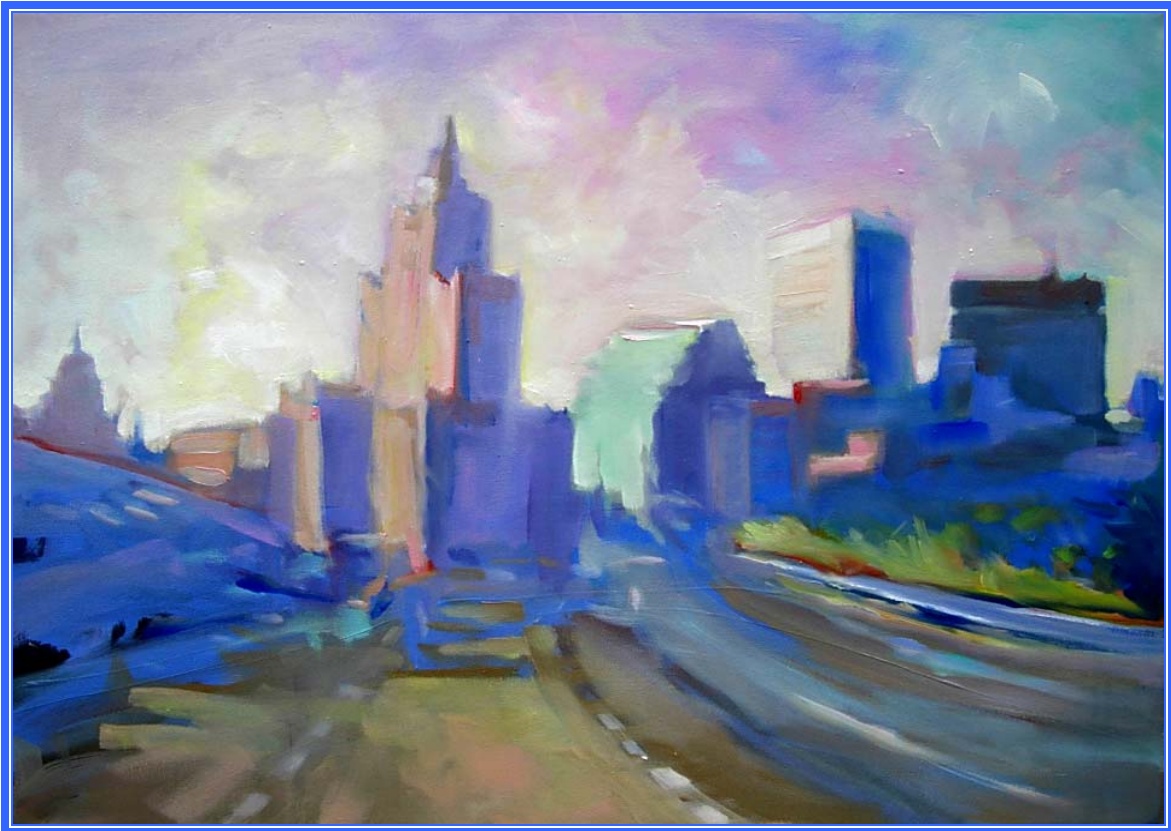


State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2009

Donald L. Carcieri, Governor

The Agency

Office of the Public Defender

Agency Operations

The Office of the Public Defender is statutorily mandated to represent indigent adults and juveniles who are charged with criminal offenses or who are in jeopardy of losing custody of their children to the State. Referrals come from the Supreme, Superior, District, and Family Courts. All who are financially eligible are assigned to a staff attorney for representation in the appropriate court.

The office carries out a single program: representation of indigents. Within this program are activities associated with adult and juvenile criminal matters, and with termination of parental rights and dependency and neglect petitions filed by the DCYF. The office offers appellate representation in the Rhode Island Supreme Court in those areas in which it offers trial level representation. Assisting the attorneys who deliver the primary service of the office is a support staff of social workers, investigators, interpreters, information technology staff, and clerical staff.

The Public Defender is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for a six-year term.

Agency Objectives

To provide high quality representation to all indigents in criminal, juvenile and parental rights litigation, fulfilling the governmental obligation to provide effective counsel and to endeavor to secure fundamental fairness and due process to the indigent citizens of Rhode Island.

Statutory History

The Office of the Public Defender was created in 1941 by Chapter 1007 of the Rhode Island Public Laws. It was one of the earliest, and perhaps even the first, statewide Public Defender agencies in the Nation. Title 12, Chapter 15 of the Rhode Island General Laws defines the organization and functions of the agency, and mandates it to represent those who are without financial resources to retain private counsel. Title 14, Chapter 1 describes the referral process by the Family Court, and Title 40, Chapter 11 authorizes referral of dependency, neglect and termination of parental rights cases to the office by the Family Court.

The Budget

Office of the Public Defender

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2008 Revised	FY 2009 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	7,668,160	7,950,488	8,914,077	8,550,004	8,869,887
Operating Supplies and Expenses	694,669	779,550	807,307	796,968	814,442
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$8,362,829	\$8,730,038	\$9,721,384	\$9,346,972	\$9,684,329
Capital Purchases and Equipment	35,094	48,386	25,400	27,900	32,400
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$8,397,923	\$8,778,424	\$9,746,784	\$9,374,872	\$9,716,729
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	8,270,299	8,564,734	9,324,951	9,015,956	9,468,259
Federal Funds	127,624	213,690	421,833	358,916	248,470
Total Expenditures	\$8,397,923	\$8,778,424	\$9,746,784	\$9,374,872	\$9,716,729
FTE Authorization	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	13.0%	14.6%	14.6%	14.6%	14.6%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	62.0%	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	9.0%	9.4%	10.4%	10.4%	10.4%
Program Measures					
Percentage by which Attorney Caseload Exceeds National Standards - Misdemeanors	202.0%	329.0%	329.0%	329.0%	329.0%
Percentage by which Attorney Caseload Exceeds National Standards - Felonies	57.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%
Average Percentage of the Continuing Legal Education Requirement Fulfilled with Public Defender Sponsored Courses (All Attorneys)	82.9%	72.9%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%