

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Requested	FY 2026 Recommended
<u>Expenditure By Object</u>				
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	2,510,666	2,701,171	2,701,171	2,719,426
Travel	94,571	96,255	96,255	96,255
Contractual Services	561,601	1,256,750	3,898,500	921,750
Commodities	134,462	91,000	91,000	91,000
Capital Outlay - Equipment	58,359	10,000	10,000	10,000
Subsidies, Loans & Grants	976,958	594,771	1,875,574	534,771
Totals	4,336,617	4,749,947	8,672,500	4,373,202
<u>To Be Funded As Follows:</u>				
State Appropriations	4,108,157	4,554,947	8,672,500	4,373,202
State Support Special Funds	0	60,000	0	0
Casey Family Defense Grant	228,460	135,000	0	0
Totals	4,336,617	4,749,947	8,672,500	4,373,202
General Fund Lapse	82	0	0	0
<u>Summary Of Headcounts</u>				
Permanent	25	25	25	25
Time-Limited	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	25	25	25
<u>Summary Of Funding</u>				
General Funds	4,108,157	4,554,947	8,672,500	4,373,202
State Support Funds	0	60,000	0	0
Special Funds	228,460	135,000	0	0
Totals	4,336,617	4,749,947	8,672,500	4,373,202

Agency Description and Programs

The Office of State Public Defender (OSPD) was established under Section 99-18-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, to provide legal representation to indigent persons. OSPD combined the former Office of Capital Defense Counsel and Office of Indigent Appeals to centralize the administration of the existing programs - providing indigent defense in eligible death penalty cases at trial and appeal, non-death cases on appeal, and training of all public defenders. In 2016, it was expanded to include training for all youth court defenders and direct representation for parents in the child welfare system. In the 2016 Regular Legislative Session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 2362, the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act of 2016, which changed the support for the Office of the State Public Defender to be provided by the General Fund. In the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, House Bill 1819 provided for the establishment of a Youth Defender Program that will provide training to counsel representing youth in delinquency matters.

1. Capital Defense

This program provides legal representation to indigent persons charged with death penalty-eligible offenses in the state courts of Mississippi and tracks all such cases.

2. Indigent Appeals

This program provides representation on appeal for indigent persons convicted of felonies but not under death sentences. This program shall provide advice, education, and support to attorneys representing persons under felony charges in the trial courts.

3. Public Defender Training

This program provides the Training Division of this Office with continuing professional legal education for Public Defenders in Mississippi.

4. Youth and Family Defense

This program provides funding and training for attorneys to represent parents in Youth Court abuse and neglect cases and Termination of Parental Rights cases to ensure the fundamental rights of parents are respected and facilitate the expedient movement of children within the system. This program also provides training for attorneys to represent youth accused of acts of delinquency and to provide representation on appeal in such matters.

5. State Defender

This program provides a plan for a statewide Public Defender system that administers capital defense, indigent appeals, parent defense, and training divisions.

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Requested	FY 2026 Recommended
<u>Summary By Program</u>				
1. Capital Defense				
Total Funds	920,325	961,574	961,574	955,026
2. Indigent Appeals				
Total Funds	1,031,928	1,071,084	1,071,084	1,069,516
3. Public Defender Training				
Total Funds	548,594	557,832	557,832	514,849
4. Youth & Family Defense				
Total Funds	905,285	1,283,450	3,836,950	1,047,232
5. State Defender				
Total Funds	930,485	876,007	2,245,060	786,579