

Washington State Office of Public Defense

2022 City Status Report

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City of Aberdeen

2020 Population	17,013
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	25.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$60,025
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$299,149.41
Amount spent per capita	\$17.58
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,791
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	105.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	909

Use of State Funds:

The City of Aberdeen used its RCW 10.101 grant funds in 2022 to provide defense counsel for indigent defendants at preliminary appearance calendars. The City also reported utilizing funds to support social work services to engage public defense clients for connections to services such as treatment and to ensure interpretation services at attorney-client meetings.

City of Airway Heights

2020 Population	10,757
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	17.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$65,612
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$95,250.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.85
City misdemeanor cases filed	978
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	90.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	812

Use of State Funds:

The City of Airway Heights reported utilizing its 2022 RCW 10.101 grant funds to reduce public defender caseloads and ensure public defense clients were able to receive representation in a timely fashion.

City of Asotin

2020 Population	1,204
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	10.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$94,189
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$9,808.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.15
City misdemeanor cases filed	41
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	34.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	21

Use of State Funds:

The City of Asotin used its RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase public defender compensation to ensure sufficient numbers of attorneys are available to take public defense cases.

City of Battle Ground

2020 Population	20,743
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	6.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$94,951
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$100,870.00
Amount spent per capita	\$4.86
City misdemeanor cases filed	486
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	23.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	391

Use of State Funds:

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

City of Bremerton

2020 Population	43,505
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	14.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$76,905
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$328,475.00
Amount spent per capita	\$7.55
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,571
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	36.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1220

Use of State Funds:

The City of Bremerton used its 2022 RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase public defense compensation, provide public defense services at preliminary hearings, and to support professional services, including funds for experts and investigators.

City of Burien

2020 Population	52,066
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	11.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$109,195
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$228,540.00
Amount spent per capita	\$4.39
City misdemeanor cases filed	420
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	8.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	274

Use of State Funds:

The City of Burien used its state grant funds to ensure public defense attorneys had access to interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings.

City of Chehalis

2020 Population	7,439
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	13.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$64,070
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$89,900.00
Amount spent per capita	\$12.08
City misdemeanor cases filed	486
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	65.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	358

Use of State Funds:

The City of Chehalis used state funds to increase contract attorney compensation and ensure public defense representation at preliminary hearings.

City of Cheney

2020 Population	13,255
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	34.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$56,876
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$44,250.00
Amount spent per capita	\$3.34
City misdemeanor cases filed	242
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	18.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	136

Use of State Funds:

The City of Cheney reported using 2022 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

2020 Population	14,158
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	10.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$89,895
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$145,700.00
Amount spent per capita	\$10.29
City misdemeanor cases filed	436
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	30.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	347

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. The City states that funds are readily available for services such as investigation, expert, and interpreter services.

City of Everett

2020 Population	110,629
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	11.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$86,168
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,564,467.00
Amount spent per capita	\$14.14
City misdemeanor cases filed	2,198
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	19.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1294

Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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

2020 Population	10,999
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	12.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$86,281
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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).

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$183,462.93
Amount spent per capita	\$16.68
City misdemeanor cases filed	664
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	60.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	507

Use of State Funds:

The City of Fife used its 2022 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 other health services and to obtain housing, helping them to overcome societal barriers.

City of Granger

2020 Population	3,624
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	16.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$68,929
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$19,049.98
Amount spent per capita	\$5.26
City misdemeanor cases filed	91
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	25.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	71

Use of State Funds:

In 2022, the City of Granger utilized RCW 10.101 funds to increase public defender compensation and to secure conflict counsel.

City of Hoquiam

2020 Population	8,776
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	16.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$61,718
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$149,506.00
Amount spent per capita	\$17.04
City misdemeanor cases filed	780
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	88.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	501

Use of State Funds:

The City used funds in 2022 to increase public defender compensation, provide public defense representation at preliminary hearings, providing interpreter services at confidential attorney-client meetings, and secure an additional attorney to address the COVID-19 case backlog.

City of Kelso

2020 Population	12,720
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	21.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$58,125
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$291,963.38
Amount spent per capita	\$22.95
City misdemeanor cases filed	828
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	65.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	675

Use of State Funds:

The City of Kelso utilized state RCW 10.101 funds in 2022 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

2020 Population	136,588
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	11.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$102,328
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,284,121.00
Amount spent per capita	\$9.40
City misdemeanor cases filed	3,427
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	25.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3346

Use of State Funds:

The City of Kent reported utilizing 2022 RCW 10.101 grant funds through contracting with Asian Counseling and Referral Services for social work services for public defense clients. These services include service coordination and navigation including securing treatment, housing, education, and medical services.

City of Lacey

2020 Population	53,526
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	9.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$86,338
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$350,406.83
Amount spent per capita	\$6.55
City misdemeanor cases filed	947
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	17.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	475

Use of State Funds:

The City of Lacey reported not using 2022 RCW 10.101 grant funds due to changes in public defense services. The City has sought, and been granted, a grant amendment that would allow the City to utilize 2023 funds to increase compensation to secure public defense representation.

City of Lake Stevens / Arlington

2020 Population	35,630 / 19,868
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	5.4% / 6.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$111,884 / \$106,368
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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).

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$143,478 / \$265,920
Amount spent per capita	\$4.03 / \$13.38
City misdemeanor cases filed	Not Listed / 892
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	Unknown / 0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	308 / 546

Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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

2020 Population	63,612
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	13.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$82,179
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$577,370.78
Amount spent per capita	\$9.08
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,876
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	29.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1180

Use of State Funds:

The City of Lakewood reported not having spent any RCW 10.101 grant funds in 2022 due to unspent funds from the prior cycle. Lakewood has requested, and been granted, an amendment for their grant agreement allowing them to add the additional uses of increasing public defense compensation and purchasing a new case management system for public defense use.

City of Longview

2020 Population	37,818
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	13.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$72,682
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$658,131.61
Amount spent per capita	\$17.40
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,550
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	41.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1389

Use of State Funds:

In 2022, the City used its grant funds to supplement attorney compensation and secure defense investigator services, which dwindled during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City also used the grant funds to reimburse training funds and pay for expert and interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings.

City of Medical Lake

2020 Population	4,874
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	5.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$79,167
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$14,500.00
Amount spent per capita	\$2.97
City misdemeanor cases filed	Not Listed
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	Unknown
Number of cases assigned to counsel	33

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

2020 Population	19,699
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	7.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$106,186
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$199,400.00
Amount spent per capita	\$10.12
City misdemeanor cases filed	654
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	33.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	285

Use of State Funds:

In 2022, the City of Monroe utilized state grant funds to continue a social work program. This social work services provider assists public defense clients in WSH competency evaluations as well as working with local city and county organizations to connect clients with needed services.

City of Olympia

2020 Population	55,382
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	14.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$85,315
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$558,341.26
Amount spent per capita	\$10.08
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,365
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	24.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	946.33

Use of State Funds:

The City of Olympia used RCW 10.101 funds in 2022 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.

City of Pasco

2020 Population	77,108
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	15.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$86,955
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$297,095.25
Amount spent per capita	\$3.85
City misdemeanor cases filed	2,360
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	30.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	976

Use of State Funds:

The City of Pasco utilized its 2022 RCW 10.101 grant funds to increase compensation for attorneys and provide interpreter services to public defense providers for attorney-client communications.

City of Port Orchard

2020 Population	15,587
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	10.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$86,954
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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).

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$160,137.79
Amount spent per capita	\$10.27
City misdemeanor cases filed	327
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	21.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	288

Use of State Funds:

The City of Port Orchard used RCW 10.101 grant funds in 2022 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

2020 Population	10,371
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	24.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$60,831
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$118,688.00
Amount spent per capita	\$11.44
City misdemeanor cases filed	534
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	51.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	441

Use of State Funds:

In 2022, the City utilized grant funds to provide interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings. The City also reported using funds to increase public defense attorney numbers to provide representation at the City's therapeutic court program, conflict cases, first appearance calendars, and to reduce caseloads of contracted attorneys.

City of Spokane

2020 Population	228,989
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	15.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$77,244
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,142,924.00
Amount spent per capita	\$13.73
City misdemeanor cases filed	6,473
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	28.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	5,459

Use of State Funds:

The City of Spokane has continued to use state grant funds to provide a public defender at daily in-custody 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

2020 Population	102,976
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	10.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$73,816
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$675,190.00
Amount spent per capita	\$6.56
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,834
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	17.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1462

Use of State Funds:

The City of Spokane Valley used 2022 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

2020 Population	16,375
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	18.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$56,690
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$360,200.00
Amount spent per capita	\$22.00
City misdemeanor cases filed	1,048
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	64.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	614

Use of State Funds:

The City of Sunnyside used 2022 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

2020 Population	219,346
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	12.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$89,702
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,137,418.00
Amount spent per capita	\$9.74
City misdemeanor cases filed	2,047
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	9.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1223

Use of State Funds:

Tacoma used its state grant funds in 2022 to help fund staff salaries and benefits for providing indigent defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars.

City of Toppenish

2020 Population	8,854
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	16.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$64,326
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$74,400.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.40
City misdemeanor cases filed	372
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	42.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	184

Use of State Funds:

The City of Toppenish reported using 2022 RCW 10.101 grant funds for increased public defense compensation, reimbursement of public defense training costs, social work services, investigator services, and providing interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings.

City of Tukwila

2020 Population	21,798
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	12.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$98,527
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$467,964.63
Amount spent per capita	\$21.47
City misdemeanor cases filed	627
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	28.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	778

Use of State Funds:

The City of Tukwila has received state grant funds since 2014. During 2022, 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

2020 Population	6,568
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	22.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$57,944
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$106,505.00
Amount spent per capita	\$16.22
City misdemeanor cases filed	668
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	101.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	702

Use of State Funds:

Union Gap used RCW 10.101 state funds in 2022 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

2020 Population	96,968
Percent Below Poverty Level 2017-2021	17.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2017-2021	\$67,857
Competitive Grant awarded for use in 2022	\$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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,171,594.14
Amount spent per capita	\$12.08
City misdemeanor cases filed	3,061
Total misdemeanors per 1,000 population	31.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2907

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.

2020 Data in the City Reports: The City Reports reflect public defense data from 2020. 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 applications to OPD in July 2021, which reported 2020 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

2020 population: Total city population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2021 - [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: 2017 - 2021)

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1901](#). (5-year estimate: 2017 - 2021)

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 2023.

I. 2020 Statistics

1. Amount spent for public defense: The city-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2020, 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 2020 as reported in [Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2020 Annual Caseload Report](#).
4. Total city misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new misdemeanor cases filed during 2020 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 2020.