cities. This social work services provider connects clients with services such as chemical dependency and mental treatment providers, and assists clients with finding housing.

## City of Lakewood

2022 Population	63,612
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	13.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$70,524
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$34,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Lakewood delivers public defense services through a contract system. The City contracts with one primary firm for public defense cases, and two attorneys for representation in conflict matters. The primary defense firm employs approximately four attorneys to handle most of the City's public defense cases.

The City has adopted local public defense standards in accordance with RCW 10.101.030 (Resolution 2014-20). The Standards for Indigent Defense (CrRLJ 3.1 Stds) as approved by the Washington Supreme Court by Order No. 25700-A-1008 on September 7, 2012 are adopted by reference with the Washington State Bar Association Standards for Indigent Defense Services (Approved June 3, 2011) to "serve as a guideline in the interpretation and application of these defense standards." These Standards address caseload limits, attorney qualification, and training requirements.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$563,382.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.86
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,471
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	23.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,107

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Lakewood utilized 2024 state funds to reimburse continuing legal education training costs, conduct an evaluation of the public defense system by an expert, and provide social work and investigator services. The City has utilized a mental health coordinator since 2018 for the purpose of connecting public defense clients with services such as housing, treatment, and employment.

## City of Longview

2022 Population	37,818
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	13.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$60,844
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$70,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Longview delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The City contracts with one primary law firm to represent indigent defendants. The law firm provides the services of approximately six attorneys. Conflict cases are assigned to attorneys who are paid on an hourly basis.

The City has adopted an ordinance establishing standards for public defense services (Chapter 2.19). All attorneys providing public defense services are required to attend at least seven hours of public defense training annually.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$566,577.00
Amount spent per capita	\$14.98
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,798
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	47.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,192

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Longview has applied and received RCW 10.101 funds since 2018. In 2024, the City used its grant funds to supplement attorney compensation. The City also used the grant funds to ensure the contracting of an extra defense attorney to handle the increased court filings due to the Blake decision (2021).

## City of Medical Lake

2022 Population	4,874
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	5.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$74,426
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$2,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Medical Lake contracts with an attorney handle its primary public defense services, and conflicts are assigned to a conflict attorney who is paid on a per-case basis. All Medical Lake cases are heard in Cheney Municipal Court.

The City of Medical Lake has adopted Ordinance No. 1054 relating to public defense caseloads

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$14,000.00
Amount spent per capita	\$2.87
City misdemeanor cases filed	Not Listed
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	Unknown
Number of cases assigned to counsel	15

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Medical Lake utilized state grant funds to increase compensation for defense counsel. Due to this increase, counsel is present at all preliminary appearance hearings, arraignments, and subsequent hearings. The public defender comes early to meet with clients who are provisionally appointed, meets with incarcerated clients at the jail prior to transport, and meets with clients at Eastern State Hospital prior to hearings and during 10.77 evaluations. The City also anticipates utilizing funds for adding public defense attorneys and supporting investigator, interpreter, and social work services.

## City of Monroe

2022 Population	19,699
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	7.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$107,556
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$11,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Monroe delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The City contracts with one primary public defense attorney to represent indigent defendants. Conflict cases are assigned to attorneys who are paid on an hourly basis or per case basis. Monroe maintains its own municipal court, and utilizes the county's probation services. If the case is in Monroe Municipal Court, the conflict attorneys are paid on the per case basis. If a case is an alleged probation violation, the attorneys are compensated on an hourly basis.

The City has adopted local public defense standards in accordance with RCW 10.101.030 (Resolution 2012/024). The Standards for Indigent Defense (CrRLJ 3.1 Stds) as approved by the Washington Supreme Court by Order No. 25700-A-1008 on September 7, 2012 are adopted by reference with the Washington State Bar Association Standards for Indigent Defense Services (Approved June 3, 2011) to "serve as a guideline in the interpretation and application of these defense standards." These Standards address caseload limits, attorney qualification, and training requirements.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$192,372.00
Amount spent per capita	\$9.77
City misdemeanor cases filed	502
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	25.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	357

**Use of State Funds:**

In 2024, the City of Monroe utilized state grant funds to continue a social work program. This social work services provider connects clients with services such as health insurance, chemical dependency and mental treatment, and assists clients with finding housing. The City reports that these social work services have been used to effectively address both immediate and long-term needs of public defense clients.

## City of Olympia

2022 Population	55,382
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	14.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$76,930
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$74,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Olympia utilizes a contract system in delivering its public defense responsibilities. The City employs an experienced attorney to act as the Public Defense Coordinator. The Public Defense Coordinator manages contracts, coordinates attorney calendar coverage and caseloads, handles attorney complaints, and coordinates contracted social work services. The City contracts with approximately 10 attorneys for public defense services with varying caseloads, and one attorney maintains a contract for conflict matters.

The City has adopted public defense standards by resolution (Resolution No. 6590). Attorneys are required to participate in annual training relating to public defense and report non-public defense attorney hours. Case weighting policies in place regarding generally reiterate the Washington Supreme Court Standards on Indigent Defense.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$633,545.76
Amount spent per capita	\$11.44
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,920
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	34.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,535

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Olympia used RCW 10.101 funds in 2024 to increase public defense compensation. This allowed the City to maintain a stable number of public defense attorneys, further allowing the City to provide representation at all preliminary appearances while maintaining appropriate caseload numbers. The City also utilized funds to partially fund a social services worker position. The social services worker assists public defense attorneys and their clients upon requests and also connects with in- and out-of-custody defendants 5 days a week.

## City of Pasco

2022 Population	77,108
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	8.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$81,130
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$50,275

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Pasco contracts with one attorney to serve as the Indigent Defense Contract Administrator. The Indigent Defense Contract Administrator recruits and manages attorney contracts and attorney caseloads. The City also contracts with five attorneys who work almost full-time representing indigent defendants.

The City of Pasco has adopted local public defense standards (Resolution No. 3616). The City's Standards requires public defense service providers to abide by the Washington State Bar Association Standards for Indigent Defense Services (June 3, 2011). The Standards, by reference, and contracts require contract attorneys to attend seven hours of OPD-approved trainings, and report hours billed for non-public defense legal services.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$419,124.00
Amount spent per capita	\$5.44
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,791
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	23.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,014

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Pasco utilized its RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase compensation for attorneys; reimburse training costs; and provide interpreter services to public defense providers for attorney-client communications.

## City of Port Orchard

2022 Population	15,587
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	10.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$81,472
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$12,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Port Orchard contracts with one multi-attorney firm to provide primary public defense services. The primary firm employs approximately three attorneys to provide representation on the majority of the public defense cases. Conflict of interest cases are assigned to additional attorneys who are compensated on an hourly basis.

The City of Port Orchard has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 9.09).

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$170,539.73
Amount spent per capita	\$10.94
City misdemeanor cases filed	261
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	16.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	201

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Port Orchard used RCW 10.101 grant funds in 2024 to increase compensation to both contract and conflict attorneys. This increased compensation allowed the primary firm to maintain the necessary number of attorneys in order to comply with established caseload limits.

## City of Shelton

2022 Population	10,371
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	24.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$60,589
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$39,000

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Shelton delivers public defense representation by contracting with a multi-attorney law firm. When a case presents a conflict for the firm, the court assigns it to one of several attorneys who are compensated at an hourly rate.

The City of Shelton has adopted a Public Defense Standards Ordinance (Chapter 2.96). The city's public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual continuing legal education training.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$142,996.00
Amount spent per capita	\$13.79
City misdemeanor cases filed	370
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	35.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	355

### Use of State Funds:

The City of Shelton has received state grant funds since 2012. In 2024, the City utilized grant funds to provide investigator services, interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings, and to increase public defense attorney numbers to provide representation at the City's therapeutic court program, conflict cases, and to reduce caseloads of contracted attorneys.

## City of Spokane

2022 Population	228,989
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	11.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$65,745
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$93,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Spokane delivers public defense representation through a city public defender agency. The City of Spokane Public Defender Office has a director, 19 attorneys, and an investigator.

The City of Spokane has adopted a public defense ordinance (Chapter 03.11.010). The City of Spokane Public Defender Office pays for and requires attorneys to attend at least seven hours of public defense training annually.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,064,581.00
Amount spent per capita	\$13.38
City misdemeanor cases filed	7,708
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	33.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	5,338

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Spokane has continued to use state grant funds to provide a public defender at daily inmate first appearance hearings and weekly arraignment and bench warrant recall dockets. The city has also used state grant funds to increase investigator services and to partially fund an attorney position to reduce caseloads.

## City of Spokane Valley

2022 Population	102,976
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	14.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$70,722
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$19,500

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Spokane Valley contracts for public defense services exclusively with the Spokane County Public Defender's Office, which employs full-time staff attorneys, investigators, and support staff. Employees are compensated at parity with Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney Office employees.

The City has adopted local public defense standards by resolution (Resolution No. 15-006), and requires that all attorneys assigned to represent defendants in municipal cases to attend at least seven hours of public defense training annually.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$830,511.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.07
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,754
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	17.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,301

### Use of State Funds:

The City used 2024 state grant funds to help offset the increased costs for two additional misdemeanor attorneys, which were hired to help comply with caseload limits required by the Supreme Court's Standards for Indigent Defense.

## City of Sunnyside

2022 Population	16,375
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	18.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$53,350
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$66,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Sunnyside contracts with five attorneys to represent indigent defendants. Counsel is also provided at all in- and out-of-custody first appearance hearings.

The City has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.42), which requires attorneys to meet training, supervision, monitoring and evaluation standards set by the Washington State Bar Association and the Washington State Defender Association.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$387,166.05
Amount spent per capita	\$23.64
City misdemeanor cases filed	915
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	55.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,137

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Sunnyside used 2024 RCW 10.101 state funds to sustain the number of attorneys by increasing compensation rates in the face of a lack of attorneys accepting contract public defense work. The city also anticipates using state funds to ensure public defense representation at first appearances.

## City of Tacoma

2022 Population	219,346
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	14.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$83,857
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$47,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Tacoma delivers public defense representation through an interlocal agreement with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel (DAC), the county government-based public defender agency. DAC employees receive salary and benefits in parity with the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney Office employees. The agency contracts with outside attorneys for conflict counsel and provides investigative services through a panel of pre-approved investigators.

Pierce County has adopted public defense standards by resolution (Resolution No. 39076) that is followed in DAC’s public defense representation in Tacoma Municipal Court. The public defense attorneys are required to attend seven hours of OPD-approved training annually.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,802,811.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.22
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,532
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	7.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,042

**Use of State Funds:**

Tacoma used its state grant funds in 2024 to help fund staff salaries and benefits for providing indigent defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars. The City anticipates using current grant funds to sustain the prior improvements.

## City of Tukwila

2022 Population	21,798
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	12.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$80,534
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$37,500

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Tukwila administers contractual public defense services with one private firm as the primary provider. The firm provides the services of approximately three attorneys. Conflict attorneys are available to the City through limited caseload contracts on a per case basis.

### 2022 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$397,548.03
Amount spent per capita	\$18.24
City misdemeanor cases filed	829
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	38.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	621

### Use of State Funds:

The City of Tukwila has received state grant funds since 2014. During 2024, the City used state funds to increase attorney compensation, reimburse training costs, increasing compensation, and supporting social work services and interpreter services for public defense. While the City contracted social services liaison ended its contract with the City in early 2024, the City looked to contract with another provider to help guide public defense clients to social services, including mental health and chemical dependency treatment services.

## City of Union Gap

2022 Population	6,568
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	22.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$58,958
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$16,500

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Union Gap delivers primary public defense representation services through one full-time contract attorney and two part-time contract attorneys.

The City of Union Gap has adopted public defense standards by resolution (Resolution No. 14-37) which incorporates by reference the Washington State Bar Association’s Standards for Indigent Defense Services, and the decision of Wilbur v. Mt. Vernon.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$278,050.00
Amount spent per capita	\$42.33
City misdemeanor cases filed	915
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	139.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	556

**Use of State Funds:**

Union Gap used RCW 10.101 state funds in 2024 to sustain increases to the number of contract public defense attorneys and to increase attorney compensation - in both pretrial and appeals stages. The City also utilized grant funds to support interpretation services for confidential attorney-client meetings.

## City of Vancouver

2022 Population	190,915
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	10.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$78,156
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$30,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

Public defense representation in the City of Vancouver is provided through a contract system. The city has one primary defense contract with a multi-attorney law firm, as well as contracts with additional firms to provide representation in conflict cases.

The City of Vancouver has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (M-3927). The city requires attorneys to attend approved annual training and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,319,212.00
Amount spent per capita	\$6.91
City misdemeanor cases filed	2,589
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	13.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,318

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Vancouver has received RCW 10.101 grant funds for several years. In 2024, the city used its state grant funds for .5 of an FTE at the primary public defense firm, and to offset some costs relating to attorney training. The City also utilized funds to support a .5 FTE at the primary public defense firm for a social work services provider to assist public defense clients access treatment options and other services.

## City of Yakima

2022 Population	96,968
Percent Below Poverty Level 2019 - 2023	20.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2019 - 2023	\$59,228
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2024	\$86,000

**Administration of Public Defense Services:**

The City of Yakima delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with two multi-attorney law firms to represent the majority of public defense clients. The City maintains an appointment list for a conflict attorney, who is compensated on an hourly basis.

The City of Yakima has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 1.64). Contracted attorneys are required to attend approved annual training and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

**2022 Statistics**

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,238,637.00
Amount spent per capita	\$12.77
City misdemeanor cases filed	3,164
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	32.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,740

**Use of State Funds:**

The City of Yakima used its allocated state funds to ensure that the two primary defense firms were appropriately compensated to ensure caseloads comply with the limits established by the Supreme Court’s Standards for Indigent Defense. The City also anticipates used grant funds to support defense investigative services.

## Appendix A: Methodology and Data Reporting for City Reports

In preparing the city data reports, OPD used information submitted as part of each jurisdiction's application for grant funding as well as data from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) [Caseload Reports](#). OPD contacted the counties and cities to clarify and augment data where necessary. City staff were gracious and generous with their time during this process, and the reports would not have been possible without their help.

Because of the individualized nature of Washington's local public defense systems, making comparisons is challenging. However, city defense contracts along with other data included in the funding applications submitted pursuant to Chapter 10.101 RCW yield important information about actual public defense practice in Washington.

**2022 Data in the City Reports:** The City Reports reflect public defense data from 2022. The Cities profiled on these pages applied for Chapter 10.101 RCW funds in 2023 in order to receive funds in calendar years 2024 and 2025. They submitted applications to OPD in July 2023, which reported 2022 data on public defense assignments and expenses.

**Counting Cases and Expenses:** The processes used for calculating public defense caseloads vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. There is no standard method; systems differ, sometimes even within individual jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions report their case numbers based on "payment points" or weighted "credits" rather than individual cases. This means that a single case may constitute a higher or lower amount of case credits.

**Discrepancies in Data:** In comparing case filings with public defense appointments, it is important to keep in mind that these figures are reported from different sources, and may have limitations for purposes of identifying public defense appointment rates. All case filings are based on data contained in the Caseload Reports and reflect cases filed in courts in the stated year. However, public defense attorneys may be appointed to cases that were filed in previous years. Public defense appointments may also apply to situations that do not necessarily reflect new case filings, such as representation of a witness, or representing a client who had been on warrant status for an extended period.

The number of filings in District and Municipal Courts may be overrepresentations of the number of actual cases stemming from the same factual basis due to the courts' case management system. In that system, charges are organized by three categories: DUI, other traffic offenses, and non-traffic offenses. Therefore, cases containing charges from more than one category may be counted as multiple filings.

## Appendix B: Glossary for City Reports

### CITY PROFILE

2022 population: Total city population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2023 - [Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties publication](#).

Percent below poverty level: Percent of city population below the federal poverty level as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1701](#). (5-year estimate: 2019 - 2023)

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1901](#). (5-year estimate: 2019 - 2023)

2024 Competitive Grant Award: The city's grant funding from the state as determined through a competitive application process pursuant to [RCW 10.101.080](#). The cities received distributions in January 2024, and were used during calendar year 2024.

#### I. 2022 Statistics

1. Amount spent for public defense: The city-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2022, including any Chapter 10.101 RCW grant funds.
2. Amount spent per capita: The city-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation divided by the total city population. **Caution**: The amount spent per capita is not directly comparable city to city. This per capita amount is influenced by a number of variables, including geography, the number of cases filed, the number of major cases filed, local attorney availability, the number of attorneys practicing in the city, the city's poverty rate and case filing rates.
3. City misdemeanor cases filed: The number of new (non-probation violation) Municipal Court cases filed during 2022 as reported in [Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2022 Annual Caseload Report](#).
4. Total city misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new misdemeanor cases filed during 2022 divided by the city population as expressed in thousands.
5. Number of cases assigned to counsel by city: The city-reported number of new Municipal Court cases assigned to public defense counsel during 2022.