

ALAMEDA COUNTY
PUBLIC DEFENDERS

FY 2025-26 PRELIMINARY MOE BUDGET

April 15, 2025

Presented by: Brendon D. Woods, Public Defender



“

OUR MISSION is to zealously protect and defend the rights of our clients through compassionate and inspired legal representation of the highest quality, in pursuit of a fair and unbiased system of justice for all.

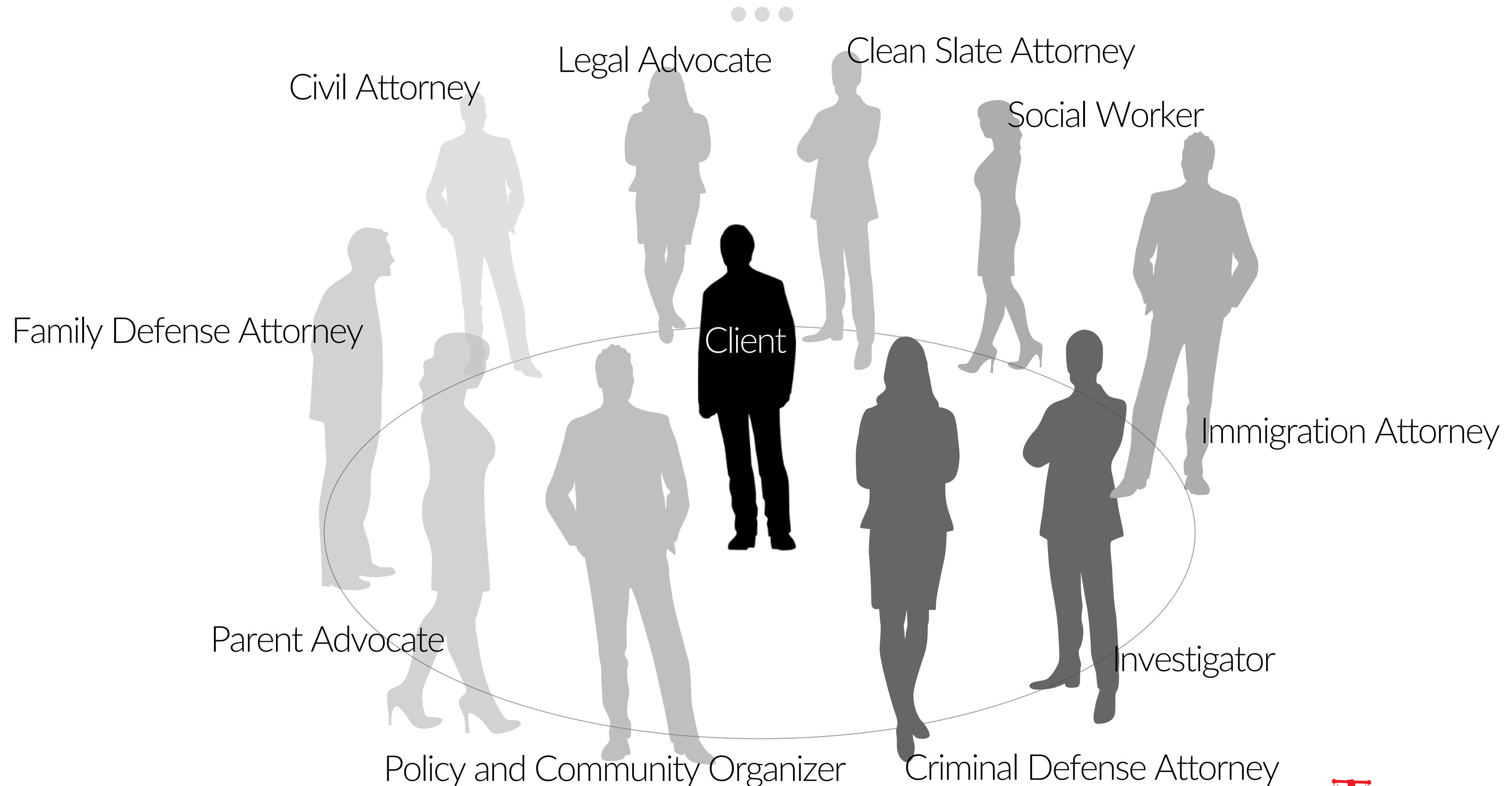
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The Public Defender is the primary defense attorney for indigent individuals accused of crimes or otherwise facing potential incarceration or loss of liberty.

Death Penalty Cases - Felonies - Misdemeanors - Minors - Appeals - PRCS Violations/Parole Revocation - Clean Slate - Immigration

OUR MODEL

HOLISTIC DEFENSE



publicdefender.acgov.org

PUBLIC DEFENDER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

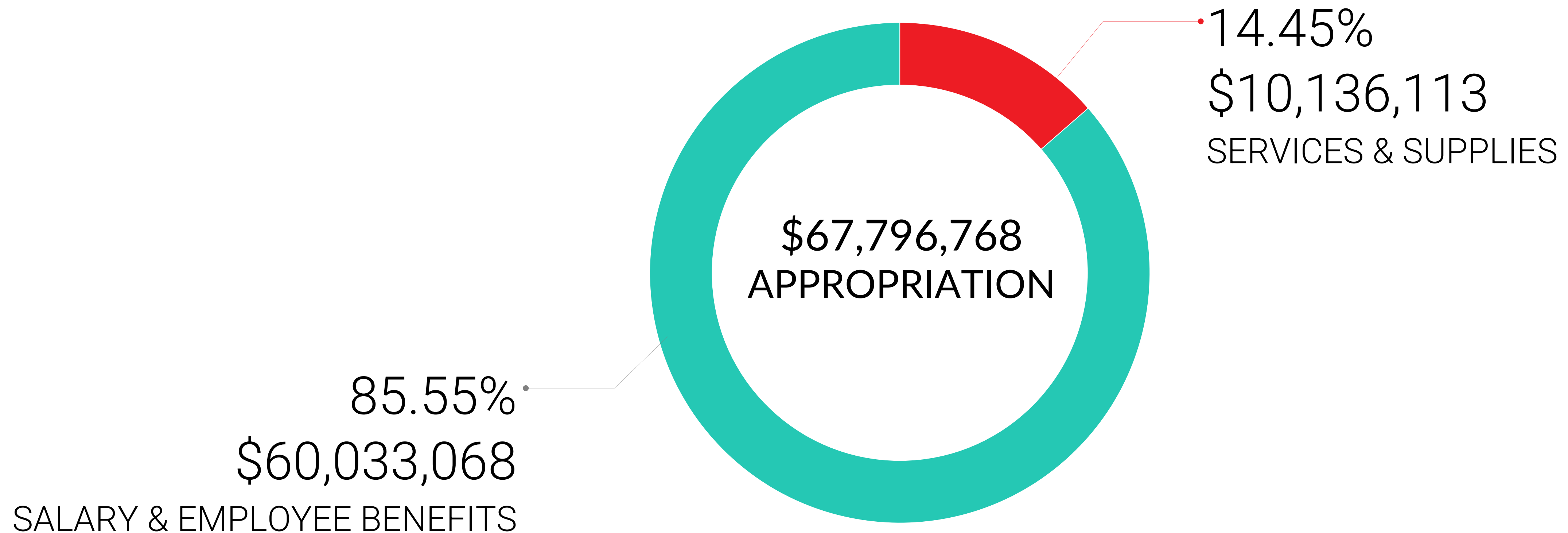
PUBLIC DEFENDER	FY 2024-25 Approved Budget	FY 2025-26 Preliminary MOE Budget	Change from FY 24-25 Approved to FY 25-26 MOE	
			Amount	Percentage
Appropriation	\$ 61,349,544	\$ 67,796,828	\$ 6,447,284	10.51%
Revenue	\$ 2,133,843	\$ 5,337,142	\$ 3,203,299	150.12%
Net County Cost	\$ 59,215,701	\$ 62,459,686	\$ 3,243,985	5.48%
FTE – Mgmt.	143.74	146.74	3.00	2.09%
FTE – Non-Mgmt.	44.99	44.99	-	-
Total FTE	188.73	191.73	3.00	1.59%

MAJOR COMPONENTS OF NET COUNTY COST (NCC) CHANGE



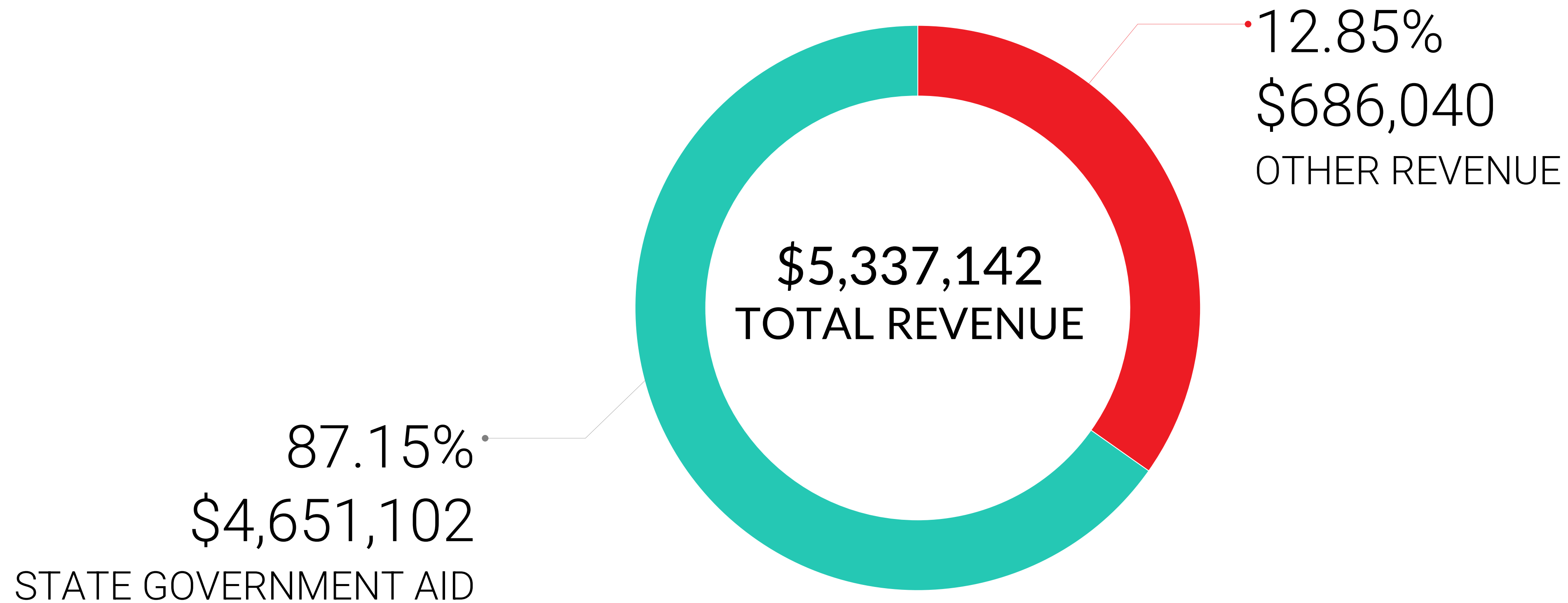
Component	Amount Change
Salary and Employee Benefits	\$5,891,469
Non-Discretionary Services and Supplies	\$336,769
Discretionary Services and Supplies	\$177,445
Intra-Fund Transfers	(\$660,872)
Revenue	(\$2,500,826)
Total Change in Net County Cost	\$3,243,985

TOTAL APPROPRIATION BY MAJOR OBJECT



INTRA-FUND TRANSFERS: -\$2,372,353

TOTAL REVENUE BY SOURCE



INDIGENT DEFENSE - COMBINED



	FY 2024-25 Approved Appropriations	FY 2024-25 Approved Net County Cost	FY 2025-26 MOE Preliminary Appropriations	FY 2025-26 MOE Preliminary Net County Cost	NCC Change From FY 24-25 Approved to FY 25-26 MOE	
					Amount	Percentage
Public Defender	\$61,349,544	\$59,215,701	\$67,796,828	\$62,459,686	\$3,243,985	5.48%
CAAP and Contract Services	\$10,729,231	10,729,231	\$10,864,853	\$10,626,129	(\$103,102)	(0.96%)
Total	\$72,078,775	\$69,944,932	\$78,661,681	\$73,085,815	\$3,140,883	4.49%

HOLISTIC DEFENSE



Opened 26,260 files and conflicted on 2,262



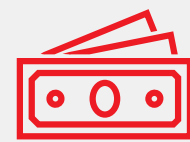
Eliminate Poverty
& Hunger



Crime-Free
County



Employment
for All



Prosperous &
Vibrant Economy



Eliminate
Homelessness



Thriving &
Resilient Population



SOCIAL WORK

HOLISTIC DEFENSE MITIGATION SPECIALISTS

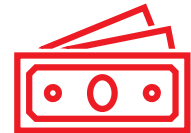


Assessed the needs of 306 Public Defender clients.

70% of recommended treatment plans were
accepted by the Court.



Crime-Free County



Fiscal Stewardship



Employment for All



Eliminate Homelessness



Collaboration



MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MR. T



At age 48, Mr. T experienced his first mental health crisis and his first-ever contact with the criminal legal system.

Thanks to a referral from his public defender, he connected with our **Holistic Defense Mitigation Team** and was accepted into **Mental Health Diversion**.

Instead of incarceration, Mr. T entered treatment. He completed a residential program in December 2024 and continues to attend therapy, AA, and take his prescribed medication.

Today, Mr. T. works full-time, attends HVAC classes at night, and recently earned his EPA 608 certification, qualifying him to work in HVAC under the Clean Air Act.

He loves his job, is on track to graduate from diversion, and is working toward a long-term goal: becoming a certified HVAC technician and building lasting stability.

MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MR. U



Mr. U is a retired Air Force combat veteran who served for 22 years. After leaving the military earlier than planned due to trauma, he built a successful post-service career—but struggled with untreated PTSD. His mental health symptoms eventually led to involvement in the criminal legal system.

With the support of the Alameda County Public Defender's Office, Mr. U was accepted into the Mental Health Diversion Program, where he began to heal and rebuild his life.

“Right before retiring from the military, I found myself experiencing my first mental health crisis... I was diagnosed with PTSD. From that period until now, it's been a rollercoaster ride... My symptoms, especially when untreated, impacted me... including presenting uncharacteristic behaviors such as gambling and transgressing the law...

But now I have a better appreciation for my life and my loved ones, especially my children... Spending time with my son gives me the greatest joy in my life right now. I've learned so much from him.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Alameda County Public Defender's Office... for believing in me and for working hard to help me get accepted into the Mental Health Diversion Program.



CLEAN SLATE UNIT

Filed 1,800 petitions.

1,697 petitions were granted.

94% success rate



Prosperous &
Vibrant Community



Collaboration



Crime-Free County



Eliminate Homelessness



Employment for All

CLEAN SLATE UNIT

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MR. P



After serving 11 years in prison, Mr. P was referred to our Clean Slate Program in 2021. We helped reduce one conviction under Prop 47 and later dismissed his remaining charges under a new law we supported—recognizing his service in the Folsom State Prison Fire Department.

When he was wrongly denied a guard card due to those dismissed convictions, we helped him appeal using a 2020 law we helped pass.

In June 2024, Mr. P was granted his guard card. He now works full-time in security and was promoted to **Lead Security Officer** in January 2025.

CLEAN SLATE CHALLENGES



1

East Bay Community Law Center will stop providing Clean Slate services this year

2

Our Clean Slate attorneys have approximately 735 cases each

3

Limited Clean Slate court slots available

4

Limited Clean Slate staffing from District Attorney's Office

5

Temporarily paused Clean Slate Clinics and Intakes due to high demand

IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION UNIT



Provided removal defense in 142 cases.

Conducted 1,380 *Padilla* Consults.



IMMIGRATION COMMUNITIES UNDER ATTACK

YTIMES


Education | Trump admin cancels at least 9 more student...

BREAKING NEWS As China and the US spar, countries brainstorm over how to cope with the trade war

NEWS > EDUCATION • News

Trump administration cancels at least nine more student visas

International students' revoked visas, purportedly for pro-Palestine activism, sparked protest last week



Latest Local News Live Shows

CBS NEWS

POLITICS

U.S. to revoke legal status of more than a half-million migrants, urges them to self deport

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez
Updated on: March 23, 2025 / 4:24 PM EDT / CBS News



Trump Administration Aims to Spend \$45 Billion to Expand Immigrant Detention


A request for proposals for new detention facilities and other

CNN Politics SCOTUS Congress Facts First 2025 Elections

Watch Listen

Supreme Court allows Trump to enforce Alien Enemies Act for rapid deportations for now

By John Fritze and Devan Cole, CNN
6 minute read · Updated 8:51 PM EDT, Mon April 7, 2025



npr

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NATIONAL

How Trump's crackdown plays into misperceptions about immigrants and crime

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 - 5:00 AM ET

Joel Rose

4-Minute Listen + PLAYLIST TRANSCRIPT



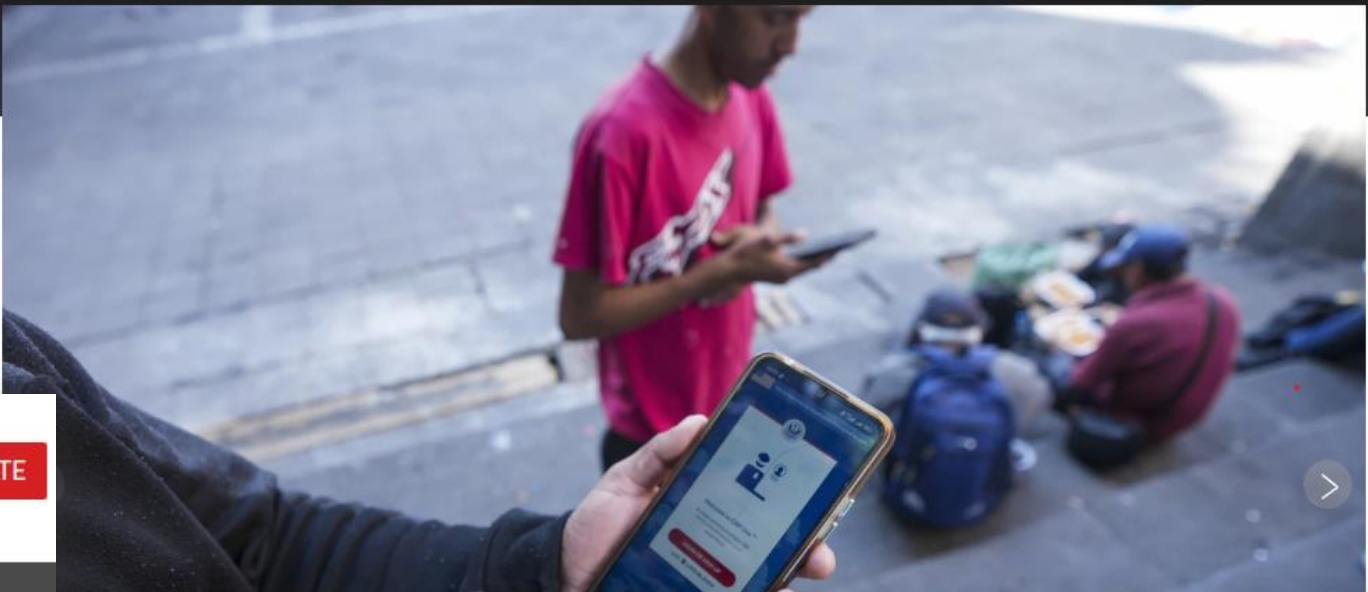
AP

WORLD U.S. POLITICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS SCIENCE FACT CHECK MORE

LIVE Trump administration Stock market today Student visas revoked Fluoride in water Octavio Dotel

U.S. NEWS

Trump's DHS revokes legal status for migrants who entered the US on Biden-era CBP One app




WORLD U.S. POLITICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS SCIENCE FACT CHECK MORE

LIVE Trump administration Stock market today Student visas revoked Fluoride in water Octavio Dotel

POLITICS

Trump administration deports hundreds of immigrants even as a judge orders their removals be stopped





IMMIGRATION RESPONSE

...

10 know-your-rights events since the new administration took office in January, with more scheduled, including an Immigration “Teach-In” planned for our annual Block Party on May 31st.

Immigration Attorney Rocio Sanchez appeared on Telemundo to provide residents with Immigration information.

BOS approved funding to expand Immigration Defense Unit.

Initiated recruitment of new Immigration staff.

CLIENT ADVOCATES PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE



8 Advocates for 2 years,
trained by the Bronx Defenders



**PARTNERS
FOR JUSTICE**



HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

PFJ Advocates expanded access to preventative and supportive health services for **372 clients**.



EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

PFJ Advocates helped **247 clients** obtain or keep employment.



ELIMINATE POVERTY & HUNGER

PFJ Advocates provided food and benefit assistance to **252 clients**.



ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS

PFJ Advocates assisted **336 clients** with housing support.

CLIENT ADVOCATES

PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE



845 clients served in CY 2024



66% of clients who received mental health or substance use support completed a treatment program.



56% of clients that received employment support are now employed.



77% of clients that received benefits support are now enrolled in benefits.



62% of clients that received housing support now have stable housing.



2024 PUBLIC DEFENDER BLOCK PARTY





VOICE

Voter Outreach Increases
Community Empowerment

Registered 2,367 clients in Santa Rita Jail to vote to date

LYRIC

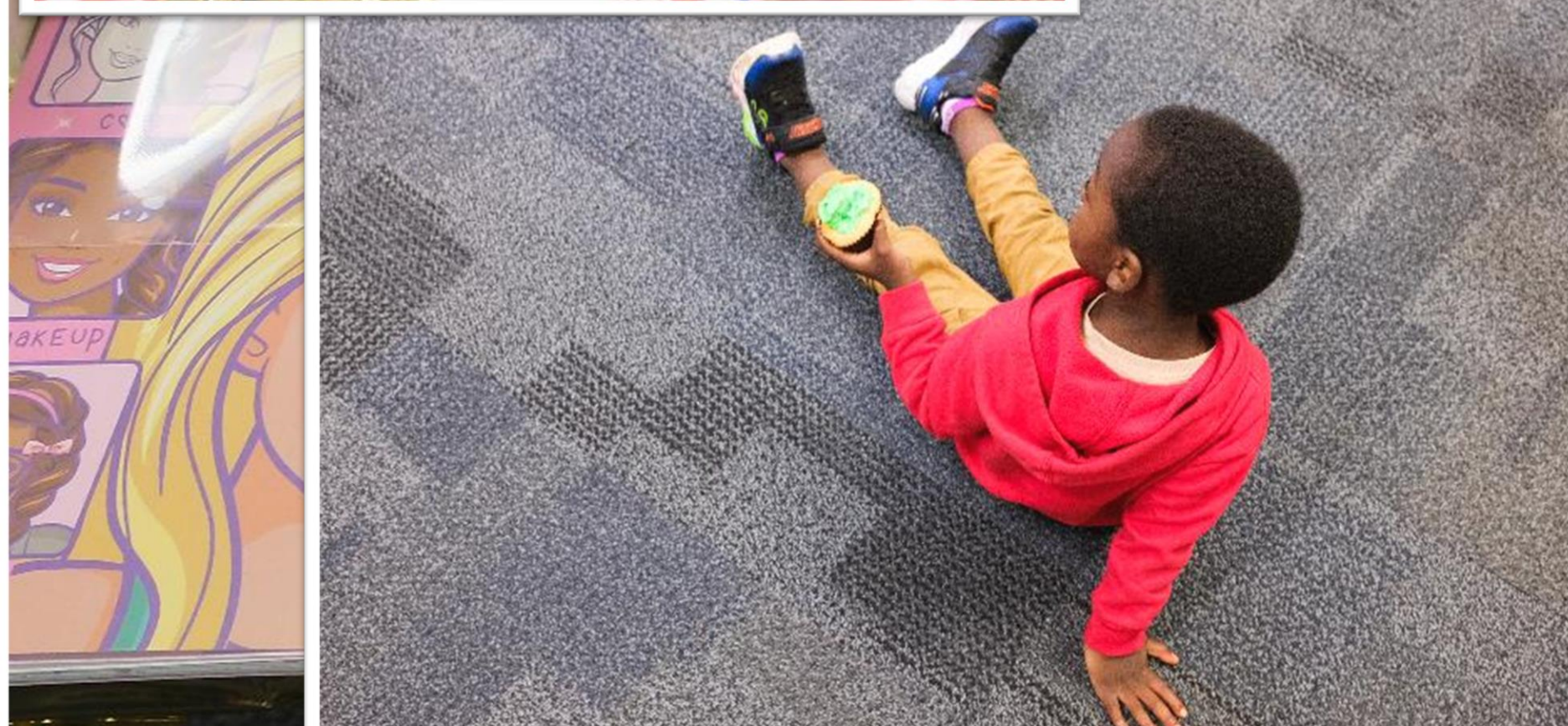
Learn Your Rights In California

Educated over 6,100 high school students.



2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT GIVEAWAY

Gave over 175 gifts to children who had loved ones incarcerated during the holidays, in partnership with Campaign Zero.



HUMAN IMPACTS OF FUNDING REDUCTION

...

- ✘ Loss of dedicated and talented staff
- ✘ Increased time in custody for:
 - people who have been convicted; and
 - people who have not been convicted of a crime
- ✘ Results in:
 - Unnecessary separation of families
 - Loss of housing
 - Loss of employment
- ✘ Reduced access to Clean Slate remedies
- ✘ Reduced access to rehabilitation services
- ✘ Increased deportations
- ✘ Reduced ability to complete resentencing

A photograph of the California State Capitol building at dusk. The building is illuminated with warm lights, and its iconic dome is visible against a deep blue twilight sky. A tall flagpole stands in front of the building. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES WITH BUDGET IMPACTS

...

Public Defense Pilot Program (SB 129)

Racial Justice Act (AB 2542 & AB 256)

Proposition 36

National Public Defender Workload Study (AB 625 & AB 690)

POST CONVICTION UNIT

Public Defense Pilot Program Supported:

- 2 Assistant Public Defenders
- 2 Deputy Public Defenders
- 4 Holistic Defense Mitigation Specialists
- 1 Legal Secretary
- 1 Legal Assistant

With the end of the Pilot Program, ongoing funding is needed.

120 Resentencings completed in 2024

140 Clients with open Franklin/Youthful Parole Hearings (YOP)

70 Pending Penal Code Section 1172.6/1172.1 (Discretionary Resentencing/Felony Murder Resentencing)

905 People in the prison from Alameda County that are eligible for a YOP hearing, under elderly parole, or as an indeterminately sentenced nonviolent offender under Proposition 57

POST CONVICTION UNIT

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MR. H



Mr. H's first steps outside of a custodial setting in 28 years,
With Public Defender Christi Moore.

Mr. H was sentenced to 17 years to life and served over 28 years in prison. Thanks to the work of our Post Conviction Unit – and with support from Holistic Defense Mitigation Specialist Tanaya Reid – he was resentenced and walked free on Christmas Eve 2024.

Mr. H often says to our team:

“If I were a millionaire, I could not have bought a better legal team.”

Mr. H now has stable housing and is rebuilding his life.

POST CONVICTION UNIT

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MR. B

...



Mr. B was sentenced to 18 years to life and served over 28 years in prison. At the time of his resentencing at age 58, he had the lowest possible housing security score, glowing evaluations from CDCR staff, and a powerful letter of support from the prison's Muslim Chaplain.

Since his release, Mr. B has been reconnecting with family and rebuilding his life. He graduated from ARC's job readiness program and now holds full-time employment.

POST CONVICTION UNIT

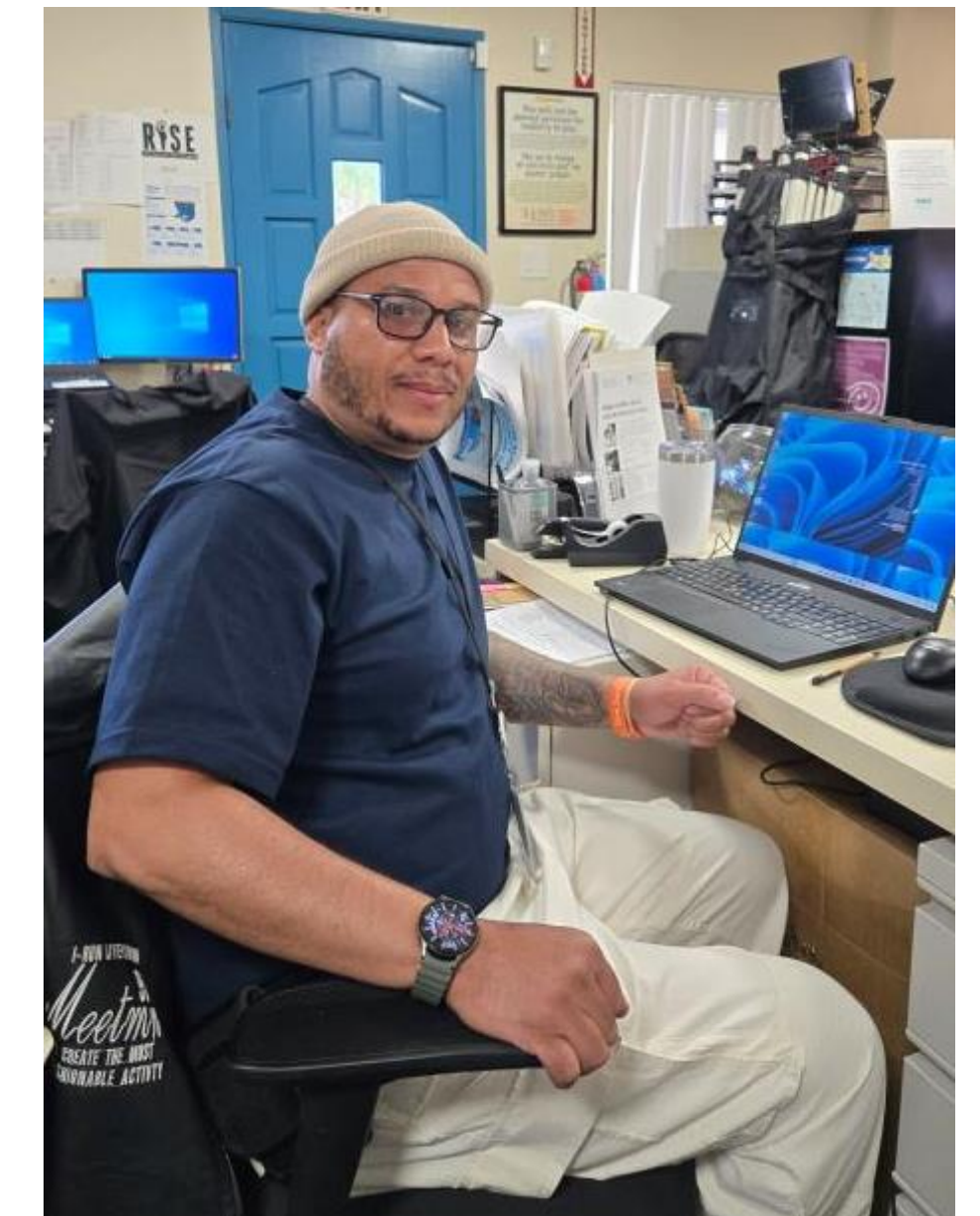
CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MR. R



Mr. R was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole at just 18 years old. After years inside, our team secured his resentencing – reducing his sentence to 15 years to life and making him immediately eligible for parole.

Mr. R was released from CDCR in October 2024 and was greeted by our team of Holistic Defense Mitigation Specialists and his family. He paroled to a transitional home in Los Angeles and has been thriving.

Mr. R now works as a **Community Health Worker at St. John's Health** – giving back and building a powerful life post-release.



RACIAL JUSTICE ACT



Prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a conviction, or imposing a sentence based on race, ethnicity or national origin.



DEDICATED ONE PUBLIC DEFENDER TO BE
OUR RJA ATTORNEY



IN 2024, COMPLETED 98 RJA CONSULTS

(Meetings with attorneys to strategize and develop an
RJA action plan)



10 CASES – FILED MOTIONS FOR RELEVANT DATA

100% granted



7 CASES – RJA MOTIONS FILED



9 CASES - DISMISSED



48 NEW RJA CASE REFERRALS FROM THE COURT AND
IN-CUSTODY CLIENTS

PROPOSITION 36

...

Theft-related cases up by 50% this January compared to last January

64 new felonies in first three months of this year compared to last year

Racial Disparities in Charging:

78% of our felony Prop 36 clients in North Alameda County have been Black

83% of our felony Prop 36 clients county wide have been people of color



INCREASED WORKLOAD



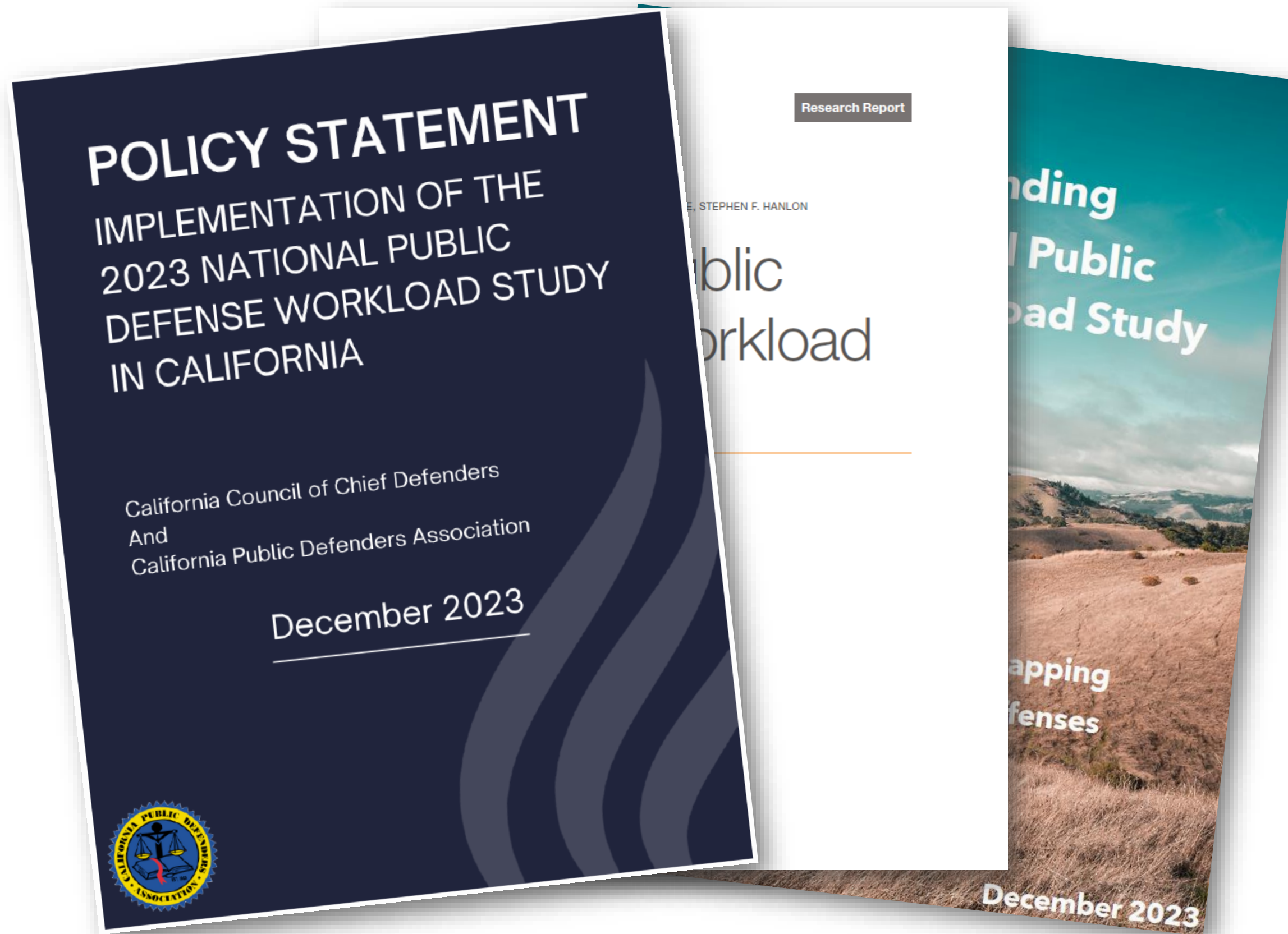
21,991 new cases in CY 2023

24,002 new cases in CY 2024

An increase of **2,011** cases

231 more felonies in the first three months of 2025 than the previous year

NATIONAL PUBLIC DEFENSE WORKLOAD STUDY



- Our office would need **68 additional attorneys** to satisfy the workload guidelines, assuming our attorneys worked 2,080 hours a year, not accounting for holidays or vacations.
- 68 deputy public defenders would be **\$27.1 million dollars**.
- the District Attorney's budget (\$105.4M) would still be **19.8% larger** or \$17.4 million more than the Public Defender's budget.

AB 625



- AB 625 is a California Study that will evaluate and make recommendations for public defense, including appropriate staffing levels.
- National Association for Public Defense (NAPD) May 2020 Policy Statement on Public Defense Staffing calls for:
 - 1 investigator for every 3 lawyers
 - 1 social worker for every 3 lawyers
 - 1 paralegal and 1 administrative assistant/ legal secretary for every 4 lawyers

- The **District Attorney's Office** has:
 - 150 lawyers
 - 35 advocates
 - 75 inspectors
 - 130 operations staff
- The **Public Defender's Office** has:
 - 126 lawyers
 - 19 social workers & advocates
 - 19 investigators
 - 57 other staff

* DA staffing levels are from 2024 District Attorney MOE presentation

THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE “JUSTICE” IS TO HAVE PARITY OF RESOURCES

Public Defender’s budget: \$60.9M supporting 188.73 FTE

District Attorney’s budget: \$105.4M supporting 363.04 FTE

“

For The Alameda County Public Defender's Office,

I want to just start by saying thank you from the bottom of my soul to Olivia for defending me. She is brilliant, insightful, compassionate, unique, funny, and a beautiful human being...

I hope you all understand how important the work you do really is. I hope none of you are ever discouraged by those who cannot see your talent and service. You provide a service to the community that many people will never know or even understand...

Whatever happens, I know I will be paying it forward and back, in a way that is different due to having had the honor of being defended by the Alameda Public Defender's office...

I had a very bad experience with a paid lawyer who took advantage of my family and I...never did I think I would get lucky enough to have been supported by such kind, smart, and supportive individuals as Olivia, Sarah, and Rayna...

I used to think doctors did the most in terms of minimizing suffering, but...I now believe what you do is dramatically more compassionate and thoughtful...

I will speak of your office until the day I die. My family feels the same way. You all had an outsized impact not just on me, but on my personal world and the people I know. They all speak highly of all of you...

Thank you again for all the work all of you do, as words can't explain how lucky I am to have been supported by your office...

I wish I could've met more of you. But you will always live inside my brain and heart.

Thank You Forever.

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