

| | FY 2025 Actual | FY 2026 Estimated | FY 2027 Requested | FY 2027 Recommended |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Expenditure By Object</u> | | | | |
| Salaries & Fringe Benefits | 2,736,933 | 2,791,160 | 2,959,631 | 2,978,375 |
| Travel | 97,092 | 93,454 | 94,755 | 93,454 |
| Contractual Services | 622,408 | 1,586,000 | 1,781,000 | 783,000 |
| Commodities | 158,061 | 118,000 | 118,000 | 118,000 |
| Capital Outlay - Equipment | 23,700 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Subsidies, Loans & Grants | 816,189 | 799,091 | 905,521 | 695,521 |
| Totals | 4,454,383 | 5,397,705 | 5,868,907 | 4,678,350 |
| <u>To Be Funded As Follows:</u> | | | | |
| State Appropriations | 4,310,523 | 4,491,135 | 5,868,907 | 4,678,350 |
| State Support Special Funds | 16,430 | 771,570 | 0 | 0 |
| Casey Family Defense Grant | 127,430 | 135,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 4,454,383 | 5,397,705 | 5,868,907 | 4,678,350 |
| General Fund Lapse | 244,424 | 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 | 4,310,523 | 4,491,135 | 5,868,907 | 4,678,350 |
| State Support Funds | 16,430 | 771,570 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Funds | 127,430 | 135,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 4,454,383 | 5,397,705 | 5,868,907 | 4,678,350 |

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. The Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act of 2016, created in 27-104-201, Mississippi Code of 1972, 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, youth and family defense, and training divisions, as well as special projects authorized by the Legislature.

| | FY 2025 Actual | FY 2026 Estimated | FY 2027 Requested | FY 2027 Recommended |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Summary By Program</u> | | | | |
| 1. Capital Defense | | | | |
| Total Funds | 936,755 | 993,413 | 1,054,677 | 993,413 |
| 2. Indigent Appeals | | | | |
| Total Funds | 1,068,269 | 1,140,629 | 1,193,220 | 1,140,629 |
| 3. Public Defender Training | | | | |
| Total Funds | 604,860 | 553,956 | 564,994 | 553,956 |
| 4. Youth & Family Defense | | | | |
| Total Funds | 993,398 | 1,098,673 | 1,306,613 | 1,053,155 |
| 5. State Defender | | | | |
| Total Funds | 851,101 | 1,611,034 | 1,749,403 | 937,197 |