

Washington State Office of Public Defense

2023 City Status Report

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City of Aberdeen

2021 Population	17,050
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	21.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$50,008
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$280,600.00
Amount spent per capita	\$16.46
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,340
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	78.6
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, and since then funds have been used to provide defense counsel for indigent defendants at noncustodial preliminary appearance calendars. In 2023, the City reported utilizing funds to continue preliminary appearance representation as well as supporting social work services to engage public defense clients for connections to services such as treatment.

City of Airway Heights

2021 Population	10,760
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	21.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$57,857
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$13,000

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Airway Heights delivers public defense services through a contract system. The City contracts with three attorneys which provides representation on all public defense cases. One attorney provides representation on an as-needed, appointment basis.

The City has adopted local public defense standards (Chapter 2.33), and has adopted a case weighting policy for purposes of calculating attorney caseloads.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$165,267.12
Amount spent per capita	\$15.36
City misdemeanor cases filed	890
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	82.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,011

Use of State Funds:

The City of Airway Heights reported utilizing its 2023 RCW 10.101 grant funds to reduce public defender caseloads.

City of Asotin

2021 Population	1,215
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	8.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$93,548
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$15,198.75
Amount spent per capita	\$12.51
City misdemeanor cases filed	12
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	9.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	Not reported

Use of State Funds:

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

City of Battle Ground

2021 Population	21,160
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	6.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$94,360
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$12,000

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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$111,679.17
Amount spent per capita	\$5.28
City misdemeanor cases filed	518
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	24.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	422

Use of State Funds:

The City of Battle Ground used state funds to sustain increases to contract attorney compensation.

City of Bremerton

2021 Population	43,970
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	14.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$68,556
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$269,625.00
Amount spent per capita	\$6.13
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,254
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	28.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,031

Use of State Funds:

The City of Bremerton focused utilization of its 2023 RCW 10.101 grant funds on IT resources for use by public defense contractors. The City purchased several computers, phones, and tablets for public defense use in and out of court to facilitate efficiencies during court calendars and communications with public defense clients.

City of Burien

2021 Population	52,430
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	11.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$84,583
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$8,000

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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$248,957.41
Amount spent per capita	\$4.75
City misdemeanor cases filed	448
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	8.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	337

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

2021 Population	7,350
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	12.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$61,378
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$14,500

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Chehalis delivers public defense services through a contract system with two 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$60,810.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.27
City misdemeanor cases filed	316
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	43.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	248

Use of State Funds:

The City of Chehalis used state funds to increase contract attorney compensation and supporting the use of interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings.

City of Cheney

2021 Population	12,390
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	33.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$45,419
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$44,150.00
Amount spent per capita	\$3.56
City misdemeanor cases filed	155
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	12.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	185

Use of State Funds:

The City of Cheney reported using 2023 RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase compensation for public defense attorneys and to provide defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars and hearings with Eastern State Hospital. Furthermore, the City reports that the funds were used for services for public defenders in areas such as interpretation, investigation, and expert witnesses.

City of East Wenatchee

2021 Population	14,180
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	6.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$78,312
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$18,000

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 two other 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$137,503.00
Amount spent per capita	\$9.70
City misdemeanor cases filed	535
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	37.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	446

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

2021 Population	112,300
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	12.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$77,806
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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 eight attorneys. Four 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,544,580.00
Amount spent per capita	\$13.75
City misdemeanor cases filed	2,120
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	18.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,551

Use of State Funds:

In 2023, 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

2021 Population	11,150
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	11.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$84,538
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$22,500

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Fife delivers public defense services through a contract model. Three attorneys from one firm provide primary public defense services, while four contract attorneys provide services in the event the primary firm cannot provide representation.

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).

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$200,869.82
Amount spent per capita	\$18.02
City misdemeanor cases filed	568
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	50.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	197

Use of State Funds:

The City of Fife used its 2023 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

2021 Population	3,690
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	21.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$54,167
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$7,000

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 three 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$19,575.00
Amount spent per capita	\$5.30
City misdemeanor cases filed	82
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	22.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	23

Use of State Funds:

In 2023, the City of Granger utilized RCW 10.101 funds to increase public defender compensation.

City of Hoquiam

2021 Population	8,785
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	16.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$47,614
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$21,000

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Hoquiam delivers public defense services through a contract system. The City contracts with one primary firm for public defense cases. One additional attorney is on contract, and one attorney is contracted for representation of accused individuals 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$137,115.00
Amount spent per capita	\$15.61
City misdemeanor cases filed	466
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	53.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	339

Use of State Funds:

The City used funds in 2023 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 and reimbursement of training costs.

City of Kelso

2021 Population	12,720
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	20.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$59,405
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$55,000

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Kelso delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with two primary law firms to represent indigent defendants. Conflict cases that cannot be handled by the two primary firms 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$284,087.12
Amount spent per capita	\$22.33
City misdemeanor cases filed	675
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	53.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	650

Use of State Funds:

The City of Kelso utilized state RCW 10.101 funds in 2023 for providing public defense representation at all in- and out-of-custody preliminary appearance calendars and increase public defense attorney compensation to ensure stable representation.

City of Kent

2021 Population	137,700
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	10.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$86,966
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$25,250

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Kent administers public defense services in its city through a contract system with one primary law firm, consisting of 10 attorneys providing representation. Four private firms provide representation in conflict cases when the primary firm is unable to provide representation.

The City has adopted local public defense standards (Resolution no. 1903) which establishes requirements of seven hours of criminal defense-oriented continuing legal education per year.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,269,350.00
Amount spent per capita	\$9.22
City misdemeanor cases filed	2,277
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	16.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,818

Use of State Funds:

The City of Kent reported utilizing 2023 RCW 10.101 grant funds through contracting with Asian Counseling and Referral Services for social work services, connecting public defense clients with treatment, housing, educational, and medical services.

City of Lacey

2021 Population	54,850
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	10.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$79,874
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$298,544.71
Amount spent per capita	\$5.44
City misdemeanor cases filed	665
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	12.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	532

Use of State Funds:

The City of Lacey used RCW 10.101 funds in 2023 for developing social services for public defense clients.

City of Lake Stevens / Arlington

2021 Population	37000 / 20690
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	5.3% / 7.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$111,821 / \$89,587
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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).

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$141,787.50 / \$274,500.00
Amount spent per capita	\$3.83 / \$13.27
City misdemeanor cases filed	Not Listed / 584
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	Unknown
Number of cases assigned to counsel	269 / 549

Use of State Funds:

In 2023, 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

2021 Population	63,600
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	12.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$65,531.00
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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 one attorney for representation in conflict matters. The primary defense firm employs approximately five 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$554,630.98
Amount spent per capita	\$8.72
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,395
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	21.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,095

Use of State Funds:

The City of Lakewood utilized 2023 state funds to reimburse continuing legal education training costs and provide social work and investigator services. The City further utilized RCW 10.101 funds by developing a plan for a public defense system evaluation and to provide case management software for public defense use.

City of Longview

2021 Population	37,750
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	13.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$57,920
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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 four 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$587,183.46
Amount spent per capita	\$15.55
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,601
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	42.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,037

Use of State Funds:

The City of Longview has applied and received RCW 10.101 funds since 2018. In 2023, the City used its grant funds to supplement attorney compensation. The City also used the grant funds to reimburse training funds and pay for expert, interpreter, and investigator services.

City of Medical Lake

2021 Population	4,870
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	6.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$73,456
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$14,500.00
Amount spent per capita	\$2.98
City misdemeanor cases filed	Not Listed
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	Unknown
Number of cases assigned to counsel	8

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.

City of Monroe

2021 Population	19,900
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	7.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$99,713
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$185,100.00
Amount spent per capita	\$9.30
City misdemeanor cases filed	435
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	21.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	221

Use of State Funds:

In 2023, 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

2021 Population	55,960
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	13.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$73,851
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$65,000

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 six 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$523,242.17
Amount spent per capita	\$9.35
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,462
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	26.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,250

Use of State Funds:

The City of Olympia used RCW 10.101 funds in 2023 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. Funds were also used to support investigator services and to reimburse training expenses. Finally, the City 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

2021 Population	78,700
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	13.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$75,316
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$40,000

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. One of these attorneys is solely assigned conflict cases.

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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$287,871.00
Amount spent per capita	\$3.66
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,748
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	22.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	784

Use of State Funds:

The City of Pasco utilized its 2023 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

2021 Population	15,960
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	12.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$82,650
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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).

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$133,821.26
Amount spent per capita	\$8.38
City misdemeanor cases filed	208
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	13.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	184

Use of State Funds:

The City of Port Orchard used RCW 10.101 grant funds in 2023 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

2021 Population	10,410
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	26.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$57,907
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$34,000

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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$126,193.96
Amount spent per capita	\$12.12
City misdemeanor cases filed	347
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	33.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	280

Use of State Funds:

The City of Shelton has received state grant funds since 2012. In 2023, 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

2021 Population	229,400
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	14.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$63,316
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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 and 19 attorneys.

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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,154,196.00
Amount spent per capita	\$13.75
City misdemeanor cases filed	5,758
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	25.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	5,493

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

2021 Population	104,500
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	11.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$66,483
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$788,267.00
Amount spent per capita	\$7.54
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,426
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	13.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,215

Use of State Funds:

The City used 2023 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

2021 Population	16,400
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	13.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$49,134
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$66,000

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Sunnyside administers public defense through a contract system to represent indigent defendants. Four attorneys are contracted with the City to provide these services. 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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$346,434.98
Amount spent per capita	\$21.12
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,042
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	63.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	341

Use of State Funds:

The City of Sunnyside used 2023 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 used state funds to ensure public defense representation at first appearances.

City of Tacoma

2021 Population	218,700
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	12.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$79,085
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,167,873.00
Amount spent per capita	\$9.91
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,284
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	5.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	815

Use of State Funds:

Tacoma used its state grant funds in 2023 to help fund staff salaries and benefits for providing indigent defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars.

City of Toppenish

2021 Population	8,870
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	16.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$64,327
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$16,000

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Toppenish administers its public defense system through contracts with private attorneys. Currently, one private attorney maintains a contract to provide public defense services.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$91,500.00
Amount spent per capita	\$10.32
City misdemeanor cases filed	472
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	53.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	105

Use of State Funds:

The City reported use of 2023 RCW 10.101 as increasing compensation for public defense attorneys, increasing the number of public defense attorneys to lower caseloads, and providing interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings.

City of Tukwila

2021 Population	22,000
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	13.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$76,331
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$426,379.03
Amount spent per capita	\$19.38
City misdemeanor cases filed	778
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	35.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	716

Use of State Funds:

The City of Tukwila has received state grant funds since 2014. During 2023, 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.

City of Union Gap

2021 Population	6,595
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	18.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$55,667
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$20,000

Administration of Public Defense Services:

The City of Union Gap delivers primary public defense representation services through five contracts with private attorneys with various contractual caseload limits. One of these attorneys provided representation when a conflict was identified.

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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$170,000.00
Amount spent per capita	\$25.78
City misdemeanor cases filed	575
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	87.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	684

Use of State Funds:

Union Gap used RCW 10.101 state funds in 2023 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 Yakima

2021 Population	97,810
Percent Below Poverty Level 2018-2022	19.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2018-2022	\$55,734
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2023	\$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.

2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,191,601.73
Amount spent per capita	\$12.18
City misdemeanor cases filed	3,039
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	31.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,022

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.

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.

2021 Data in the City Reports: The City Reports reflect public defense data from 2021. The Cities profiled on these pages applied for Chapter 10.101 RCW funds in 2021 in order to receive funds in calendar years 2022 and 2023. They submitted mid-year reports to OPD in June 2022, which reported 2021 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

2021 population: Total city population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2022 - [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: 2018 - 2022)

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1901](#). (5-year estimate: 2018 - 2022)

2022 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 2022 and were used during calendar year 2022.

I. 2021 Statistics

1. Amount spent for public defense: The city-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2021, 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 2021 as reported in [Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2021 Annual Caseload Report](#).
4. Total city misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new misdemeanor cases filed during 2021 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 2021.