Joint Budget Committee

Staff Budget Briefing
FY 2027-28

Department of Law

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Contents

Overview of Department of Law 2
Legal Counsel and Advice to the State 2
Civil Enforcement 2
Criminal Enforcement 2
Recent Appropriations 3
Graphic Overview 4
Cash Funds Detail 6
General Factors Driving the Budget 8
Legal representation of state agencies, boards, and commissions 8
Criminal Justice and Appellate 9
Summary of Request 11
Budget reduction options 14
Summary 14
Recommendation 14
Discussion 14
Issue: Summary of Recent Settlements that Exceed $1 million 19
Summary 19
Recommendation 19
Discussion 19
Major litigation pending against the state 24
Summary 24
Recommendation 25
Discussion 25
Footnotes and Requests for Information 30
Update on Long Bill Footnotes 30
Update on Requests for Information 30
Department Annual Performance Report 33
Appendix A: Numbers Pages A-1
Appendix B: RFI Responses A-18

Additional Resources

To find the online version of the briefing document search the General Assembly's website for budget documents (https://content.leg.colorado.gov/content/budget#budget-documents-section).

Overview of Department of Law

The Attorney General represents and defends the legal interests of the people of the State of Colorado and serves as the legal counsel and advisor to all state agencies. The statutory responsibilities of the Department are summarized below.

Legal Counsel and Advice to the State

- Provides state agencies and elected officials with legal services such as legal representation, legal advice and opinions, contract review, and rule writing assistance.
- The Attorney General rarely represents the General Assembly, but has provided legal opinions and legal representation when the Executive Branch and the General Assembly priorities are aligned.

Civil Enforcement

- Protects Colorado consumers against fraud and enforces state and federal consumer protection, antitrust, charitable solicitation, consumer lending, and fair debt collection laws.
- Represent the State’s interests in interstate and federal water cases.
- Leads enforcement actions at sites contaminated with hazardous materials under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).
- Pursues civil recoveries and damages from Medicaid providers for fraud and over billing.
- Enforces provisions of the tobacco master settlement agreements and protect the State's interests under the settlement payment calculation provision.

Criminal Enforcement

- Investigates and prosecutes certain complex and multi-jurisdictional cases, environmental crimes, election fraud, and foreign fugitives.
- Provides investigative and prosecutorial support to district attorneys in complex homicides, cold cases, human trafficking cases, and large-scale drug conspiracies.
- Investigates and prosecute securities, insurance, and workers' compensation fraud.
- Represents the State in criminal appeal cases in state and federal courts.
- Investigates and prosecutes Medicaid provider fraud and patient abuse.
- Oversees the Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Board, which manages the training and certification of peace officers.
- Assures that the constitutional and statutory rights of victims are preserved in criminal cases being prosecuted or defended by the Department, and investigates complaints concerning alleged violations of the Victim’s Rights Act.

Recent Appropriations

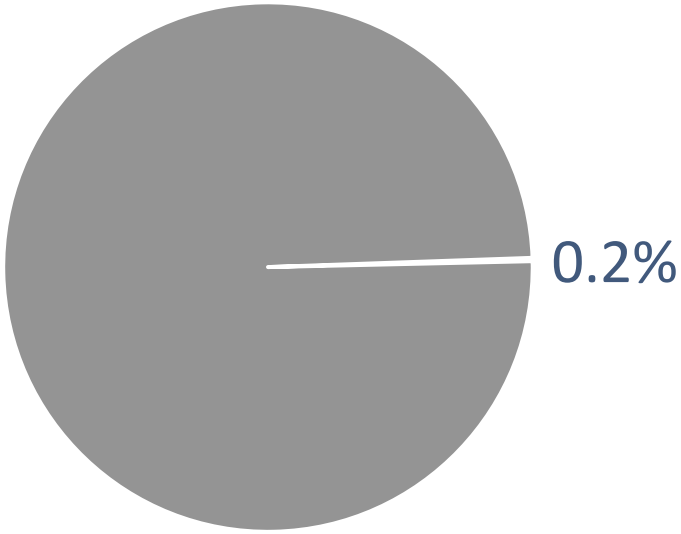
Law: Recent Appropriations

Funding Source	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28 [1]
General Fund	$26,847,104	$28,687,723	$32,297,338	$33,638,140
Cash Funds	25,136,497	25,457,593	29,825,656	34,203,301
Reappropriated Funds	90,294,259	93,827,819	98,920,637	104,811,067
Federal Funds	3,834,599	3,929,834	3,872,902	4,425,077
Total Funds	$146,112,459	$151,902,969	$164,916,533	$177,077,585
Full Time Equivalent Staff	655.5	666.8	671.6	671.0

[1] Requested appropriation.

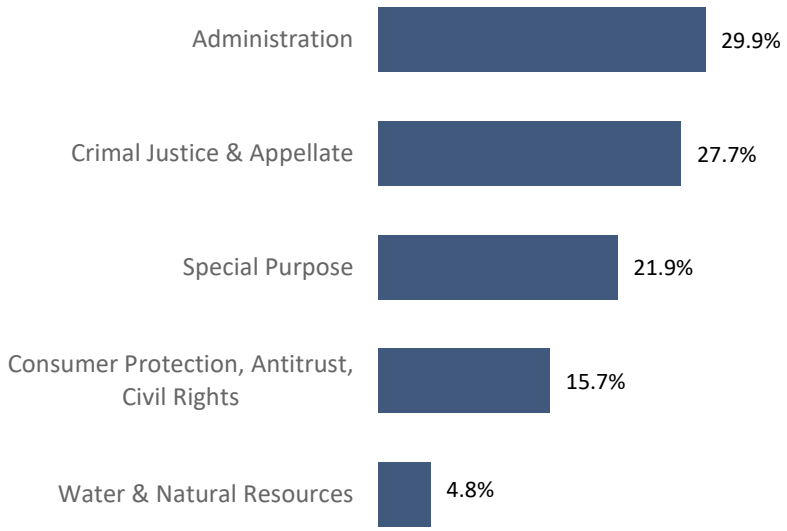
Graphic Overview

Department's Share of Statewide General Fund



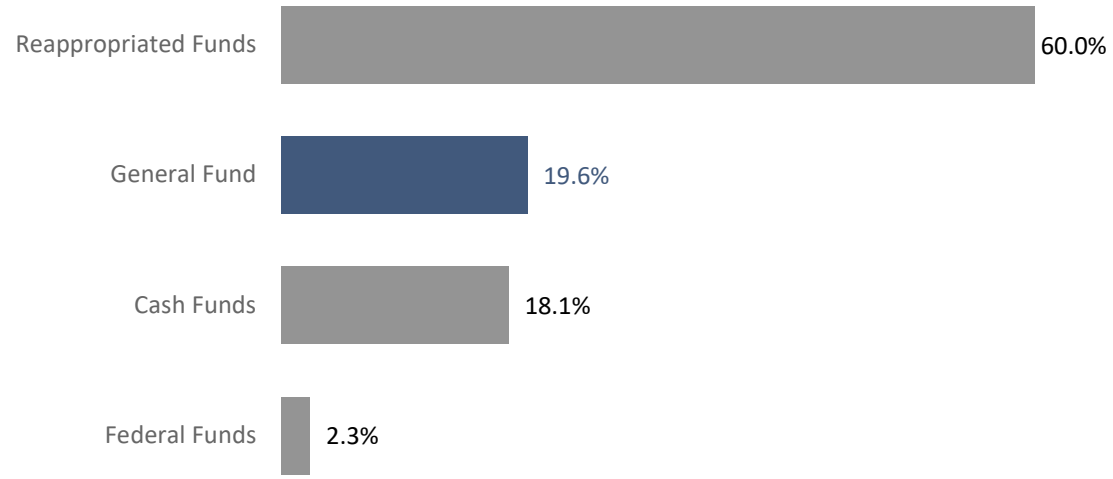
Based on the FY 2026-27 appropriation.

Distribution of General Fund by Division



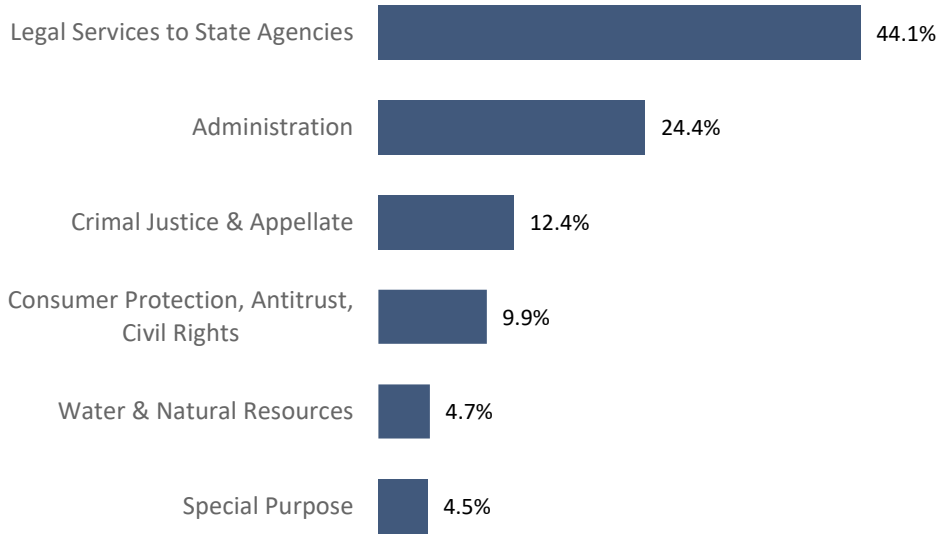
Based on the FY 2026-27 appropriation.

Department Funding Sources



Based on the FY 2026-27 appropriation.

Distribution of Total Funds by Division



Based on the FY 2026-27 Appropriation

Cash Funds Detail

Department of Law Cash Fund Detail

Fund Name	FY 2026-27 Approp.	Note	Primary Revenue Sources	Primary Uses in Dept.
Legal Services Cash Fund	$81,815,489	[1]	Revenue from providing legal services to state agencies	Legal Services to State Agencies
Indirect Cost Recoveries	7,945,336		Cash and reappropriated fund sources collected in each division	Centralized services in the Administration section
P.O.S.T. Board Cash Fund	5,910,393		All or a portion of fees charged for P.O.S.T. Board Exam, VIN inspections, publication, and motor vehicle registrations	P.O.S.T. Board activities
Consumer Protection Custodial Funds	4,223,569	[2]	Consumer protection litigation court awards	Consumer Protection & Anti-Trust section Supports 30.0 FTE
Insurance Fraud Cash Fund	2,359,958		Fees for licensing insurance providers	Special Prosecution Unit
Marijuana Tax Cash Fund	1,814,193		Sales tax on marijuana and special sales tax on retail marijuana	P.O.S.T. Board and Consumer Protection & Antitrust Section
CWCB Litigation Fund	5,400,000	[4]	Interest earnings on loans for water-related projects authorized by statute	Water and Natural Resources Division
Mortgage Fraud Custodial Fund	2,970,934	[2]	Established as the result of a court award, which funded the principal	Stipulated to be expended on mortgage or housing efforts through contracts
Attorney Fees & Costs	450,000		Attorney fees and costs awarded by a court, is subject to appropriation.	Litigation Management, Consultant Expenses, and Legal Services to State Agencies
Student Loan Ombudsperson and Loan Servicer Licensing Fund	633,855	[5]	Fees for Student Loan Servicer Licensing and Student Loan Servicer Investigations	Continuously appropriated, Consumer Protection & Antitrust section, Uniform Consumer Credit Code
Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund	423,801		Tobacco litigation settlements	Consumer Protection & Antitrust section
Consumer Credit Unit Cash Fund	340,051	[3]	Fees on lenders and creditors issuing consumer credit and engaging in debt management and credit repair	Continuously appropriated, Consumer Protection & Antitrust section, Uniform Commercial Credit Code
False Claims Recovery Fund	300,000		Proceeds retained by state under False Claims actions	Special Prosecutions Unit for False Claims actions
Special Prosecution Custodial Funds	50,200	[2]	Court awards from forfeitures under Colorado Organized Crime Act and interest	Special Prosecutions Unit
Various Sources of Cash and Reappropriated Funds	14,108,514		Includes all sources identified above	Centralized services in the Administration section
Total	$128,746,293			

[1] The figure associated with Legal Services Cash Fund includes both “Cash Funds” and “Reappropriated Funds”.
[2] Custodial funds are not subject to appropriation and often have specific uses designated through settlement agreements or court awards. Those without conditions are expended as directed by the Attorney General.
[3] Fund is continuously appropriated pursuant Section 5-2-302 (11)(a), C.R.S. Section 5-2-302 (11)(d), C.R.S., sets the alternate reserve limit to 33.3 percent. Cash Fund was created by SB 23-248 and thus has $0 appropriation in FY23-24. The FY24-25 request estimates $3.6 million in expenditures from the fund.
[4] Fund is continuously appropriated pursuant Section 37-60-121 (2.5)(a), C.R.S.
[5] Fund is continuously appropriated pursuant Section 5-20-104 (3)(c), C.R.S.

Additional detail for select funds

Legal services cash fund

The majority of cash funds appropriations to the Department of Law are made from the Legal Services Cash Fund. This fund allows the Department flexibility to apply payments made from two buckets of appropriations. One bucket allows Law to accept funds appropriated from client agency's legal services line item appropriation, or reappropriated funds. The other allows Law to accept funds appropriated to program line items in agencies when unexpected legal costs and program decisions lead to reappropriated fund payments being insufficient.

Custodial funds

Custodial Funds are not subject to annual appropriation by the General Assembly. Custodial Money may only be expended for the purposes for which the funds were provided. Usually, these terms are found in the final settlement agreements or judgments awarded to Colorado for successful litigation.

Any money received by the attorney general as an award of attorney fees or costs that is not Custodial Money must be placed in a separate Attorney Fees and Costs Account and is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for legal services provided by the department.

General Factors Driving the Budget

The Attorney General is the State's chief legal representative as well as the legal counsel to the State Government's Executive Branch. It represents the governor, executive branch principal departments, and other state agencies, boards, and commissions including the Judicial Branch.

The Department is largely a cash-funded agency that receives funding from state agencies and various programs for the provision of legal services, the investigation and prosecution of fraud, and the protection of citizens of this State through consumer protection efforts. To deploy these services statewide, the Department employs approximately 671.6 FTE.

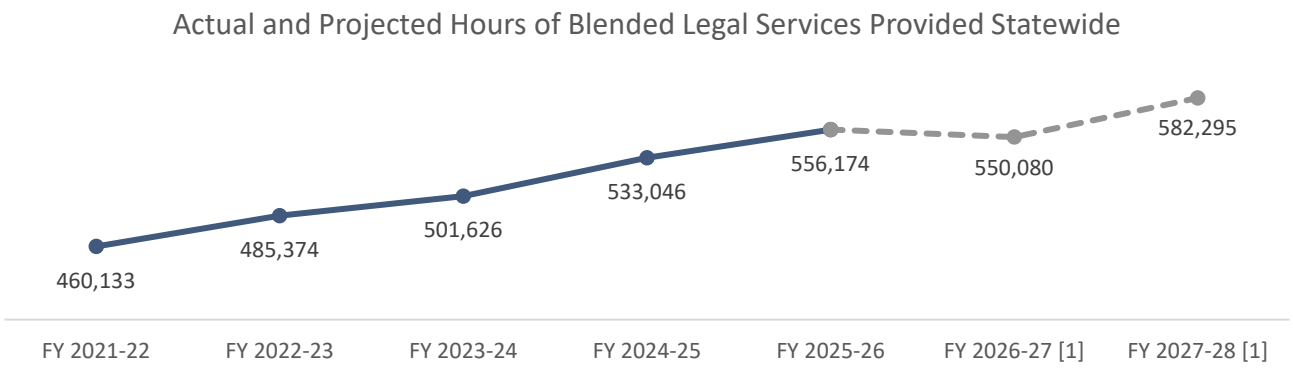
Legal representation of state agencies, boards, and commissions

Prior to 1973, legal representation of state agencies was provided by attorneys hired by individual agencies, which sometimes led to conflict between agencies. In 1973 the state consolidated legal representation to the Attorney General's Office to ensure a consisten legal strategy for the state. Between 1973 and 2017, the Department billed client agencies each month for the billable hours of legal services actually provided to the client during the previous month. This led to a consistent decline in the amount of work being requested in the last quarter of the fiscal year. This method led to budgetary uncertainty when agencies chose to avoid requesting services when agency funding prioritized spending for non-legal service costs.

Starting in FY 2017-18 the General Assembly restructured the legal services common policy to estimate the number of legal services hours allocated to each agency based on the three-year average of their actual legal service hours consumed. Thus, Legal Services appropriations by agency are calculated by taking the three-year average of actual hours billed and multiplying it by the "blended legal service rate."JBC staff makes recommendations to the JBC annually for the blended legal service rate based on the direct and indirect costs of providing legal representation.

Now, to collect the reappropriated fund appropriations from each of the user agencies the Department of Law bills each one-twelfth of its total appropriation monthly. Budgetary certainty provided by this methodology allows the Department to maintain an appropriate number of staff to provide the required services and minimizes the volume of higher-cost contract attorneys or outside counsel that may be needed to meet demand that exceeds capacity. While the current common policy may not encourage agencies to limit the number of legal service hours utilized, it likely results in lower attorneys' costs statewide. In the spectrum of common policies, the legal services common policy provides more budgetary certainty but reduces overall transparency regarding the actual annual costs of legal representation.

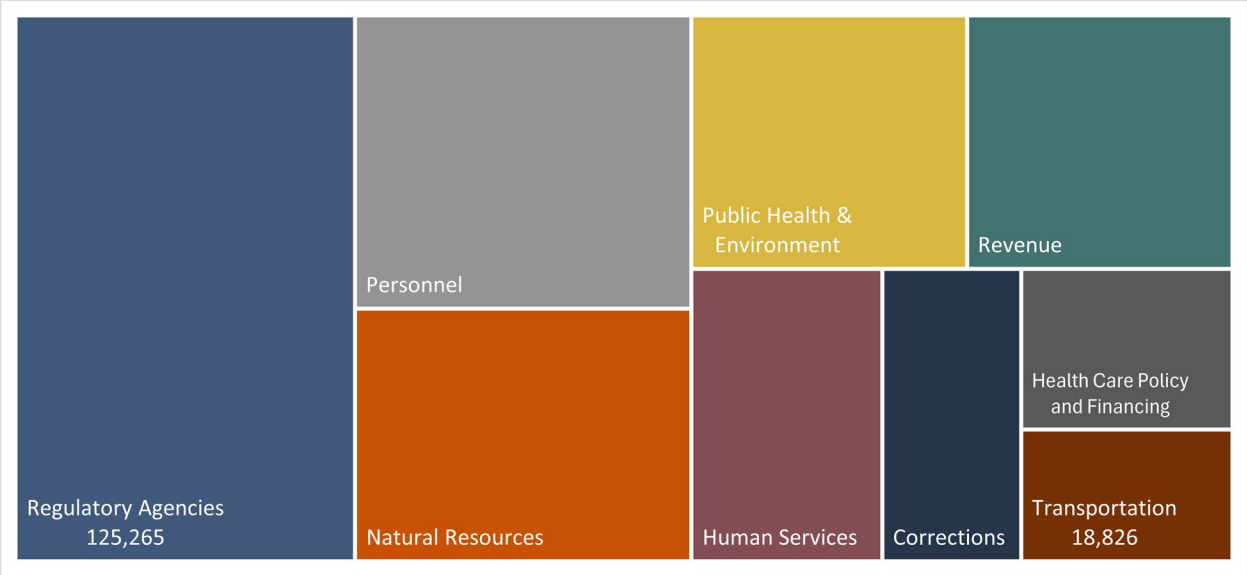
The FY 2026-27 budget for legal services provides a total of $82.6 million across all state agencies to pay for the time billed by the Attorney General's Office and assumes the Department will provide 595,984 total legal service hours to clients. This amount represents 50.1 percent of the Department's total appropriation. Between years FY 2019-20 and FY 2023-24 the FTE that support this division has grown from 281.5 to 361.4, or 28.4 percent.



[1] Figure for FY 2026-27 represents appropriated hours and for FY 2027-28 the number of legal service hours requested.

Fluctuations in legal services expenditures are due to: (1) changes in the Department's hourly rates; and (2) changes in the number of hours of legal services provided to state agencies by attorneys and legal assistants. The hourly rates fluctuate based on the costs of employee salaries and benefits as well as operating expenses. This may be the impact increased activity litigation against the federal government but its true impact is blunted by the averaging of prior year legal service hours. The JBC should expect this trend to continue for at least the next two fiscal years, while this period remains as part of the average hours provided.

Nine state agencies account for the majority of legal service hours provided by the Department. The following graphic illustrates the legal service hours provided state-wide, highlighting the nine agencies with over 18,000 hours of legal services provided in FY 2026-27.



Criminal Justice and Appellate

The largest allocation of General Fund in the Department is for the Criminal Justice and Appellate section, which accounts for 27.7 percent of General Fund appropriations to the Department for FY 2026-27. A bit more than half of the General Fund in this section is devoted to the Appellate Unit, which represents the State in criminal appeals, and much of the remainder is devoted to the Special Prosecutions Unit, which investigates and prosecutes a variety of crimes that tend to be more complex or occur across multiple jurisdictions. The workload

of the Appellate Unit continues to exceed its resources, but is working to reduce the number of cases remaining on its backlog. The following table provides expenditure and workload data for the Appellate Unit.

Appellate Unit Data: FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26

	FY 2021-22 Actual	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual
Expenditures	$5,325,192	$5,950,509	$6,910,193	$7,149,468	$7,218,730
FTE	*37.3*	*41.6*	*40.7*	*41.6*	*40.0*
Incoming Briefs	734	628	735	813	773
Outgoing Briefs	803	794	652	717	785
Case backlog	417	258	342	435	418

The backlog remained largely stagnant for the last ten years, with an overall average of 422 cases delayed for the following fiscal year. However, a combination of new efficiency strategies, new attorneys added through the budget and a decrease in the number of incoming briefs has enabled the section to significantly reduce the backlog.

When a backlog of 460 cases is allocated among the Section's 29 attorneys, the number of cases in each attorney's queue means that the most recently arrived case cannot be briefed for many months. A backlog of 350 cases, however, allows the Section a much more manageable number of cases per attorney and for more expedited briefing.

While the Section reports to have successfully employed several different strategies for reducing the backlog utilizing its existing staff, there are many factors over which the Section has no control. These include the number of briefs filed by criminal defendants; the size of the appellate record; the number of issues raised in each brief; and the complexity of the issues raised. The most certain way to prevent the backlog from increasing further is to maintain current staffing levels.

The Section anticipates that the backlog could increase over the next several years from additional appeals secondary to HB 25-1275 (the Forensic Science Integrity Act). Section leadership will continue to work hard to increase efficiency by being targeted and intentional in case assignments, making sure to match cases to attorneys based on their areas of expertise.

Summary of Request

Department of Law

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY 2026-27 Appropriation						
HB 26-1410 Long Bill	$163,772,155	$32,101,148	$29,786,740	$98,011,365	$3,872,902	667.1
Other legislation	1,144,378	196,190	38,916	909,272	0	4.5
Total	$164,916,533	$32,297,338	$29,825,656	$98,920,637	$3,872,902	671.6
FY 2027-28 Requested Appropriation						
FY 2026-27 Appropriation	$164,916,533	$32,297,338	$29,825,656	$98,920,637	$3,872,902	671.6
R1 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit FTE	684,037	171,010	0	0	513,027	3.7
R2 Colorado River Basins litigation funding	4,093,066	0	4,093,066	0	0	0.0
R3 FY28 Budget reductions	-883,900	-308,900	-575,000	0	0	-4.0
Employee compensation common policies	6,244,072	2,148,115	-74,412	4,148,664	21,705	0.0
Indirect cost adjustment	718,010	0	455,091	262,919	0	0.0
Prior year actions	605,045	10,353	94,354	489,469	10,869	-1.3
Technical adjustments	412,857	-566,058	64,215	907,838	6,862	1.0
Operating common policies	287,865	-113,718	320,331	81,540	-288	0.0
Total	$177,077,585	$33,638,140	$34,203,301	$104,811,067	$4,425,077	671.0
Increase/-Decrease	$12,161,052	$1,340,802	$4,377,645	$5,890,430	$552,175	-0.6
Percentage Change	7.4%	4.2%	14.7%	6.0%	14.3%	-0.1%

R1 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit FTE: The request includes an increase of $0.7 million total funds, including $171,010 General Fund, for 3.7 FTE to increase the number of people working in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. The request is the Department's response to a change in behavior from the federal Health and Human Services (HHS) annual review, which issued a conditional recertification of the program. It is the assessment of HHS that based on the total Medicaid budget for the state, the Department should have approximately 34 staff members to work against fraud. To grow to 34 program staff, the request would grow to $1.2 million total funds, including $0.3 million General Fund, for 7.7 FTE in FY 2028-29. It further annualizes in FY 2028-29 to $1.3 million total funds, including $0.3 million General Fund, for 8.0 FTE. The worst case scenario for losing HHS certification is losing access to all funding for the Medicaid program in Colorado.

R2 Colorado River Basins litigation funding: The request includes an increase of $4.1 million cash funds from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Litigation Account ("Litigation Account") to continue support of ongoing litigation or threatened litigation involving waters of Colorado. The Department indicates that the annual Water Projects bill will include transfers to the Litigation Account intended to fund this budget request.

R3 FY28 Budget reductions: The request includes three budget reduction proposals for $0.9 million, including $0.3 million General Fund. Options include ending the Appellate Units fellow attorney program that supported 4.0 FTE, eliminating $500,000 appropriated from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to the P.O.S.T. Board, and a $75,000 reduction related to supporting ongoing tobacco settlement enforcement.

Employee compensation common policies: The request includes a net increase of $6.3 million for employee compensation common policies. A common policy refers to general policies applied consistently to all departments.

Employee compensation common policies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Health, life, and dental	$2,987,844	$1,152,426	-$38,535	$1,888,435	-$14,482	0.0
Salary survey	2,336,193	567,444	206,052	1,521,259	41,438	0.0
Step plan	979,228	281,376	118,262	571,656	7,934	0.0
PERA direct distribution	42,169	33,429	-47,398	56,138	0	0.0
Unfunded liability amortization payments	-97,583	107,477	-297,501	104,999	-12,558	0.0
Paid family and medical leave insurance	-3,271	5,160	-13,233	5,345	-543	0.0
Short-term disability	-508	803	-2,059	832	-84	0.0
Total	$6,244,072	$2,148,115	-$74,412	$4,148,664	$21,705	0.0

Indirect cost adjustment: The request includes increases to the amount of cash and reappropriated funds collected by the Department to fund centralized administration of the Department.

Prior year actions: The request includes a net increase of $0.6 million for the impact of prior year budget decisions and legislation.

Prior year actions

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY 26-27 Step Plan	$776,518	$128,219	$94,111	$541,167	$13,021	0.0
SB 26-162 Railroad safety	106,992	0	$0	106,992	0	0.4
HB 26-1326 PUC sunset	84,937	0	0	84,937	0	0.3
HB24-1059 Comp for Elected Officials	59,177	59,177	0	0	0	0.0
FY 26-27 Salary survey	33,487	-58,992	0	92,479	0	0.0
SB 26-163 Battery stewardships	23,404	0	0	23,404	0	0.1
SB 26-113 BHA licensing	16,616	0	0	16,616	0	0.1
HB 26-1425 Applied behavioral analysis reg.	14,240	0	0	14,240	0	0.0
Attorney registration & CLE adjustment	6,268	1	545	5,722	0	0.0
SB 18-200 PERA unfunded liability	2,187	-1,411	2,245	253	1,100	0.0
IT asset maintenance adjustment	1	-4,969	-2,547	10,769	-3,252	0.0
HB 26-1429 Admin public assistance	-264,338	0	0	-264,338	0	-1.1
SB 26-149 Justice to civil system	-83,082	0	0	-83,082	0	-0.4
SB 24-013 DA Salaries	-65,482	-65,482	0	0	0	0.0
SB 26-189 Automated decision tech	-46,190	-46,190	0	0	0	-0.4
SB 26-155 Homeowner's insurance access	-33,125	0	0	-33,125	0	-0.2
SB 26-141 Wildlife fees	-19,940	0	0	-19,940	0	-0.1
HB 26-1111 Pesticide disposal & recycling	-6,625	0	0	-6,625	0	0.0
Total	$605,045	$10,353	$94,354	$489,469	$10,869	-1.3

Technical adjustments: The request includes a net increase of $0.4 million for technical adjustments related to leased space, a refinance of General Fund with reappropriated funds for the appellate unit, POST Board FTE total, and to reflect an anticipated reduction to the auto theft prevention grant it is awarded from the Department of Public Safety.

Operating common policies: The request includes a net increase of $0.3 million for operating common policies.

Operating common policies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Risk management & property	$239,098	$65,411	$29,056	$138,257	$6,374	0.0
Legal services	172,968	-134,120	307,088	0	0	0.0
NP Statewide training system	13,938	0	0	13,938	0	0.0
State accounting system (CORE)	10,812	2,760	1,213	6,679	160	0.0
Digital trunked radios	5,256	1,884	5,758	-2,386	0	0.0
NP DPA Personnel Board	4,429	1,227	548	2,525	129	0.0
Office of Information Technology services	-136,699	-41,241	-18,582	-70,716	-6,160	0.0
Vehicle lease payments	-18,781	-8,297	-1,491	-8,993	0	0.0
Administrative law judge services	-2,580	0	-2,580	0	0	0.0
Workers' compensation	-576	-1,342	-679	2,236	-791	0.0
Total	$287,865	-$113,718	$320,331	$81,540	-$288	0.0

Budget reduction options

The Executive budget request includes reductions of $308,900 General Fund for the Department of Law. This issue brief reviews these proposals and additional options identified by staff.

Summary

- The Department of Law represents 0.2 percent of total state General Fund appropriations in FY 2026-27. The Department's budget request includes proposed General Fund reductions of $308,900, representing 0.9 percent of the General Fund appropriations in this section of the budget. Combined with other adjustments across the department, total General Fund appropriations are requested to increase by 4.2 percent.
- The Staff-identified options are primarily items approved through the annual budget process on the basis of identifying the newest decisions that increased General Fund appropriations as potential budget saving options.

Recommendation

The Committee should ask the Department to provide any additional detail on the impacts or actions required related to taking budget actions identified in this issue brief. The Committee should also give the Department of Law an opportunity to offer alternative budget reductions that have lower or less-harmful impacts than those identified by JBC Staff.

Discussion

Funding History FY 2018-19 to FY 2026-27

The Department of Law represents 0.2 percent of total state General Fund appropriations in FY 2026-27. As reflected in the table below, General Fund in this section of the budget has increased by 45.3 percent since FY 2018-19 after adjustments for inflation. This is more than the statewide increase in General Fund appropriations of 13.7 percent over the same period after adjustments.[1]

FY 2018-19 to FY 2026-27 Appropriations Comparison - Adjusted for Inflation

Fund	FY 2018-19 Nominal	FY 2018-19 Adjusted	FY 2026-27	$ Change from FY 2018-19 Adjusted	% Change from FY 2018-19 Adjusted
General Fund	$16,593,918	$22,232,410	$32,297,338	$10,064,928	45.3%
Total Funds	$84,198,382	$112,808,378	$164,916,533	$52,108,155	46.2%

[1] Fiscal year 2018-19 appropriations are adjusted for inflation, calculated based on the Legislative Council Staff September forecast, which reflects an increase in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood consumer price index of 34.0 percent between FY 2018-19 and FY 2026-27.

Budget Requests for General Fund Relief

Department Request

The Department's budget request includes proposals for General Fund relief totaling $0.3 million. The reductions combined with other adjustments across the department equates to a 4.2 percent increase in General Fund appropriations. The proposals are summarized in the table below.

Proposals for General Fund Relief

Option	General Fund	Other Funds	Bill? Y/N	Description
Expenditure Reductions				
R3 FY28 Budget Reductions - P.O.S.T. Board Marijuana Tax Cash Fund reduction	-0	-$500,000	N	Reduce MTCF appropriation by $500,00. One of the original recipients of MTCF this appropriation is for support of law enforcement training programs related to marijuana, including advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement training and drug recognition expert training. It also supports improvements to the POST Board database.
R3 FY28 Budget Reductions - Reduce the Appellate Unit by 4.0 FTE fellows	-308,900	0	N	Reductions in this section will hamper the DOL's ability to represent law enforcement interests in appellate cases where defendants challenge felony convictions.
R3 FY28 Budget Reductions - Tobacco litigation support	-0	75,000	N	Litigation related to the Tobacco MSA has slowed after Colorado was determined to have diligently enforced the tobacco escrow laws. No impact expected by accepting this reduction.
Subtotal - Expenditures	-$308,900	-$575,000		
Net General Fund Relief	$308,900			

Governor Assumptions

The Governor's budget submission letter dated November 1, 2026, assumed a 4 percent operating reduction across Non-executive Branch agencies of -$12,681,538. The letter did not include additional detail.

Additional Options for JBC Consideration

The table below summarizes options identified by the JBC staff that the Committee could consider in addition to or instead of the options presented in the budget request. The General Assembly has reviewed many of these options before and chosen not to take them.

A General Fund reduction of 1.0 percent to the Department covered in this briefing would require a reduction of $322,973.

Additional Options for General Fund Relief

Option	General Fund	Other Funds	Bill? Y/N	Description
Expenditure Reductions				
Reverse FY 25-26 Additional federal litigation resources	-$604,491	$0	N	Added funding for 3.0 FTE focused on defending Colorado against federal actions with adverse effects on Colorado or Coloradoans.
Reverse FY 24-25 Special Prosecution rural support	-375,934	0	N	Added 2.5 FTE to focus on assisting rural prosecutors with complex actions.
Reverse FY 24-25 Augment federal interstate water unit	-255,191	0	N	Added 2.0 FTE to the federal and interstate water unit due to litigation concerning Colorado and Rio Grande River compacts.
Reverse FY 23-24 Organized retail crime prosecution	-565,169	0	N	Added 4.5 FTE to focus on prosecuting organized retail crime.
Reverse FY 23-24 Federal-interstate water staff	-181,839	0	N	Added 2.0 FTE to the federal and interstate water unit due to litigation concerning Colorado River compact.
Reverse FY 23-24 Patterns and Practices staff	-120,184	0	N	Added 1.0 FTE to respond to complaints submitted to the Patterns and Practices program.
Eliminate appropriation for grants for DAs to work weekend bond hearings	-600,000	0	Y	Added in FY 21-22 when the time required for bond hearings to occur required DAs to cover previously unstaffed weekends.
Eliminate appropriation for Deputy District Attorney Training for CDAC	-350,000	0	Y	Added In FY 14-15, statute compels an annual $350,000 appropriation to conduct prosecutor trainings.
Reduce 1.0 FTE for Safe2Tell	-56,175	0	N	Repeat action taken during FY 20-21 budget action.
Subtotal - Expenditures	-$3,108,983	$0		
Net General Fund Relief	$3,108,983			

Expenditure Reductions

Reverse FY 25-26 Additional federal litigation resources

Description: This would eliminate $604,491 General Fund that was added in the FY 2025-26 budget to litigate against the federal government. The funding supports 3.0 FTE, but FTE were not included with the funding.

Key Considerations: Requires the Department to eliminate positions it should have already filled. Federal actions continue to adversely impact Colorado.

Additional background: This unit has successfully defended Colorado in a number of actions and it may be premature to eliminate it.

Reverse FY 24-25 Special Prosecution Rural Support

Description: This would eliminate $375,934 General Fund and 2.5 FTE in the Department's base for additional staff assisting rural prosecutors with complex crime prosecution and coordination. The amount includes the total approved in the FY 2024-25 Long Bill as well as the annualization provided for FY 2025-26.

Key Considerations: Requires the Department to eliminate positions it should have already filled.

Additional background: Funding was added due to increasing requests for coordination and support provided by the Attorney General's Office from rural jurisdictions and allowed the AG to respond to executive orders,

district attorney resignations, and provide resources and expertise to address cases pending in rural jurisdictions that require additional prosecutorial support.

Reverse FY 24-25 Augment federal interstate water staff

Description: This would eliminate $255,191 General Fund and 2.0 FTE in the Department's base for staff that increase capacity and monitor developments nationally, regionally, and in Colorado that impact Colorado's water supply and the Department's ability to defend Colorado's water rights.

Key Considerations: Requires the Department to eliminate positions it should have already filled.

Additional background: Funding was added for staff to attend to responsibilities associated with the Colorado River negotiations. Staff participates in litigation, when necessary, but also actively serves as negotiation counsel for managing the basin consistent with existing laws.

Reverse FY 23-24 Organized retail crime prosecution

Description: This would eliminate $565,169 General Fund and 4.5 FTE in the Department's base from the Special Prosecutions unit to assist in prosecuting organized retail crime.

Key Considerations: Requires the Department to eliminate positions it should have already filled.

Additional background: Funding was added to assist local jurisdictions in responding to an increase in retail theft including organized mobs of shoplifters overwhelming retail business staff to carryout theft. Does not prevent local jurisdictions from arresting and prosecuting those accused of shoplifting.

Reverse FY 23-24 Federal interstate water staff

Description: This would eliminate $181,839 General Fund and 2.0 FTE in the Department's base for staff to the federal and interstate water unit to support litigation around the Colorado and Rio Grande River compacts.

Key Considerations: Requires the Department to eliminate positions it should have already filled.

Additional background: Funding was added for staff to attend to responsibilities associated with the Colorado River negotiations. Staff participates in litigation, when necessary, but also actively serves as negotiation counsel for managing the basin consistent with existing laws.

Reverse FY 23-24 Patterns and Practices staff

Description: This would eliminate $120,184 General Fund and 1.0 FTE in the Department's base for staff to respond to complaints submitted to its Patterns and Practices program.

Key Considerations: Requires the Department to eliminate positions it should have already filled.

Additional background: Funding was added for staff because the requests for investigations into patterns and practices of civil rights violations by government entities continues to exceed the resources dedicated to the program.

Eliminate appropriation for grants for DAs to work weekend bond hearings

Description: Statute requires the General Assembly appropriate $600,000 General Fund annually for the Colorado District Attorneys Counsel (CDAC) to make grants to district attorney's offices to pay for additional work required by state law changing to require bond hearings to be held within 48 hours of arrest.

Key Considerations: Requires a bill to eliminate or even reduce temporarily. Grants will have to be replaced with funding from impacted district's counties.

Additional background: Enacted in HB 22-1067 (Bond hearings funding).

Eliminate appropriation for Deputy District Attorney Training for CDAC

Description: Statute requires the General Assembly appropriate $350,000 General Fund annually for the Colorado District Attorneys Counsel (CDAC) to host training for district attorneys statewide.

Key Considerations: Requires a bill to eliminate or even reduce temporarily. No immediate health, life, or safety impact/does not affect vulnerable population.

Additional background: Enacted in HB 14-1144 (Deputy district attorney compensation and training).

Reduce 1.0 FTE for Safe2Tell

Description: Reduces the appropriation for Safe2Tell by $56,175 General Fund and 1.0 FTE for a social media position. The Safe2Tell program is created in the Office of Community Engagement. The Safe2Tell program employs 6.0 FTE at the Department.

Key Considerations: No immediate health, life, or safety impact/Does not affect vulnerable population.

Additional background: Created in FY 2015-16, the Community Engagement line item supports statewide community engagement efforts, including 6.0 FTE dedicated to the Safe2Tell program (which had been funded as a separate line item prior to FY 2015-16). The office is charged with improving relationships with partner organizations and agencies regarding domestic violence prevention, consumer protection outreach and education, safe communities and safe schools, and anti-human trafficking efforts.

Issue: Summary of Recent Settlements that Exceed $1 million

This briefing issue summarizes recent settlements that resulted in awards to the state that exceed $1 million and provides a description of some of the conditions to which those settlements are subject.

Summary

Recent Settlements Where the State's Award Exceeded $1 million

Opposing Party	Short Summary	Amount	Year
Meta	Settlement involving allegations that the company designed Instagram with addictive features, knowingly exposed young users to serious mental harms, and intentionally misled the public about the safety of its platforms, among other things	$54,400,000	2026
Many - Opioids	Settlements with the companies responsible for the opioid crisis	39,940,000	2020s
Juul	Settlement involving allegations the vaping company was targeting young people in their marketing and misrepresenting the health risks posed by their products.	3,960,000	2023
Denver Custom Food Trucks	Fraud for accepting payment for custom food trucks without delivering	2,986,000	2019
Indivior	Antitrust violations related to manufacture and distribution of suboxone	2,560,000	2023
Block, Inc	Company behind Cash App failed to notify of potential for fraud on platform	1,663,539	2026
HCA Healthcare	Violation of consumer protection laws by withholding information on training repayment agreement provisions	1,130,000	2024
Greystar	Participation in anticompetitive schemes involving RealPage	1,040,000	2025
Greystar	Deceptive Marketing related to fees	1,000,000	2025
Four Star	Illegal fees for routine service for apartment tenants	1,000,000	2024
Total		$109,679,539	

Recommendation

JBC Staff recommends the Committee discuss with the Attorney General its plans for allocating funds from some of the largest recent settlement funds, including the Meta and Opioid settlements. The Committee may wish to take into consideration how some of the recent settlement dollars are used when making funding decisions in areas with congruent goals or impacts.

Staff also recommends that the Committee discuss with the Attorney General whether future settlement agreements could be written in ways that authorize the General Assembly or the Governor to control the use of the funds, rather than the Attorney General.

Discussion

The following are summaries provided by the Department of Law[2] for conditions included on funds received from settlements it has entered that exceed $1 million. The Department of Law indicates that the settlement

[2] All summaries are reproductions of the ones provided by the Department of Law on November 13, 2026 to questions posed by JBC Staff.

revenue from all of these cases is custodial. Custodial funds are thus not subject to appropriation. As indicated in the Department's response, "The DOL's position is that the authority and control of the use of these custodial funds is appropriately managed by the Attorney General, which is consistent with constitutional caselaw governing the expenditure and oversight of custodial monies versus state monies."

JBC Staff notes that there is at least one example of settlement funds that were not treated as custodial. The General Assembly appropriates funds received from the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement agreement.

Meta

"Meta: $54.4M from a 2026 settlement involving allegations that the company designed Instagram with addictive features, knowingly exposed young users to serious mental harms, and intentionally misled the public about the safety of its platforms, among other things. In addition, it resolved claims the company shared nonpublic information about Facebook users with third parties, like Cambridge Analytica, to garner support for political candidates leading up to the 2016 election."

"For the State of Colorado, any payment Meta makes pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to the Colorado Department of Law is to be held, along with any interest thereon, in trust by the Attorney General to be used in the Attorney General's sole discretion for reimbursement of the State's actual costs and attorney's fees, the payment of restitution, if any, and for future consumer fraud or antitrust enforcement, consumer education, or public welfare purposes.**"**

Many - Opioids

"Opioids (Allergan, CVS, Janssen, Kroger, Mallinckrodt, McKesson, McKinsey, Cardinal, Amerisourcebergen, Publicis, Teva, Walgreens, Walmart, Endo): $39.94M from settlements with the companies responsible for the opioid crisis.**"**

"Settlement funds must be spent on activities that prevent, treat, recover from, or mitigate opioid use disorder and related harms. Most national settlements require a substantial majority of funds to be devoted to opioid remediation rather than general government operations.**"**

Juul

"Juul: $3.96M from a 2023 settlement involving allegations the vaping company was targeting young people in their marketing and misrepresenting the health risks posed by their products.

The amount paid to each Settling Litigating State shall be used for any lawful purpose and shall be used consistent with the Colorado Attorney General's authority including, but not limited to:

- Programs that provide cessation assistance to Colorado residents who were exposed to ENDS while under the age of 21;
- Education or prevention programs that are designed to prevent or reduce use of ENDS by Colorado residents who are under the age of 21;
- Research in support of preventing ENDS use by Colorado residents who are under the age of 21 by independent third parties;
- Research into the health effects, whether short, medium, or long-term, of the use of ENDS by persons, including persons under the age of 21;

- Programs or equipment that are designed to abate the impact that ENDS and other Nicotine products have had on Colorado students, schools, school districts and to prevent such impact in the future;
- Efforts to mitigate the impact of, including by enforcing Colorado and federal law with respect to, disposable ENDS, Nicotine products, and companies that have not taken steps similar to those described in this Consent Judgment to limit access to or usage of Nicotine products by Colorado residents who are under the age of 21;
- Other consumer education and enforcement efforts; and
- Reimbursement for the costs of the investigation and litigation, including attorneys' fees."

Denver Custom Food Trucks

"Denver Custom Food Trucks: $2.986M from a 2019 settlement which involved a defendant who took thousands of dollars from clients to build custom food trucks that were either never delivered or equipped with unsafe, fraudulent parts. "

"Perez's payments shall be paid to the Colorado Department of Law to be held, along with any interest thereon, in trust by the Attorney General to be used in the Attorney General's sole discretion for reimbursement of the State's actual costs and attorneys' fees, the payment of restitution, if any, and for future consumer fraud or antitrust enforcement, consumer education, or public welfare purposes."

Indivior

"Indivior: $2.56M from a 2023 settlement involving the maker of Suboxone for its illegal monopoly and antitrust violations involving its opioid addiction treatment medication."

"The payment may be used for any one or more of the following purposes, by the Attorneys General as they, in their sole discretion, see fit:

- payment of attorneys' fees and expenses;
- antitrust or consumer protection law enforcement;
- for deposit into a state antitrust or consumer protection account (e.g., revolving account, trust account), for use in accordance with the state laws governing that account;
- for deposit into a fund exclusively dedicated to assisting state attorneys general enforce the antitrust laws by defraying the costs of a) experts, economists, and consultants in multistate antitrust investigations and litigation, b) training or continuing education in antitrust for attorneys in state attorney general offices, or c) information management systems used in multistate antitrust investigations and litigation; or
- for any other purpose as the attorneys general deem appropriate, consistent with the various states' laws."

Block, Inc.

"Block, Inc: $1.66M from a 2026 settlement that resolved allegations that Block misled consumers about the safety of Cash App, failed to protect users from fraud on the platform, and didn't provide the fraud protection and resolution that it promised and that was required by law. "

"Out of the Forty-Five Million Dollars ($45,000,000) to be paid to the Attorneys General, Block shall pay $1,663,539 to the Colorado Attorney General Payment shall be made by wire pursuant to instructions previously provided by the Colorado Attorney General, which will be held in the Colorado Attorney General's sole

discretion for the reimbursement of attorneys' fees and costs, for consumer or creditor educational purposes, for further consumer credit or consumer protection enforcement purposes, or other public welfare purposes."

HCA Healthcare Inc.

"HCA Healthcare Inc: $1.13M from a 2024 settlement involving allegations the company violated Colorado consumer protection laws when it withheld information about training repayment agreement provisions, also called TRAPs, from prospective nurses."

"This amount is payable to the 'Attorney General of the State of Colorado', along with any interest thereon, and is to be held in trust by the Attorney General, to be used in the Attorney General's sole discretion for reimbursement of attorneys' fees and costs, the payment of consumer restitution, if any, and for consumer or creditor educational purposes, for future consumer credit or consumer protection enforcement, or public welfare purposes. The Attorney General elects, in lieu of making the payment directly to the Attorney General in the first instance, to direct HCA Defendants to provide redress to Redress Consumers as set out in the Redress Plan, on behalf of the Attorney General."

Greystar

1. "Greystar: $1M from a 2025 settlement for using deceptive advertising to lure renters into applying for rental housing and then leaving those tenants on the hook for millions of dollars in mandatory, fixed fees not included in the advertised price for an apartment."

"The Colorado Attorney General shall cause the payment to be held, along with any interest thereon, in trust by the Colorado Attorney General to be used in the Colorado Attorney General's sole discretion for reimbursement of the Attorney General's actual costs and attorneys' fees, and for future consumer protection or antitrust enforcement, consumer education, or public welfare purposes."

2. "Greystar: $1.04M from a 2025 settlement to resolve claims in our RealPage antitrust litigation to resolve claims that the company participated in an anticompetitive scheme that drove up rental prices for Coloradans by using shared rent-setting algorithms that reduced competition among landlords."

"The Monetary Payment may be used for any one or more of the following purposes, by the Settling States' Attorneys General as they, in their sole discretion, see fit: 1. antitrust or consumer protection law enforcement including fees and expenses; 2. for deposit into a state antitrust or consumer protection account (e.g., revolving account, trust account), for use in accordance with the state laws governing that account; 3. for deposit into a fund exclusively dedicated to assisting state attorneys general to enforce the antitrust laws by defraying the costs of a. experts, economists, and consultants in multistate antitrust investigations and litigation, b. training or continuing education in antitrust for attorneys in state attorney general offices, or c. information management systems used in multistate antitrust investigations and litigation; or 4. for any other purpose as the attorneys general deem appropriate, consistent with, or required by, the various states' laws."

Four Star

"Four Star: $1M from a 2024 settlement resolving claims a property management company illegally charged tenants for routine repairs and other services."

“In exchange for the release provided in this Consent Judgment, Defendants shall pay $1,000,000 to the Attorney General. The Attorney General intends to use $980,000 of that amount for the purpose of providing restitution to Tenants to remediate, in part, the harms to Tenants caused by the conduct that gave rise to the Released Claims.”

“Any and all refund amounts that remain outstanding, whether because they were returned as undeliverable, unclaimed, uncashed, undeposited or otherwise become the property of the Attorney General. Such refund amounts and $20,000 remaining payment shall be used in the Attorney General’s sole discretion for the payment of consumer restitution, reimbursement of attorneys’ fees and costs, for consumer or creditor educational purposes, for further consumer credit or consumer protection enforcement, or public welfare purposes.”

Major litigation pending against the state

The Department of Law submits an annual report to the State Controller describing pending litigation against the State that could have a significant financial impact. The most recent report was submitted October 1, 2026. While the details of the report remain confidential, traditionally the parties involved, a short description, and potential value of financial risk have been conveyed in JBC staff briefings.

Summary

Each of the following ongoing legal cases involving the State could have a financial impact of at least $5.0 million individually:

Pending Litigation with Potential for Significant Financial Impact

Department	Caption	Summary/Topic	Potential Financial Impact[1]
Education	• Jane Doe v. Board of Trustees of the Colorado School for the Deaf & Blind, et al., El Paso County District Court, No. 26CV30578 • J.D. v. Board of Trustees for the Colorado School for the Deaf & Blind, U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, No. 26-cv-00908-CNS-MDB	Civil action related to alleged sexual assault on a student	May exceed $5 million
Higher Education	• Boodrookas et al. v. Chief Mollendor et al., U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, No. 25-cv-01509-PAB-KAS • Schaefer et al. v. Mollendor et al., U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, No. 25-cv-02729-PAB-KAS • Gutberlet v. Mollendor et al., U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, No. 26-cv-01601-PAB-SBP • Williams v. Mollendor et al., Colorado Court of Appeals, No. 26CA294; Denver District Court, No. 2025CV31745	Civil Rights claims against law enforcement's response to student political expression	May exceed $5 million
Revenue	Advance Colorado v. Humphreys, Denver District Court 2025CV32623	Challenge to HB 25-1296 (Tax Expenditure Adjustment)	Up to $380 million annually
Revenue	Langston v. Humphreys, Denver District Court - 2025CV31185	Firearms and ammunition excise tax lawsuit	Up to $39 million annually
Revenue	McLane Western v. Department of Revenue - Denver District Court 2025CV031165; Colorado Court of Appeals - 2026CA278	Tobacco company TABOR refund request	Estimated $26.6 million
Revenue	Advance Colorado v. Polis - oil & gas production fees - Denver District Court - 2025CV34279	Challenge to S.B. 24-230 Oil & gas production fees	Up to $175 million annually
Revenue	Airbnb v. Department of Revenue - Denver District Court - 2025CV33359	AirBNB Tax on Service Fee	Estimated $9.7 million
Revenue	American Car Rental Association v. Humphreys - U.S. District Court for Colorado 2024CV02450; Tenth Circuit - 25-1246	Challenge to S.B. 24-184 Congestion impact fees	Estimated $29 million
Revenue	Mammoth Farms v. Department of Revenue - Denver District Court - 2026CV31873	Challenge to Marijuana Enforcement Division's average market rate for marijuana	Up to $39 million annually

[1] Does not include interest imposed at a simple 10 percent annual interest rate.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Committee invite the Attorney General, or his designee, to discuss the status of the various cases listed in the report, as well as any other cases the Attorney General believes warrant the Committee's attention, at the Department's upcoming hearing on December 2, 2026. JBC Staff recommends the Committee conduct discussion regarding pending litigation with the Attorney General in executive session then.

House Bill 26-1426 (Dept. of Law Legislative Report) included provisions that explicitly allow the Attorney General to request, and the JBC to enter, executive session to discuss potential budget impacts of pending litigation. While discussing these items with the Attorney General has historically taken place in executive session, last year, attorneys from the Office of Legislative Legal Services determined budget discussions with the Attorney General did not qualify under conditions that allow executive session. The JBC thus did not host one during last year's Department of Law hearing. House Bill 26-1426 addresses this problem. JBC Staff therefore renews the long standing recommendation that the Committee plan to enter into executive session at the Department's hearing.

If Committee Members have any questions related to other confidential or potentially confidential matters that are not discussed during the briefing conversation, JBC Staff recommends those be raised during this briefing issue or brought directly to JBC Staff to ensure the topic is included in the Department's Executive Session portion of its hearing.

Discussion

Background of pending litigation report

The Department of Law submits an annual report to the State Controller concerning pending or threatened litigation, claims, and assessments brought against the State and to which the Department has devoted "substantial" attention on behalf of the State. This report is confidential and JBC Staff provides sanitized summaries of its contents.

The threshold for inclusion in this report is $5.0 million per claim or $10.0 million collectively. The Department's annual report describes the nature and status of each case, the claims asserted by the plaintiff and the objectives and/or damages sought, how management is responding to the litigation, the Attorney General's evaluation of the likelihood of an unfavorable outcome, and an estimate as to the amount or range of potential loss.

The report does not include information about two types of cases or claims that may result in financial liability to the state:

- ones involving pre-litigation claims that are settled by the state's Risk Management Office; and
- ones against state-entities not represented by the Attorney General.

Pending litigation that is not found in this report

The report excludes pre-litigation claims. The Risk Management Office and the State Claims Board[3] in the Department of Personnel have statutory responsibility to investigate, adjust, and settle claims that are being made against the State before they require resolution by litigation[4]. A potential litigant must file a notice of claim before it can commence legal proceedings, which alerts the Risk Management Office's and allows it to begin pre-litigation work processes. When pre-litigation settlements are reached, awards the state agrees to make are paid from the appropriate risk management fund[5] up to the limits allowed in Colorado's governmental immunity provisions.[6]

Impacts from lawsuits filed against entities the Attorney General does not represent are also excluded. Litigation involving the General Assembly or the Colorado Board of Regents does not appear in this report except in cases involving the Risk Management Office.

Structure of this Briefing Issue

The Department submitted the 2026 annual report to the State Controller on October 1, 2026. Based on the report, JBC Staff summarizes a selection of unresolved cases in which the potential financial impact, either through damages, attorneys' fees and costs, or the cost of state compliance with court orders, may exceed $5 million. Cases are also included if multiple parties have amounts in controversy less than $5 million but that exceed $10 million when aggregated.

Pending Litigation by Department
Education

Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB) – Civil action related to alleged sexual assault on a student

Case: Plaintiff alleges that CSDB and school officials failed to protect a young student from the alleged assault and adequately respond to prior and subsequent reports of sexual misconduct related to an alleged September 2024 sexual assault.

Status: The Court approved Colorado's motion to dismiss challenges made under Section 24-10-106.3, C.R.S. Parties are expected to commence with discovery on the remaining challenge under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. The Department is also awaiting a decision on its motion to dismiss a related federal civil rights claim.

Potential Financial Impact: Aggregate damages may reach or exceed $5 million.

[3] The State Claims Board is composed of the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, and the Executive Director of the Department of Personnel.
[4] See Section 24-30-1501, *et seq.*, C.R.S.
[5] See Section 24-30-1510, C.R.S.
[6] See the budget briefing for the Department of Personnel for information about budget and the Risk Management Office.

Higher Education

Auraria – Civil Rights claims against law enforcement's response to student political expression

Case: Four separate but related lawsuits arising from protests and law-enforcement activity on the Auraria campus in April and May 2024 alleging federal civil rights claims.

Status: In total, 14 Plaintiffs have initiated actions related to these actions by Auraria High Education Center (AHEC) law-enforcement personnel.

Potential Financial Impact: The Department anticipates that if any of the claims in this category are successful the awards would be paid through the state's Risk Management program. The impact will thus be reflected in increased Risk Management rates recouped through its annual budget. The magnitude of awards is indeterminate and plaintiffs have not identified a requested award amount.

Revenue

Challenge to HB 25-1296 (Tax Expenditure Adjustment)

Case: The complaint raises claims that HB 25-1296 violates TABOR based on the following arguments:

- the overtime income tax addback is a "new tax," "tax rate increase," or "tax policy change causing a net revenue gain" adopted without a vote of the people under TABOR;
- the income tax withholding statute's new language requiring employers to deduct and withhold tax on "compensation other than wages" is a "new tax" or "tax rate increase" and creates a "new state definition of taxable income" before the next tax year under TABOR; and
- the various changes to tax credits and exemptions constitute a "tax policy change causing a net revenue gain" adopted without a vote of the people under TABOR.
- The plaintiff submitted an amended complaint September 26, 2025, which also includes challenges to HB 25B-1001, HB 25B-1003, HB 25B-1004, and HB 25B-1006.

Status: The Court dismissed all challenges by the Plaintiff except for two, which are set for trial April 12 through 16, 2027. The Department expects the Plaintiff will appeal some of the actions dismissed by the trial judge, but none have been filed at the time of the report. The remaining actions are related to adjustments to tax credits and exemptions made by HB 25-1296 and HB 25B-1003.

Financial Impact: On the remaining actions, a ruling in favor of the Plaintiff on the overtime tax addback has the potential of requiring a tax refund of between $180 and $270 million annually while other credit and exemption challenges have the potential to add $10.7 million annually to the impact. A ruling that HB 25B-1003 violates TABOR could require the State to refund up to $97 million. All those impacts would include the addition of 10 percent annual simple interest under TABOR.

Firearms and ammunition excise tax lawsuit

Case: Proposition KK enacted a 6.5 percent excise tax on the net taxable sales of firearms, ammunition, and firearm precursor parts. The complaint asserts that the tax violates the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and seeks a declaration that the tax is unconstitutional.

Status: Plaintiffs filed the complaint on March 31, 2025. Defendant Humphreys answered on May 20, 2025. On May 30, 2025, co-defendant Michael Allen, El Paso County District Attorney, filed a motion to dismiss, which was denied. Parties are currently in the discovery phase of litigation and trial is set for May 10 through 14, 2027.

Financial Impact: If a court finds that the Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax is unlawful, then the State could be required to refund the amount of tax collected between April 1, 2025, and the judgment date, which could total up to $39 million per year plus 10 percent annual simple interest under TABOR.

Tobacco company TABOR refund request

Case: The complaint challenges the constitutionality of Colorado HB 23-1290. House Bill 23-1290 referred Proposition II to Colorado's voters for approval for the State to retain revenues in excess of the Bluebook estimates for new tobacco, nicotine, and cigarette taxes approved by Proposition EE (2020). Plaintiffs claim that under TABOR, HB 23-1290 and Proposition II sought this voter approval after a constitutional deadline of the "next fiscal year," and thus violate TABOR.

Status: The complaint was filed on March 28, 2025. The parties filed cross-motions for judgment on the pleadings and the Court ruled in favor of Colorado, dismissing all causes of action. The Plaintiff is appealing the decision, which has been briefed by both parties and awaits oral arguments being scheduled.

Financial Impact: A ruling in favor of the Plaintiff would lead to the State would owing a refund of $26.6 million plus 10 percent annual simple interest. The State could also potentially owe a significant refund to other similarly situated taxpayers.

Challenge to S.B. 24-230 Oil & gas production fees

Case: Plaintiffs challenge that fees enacted in SB 24-230 are taxes and not fees and that the fees do not qualify as enterprise fees/services under TABOR. The lawsuit also brings into question the enterprise status of the Clean Transit Enterprise and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. In the alternative the Plaintiff also pleads that the bill violates Section 24-77-108, C.R.S, because it created new enterprises with aggregate 5-year revenue in excess of $100 million without a vote of the people. Finally, the bill is also challenged under the single subject and clear expression requirements of the Colorado Constitution.

Status: The Parties are awaiting the Court's decision on a partial motion to dismiss the actions related to violating Section 24-77-108, C.R.S., and the single subject and clear expression rules. Litigation will proceed with the remaining claim after the resolution of the motion to dismiss.

Financial Impact: A ruling in favor of the Plaintiff is estimated to result in a refund of all fees associated with the bill, estimated to be $175 million annually.

AirBNB Tax on Service Fee Lawsuit

Case: AirBnB did not collect sales and lodging taxes on a service fee it placed on guest reservations. The Department of Revenue uncovered this discrepancy through a routine audit and demanded that taxes be paid on the collected services fees. AirBnB argues the determination by the Department of Revenue was improper and seeks a court order to prevent it from paying the calculated outstanding tax liability of about $9.8 million.

Status: The Plaintiff filed on September 18, 2025. Parties have been in settlement negotiations since litigation commenced but will proceed with the Court if negotiations are unsuccessful.

Financial Impact: A ruling in favor of AirBNB would erase the outstanding tax liability of $9.7 million.

Challenge to S.B. 24-184 Congestion impact fees

Case: Plaintiff challenges a congestion fee imposed by S.B. 24-184 under federal law prohibiting such fee unless it is generally imposed. The fee is applied to all car rentals in Colorado, but the challenge is restricted to fees imposed on rentals made at airports.

Status: The Court ruled in favor of Colorado at the trial court level. The Court of Appeals did not overturn the decision on appeal. Plaintiffs have until November 24, 2026 to appeal the decision to the US Supreme Court.

Financial Impact: If Plaintiffs succeed, the annual impact of the challenged fees is estimated to by $29 million.

Challenge to Marijuana Enforcement Division's calculation for average market rate for regulated marijuana

Case: Plaintiffs are seeking certification to proceed on behalf of a class of impacted taxpayers. The class is challenging the basis for calculating the state's marijuana excise tax, the average market rate, which is set by rule by the Department of Revenue. It argues the excise tax violates state law, TABOR's prohibition against new taxes without a vote of the people, and that imposing the tax in this manner violates due process.

Status: Initiated on May 21, 2026 the Department filed a motion to dismiss on August 24, 2026. If the dismissal motion is not successful the parties will proceed with litigation.

Financial Impact: Plaintiffs seek the refund of all revenue collected by the Department based on this average price calculation beginning in tax year 2022 and an injunction against it being imposed according to procedures currently in place. The requested relief also requires the Marijuana Enforcement Division to implement practices that may have an indeterminate impact to its operating budget. In FY 2025-26 the state collected $39 million based on these calculations.

Footnotes and Requests for Information

Update on Long Bill Footnotes

The General Assembly includes footnotes in the Long Bill to:

1. set forth purposes, conditions, or limitations;
2. explain assumptions; or
3. express legislative intent.

This section discusses a subset of the footnotes relevant to the items covered in the briefing. For a full list of footnotes, see the end of each departmental section of the 2026 Long Bill (https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb26-1410)

69 Department of Law, Legal Services to State Agencies -- In making this appropriation, it is the General Assembly's intent that hourly billing rates charged by the Department for legal services to state agencies not exceed $146.05 per hour for attorneys and not exceed $98.03 per hour for legal assistants, which equates to a blended legal rate of $138.82 per hour.

Comment: This footnote provides a basis for calculating each agency's legal service hours appropriation. It is set annually by the JBC based on JBC staff recommendations at the end of figure setting.

70 Department of Law, Consumer Protection, Antitrust, and Civil Rights, Patterns and Practices -- It is the General Assembly's intent that $112,247 General Fund appropriated to this line item associated with H.B. 24-1054 (Jail Standards) is authorized to be expended providing legal advice to the Department of Public Safety on contracts related to this legislation.

Comment: The Department of Law complied with this footnote to the best of its ability but is limited in what advice it can give subject to the rules for ethical practice of law. The Committee may wish to include this item as a topic of discussion during the Department's hearing.

Update on Requests for Information

The Joint Budget Committee may submit requests for information (RFIs) to departments. The Joint Budget Committee must prioritize the requests per Section 2-3-203 (3), C.R.S.

This section discusses a subset of the RFIs relevant to the divisions covered in the briefing.

Requests Affecting Multiple Departments

1 Department of Law, Special Purpose, District Attorney Training; Department of Local Affairs, Division of Local Government, Field Services, Public Defender and Prosecutor Behavioral Health Support Grant Program – Pursuant to Section 24-32-3502, C.R.S., funds appropriated or donated to the Public Defender and Prosecutor Behavioral Health Support Fund are split evenly between the State Public Defender and the Colorado District Attorneys' Counsel (CDAC). CDAC is requested to submit an annual report by November 1 for the prior completed fiscal year detailing the total grant applicants, the name of the

grant applicants, amount applied for, amounts awarded for each application submitted, a total amount of all grants funded per round of grants and the amount of funds it received but did not award.

Comment: The CDAC submitted its response as requested before November 1, 2026, which can be found in Appendix B. The Department of Law serves as a facilitator connecting the appropriations with the non-state entity CDAC, and thus it operates much like a grant from the Department of Law. This footnote provides a modicum of oversight to the appropriation.

Department of Law Requests

2 Department of Law, Criminal Justice and Appellate, Appellate Unit – The Department is requested to provide by November 1, 2026 a report concerning the Appellate Unit's progress in reducing its case backlog, including the following data for FY 2025-26: the number of opening briefs received; the number of answer briefs filed; and the case backlog as of June 30, 2026.

Comment: The Department complied with this information request, which staff summarized in the General Factors Driving the Budget section of this document.

3 Department of Law, Consumer Protection and Antitrust, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit – Pursuant to Section 25.5-4-310, C.R.S., the Department of Law's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is required to submit an annual report by January 15 concerning: actions filed under the "Colorado Medicaid False Claims Act", the amount recovered as a result of such actions, and the amount of related expenditures. The General Assembly requests that the Department also include in this annual report information about expenditures and recoveries related to the Unit's criminal investigations.

Comment: This information request in still forthcoming. The Department has consistently complied with this annual request for information, which supplements the statutory annual report with additional information about the unit's criminal investigations that is utilized by the JBC analyst assigned to Medicaid.

4 Department of Law, Special Purpose, District Attorney Training – Pursuant to Section 20-1-111 (4) (b), C.R.S., the Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) allocated these dollars to provide prosecution training, seminar, continuing education programs, and other prosecution related services on behalf of District Attorneys who are members of the CDAC. The CDAC is requested to submit an annual report by November 1 detailing how the District Attorney Training appropriation is spent, including the number and type of training activities provided, the number of district attorney offices served by each type of training activity, the number of deputy district attorneys trained, and detail of the costs categorized by personnel, operating, and travel, for each training effort.

Comment: The CDAC submitted its response as requested before November 1, 2026, which can be found in Appendix B. The Department of Law serves as a facilitator connecting the appropriations with the non-state entity CDAC, and thus it operates much like a grant from the Department of Law. This footnote provides a modicum of oversight to the appropriation.

5 Department of Law, Special Purpose, District Attorney Assistance for Bond Hearings Grants – Pursuant to Section 16-4-117, C.R.S., funds appropriated to the District Attorney Assistance for Bond Hearings Grants is allocated to the Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) for grants to district attorney offices. CDAC is requested to submit an annual report by November 1 of each year for the prior completed fiscal year detailing the total grant applicants, the name of the grant applicants, amounts

applied for, amounts awarded for each application submitted, a total amount of all grants funded per round of grants, and the amount of funds it received but did not award.

Comment: The CDAC submitted its response as requested before November 1, 2026, which can be found in Appendix B. The Department of Law serves as a facilitator connecting the appropriations with the non-state entity CDAC, and thus it operates much like a grant from the Department of Law. This footnote provides a modicum of oversight to the appropriation.

Department Annual Performance Report

Departments must publish an **Annual Performance Report**[7] for the *previous state fiscal year* by November 1 of each year. This report summarizes the Department's performance plan and most recent performance evaluation. In addition, departments develop and submit a **Performance Plan**[8] for the *current fiscal year* to the Joint Budget Committee and the relevant Joint Committee of Reference by July 1 of each year.

Per statute[9], the Joint Budget Committee must consider performance plans submitted by departments and may prioritize budget requests intended to enhance productivity, improve efficiency, reduce costs, and eliminate waste. To find the performance plans, search the Office of State Planning and Budgeting website and select the performance plan (https://operations.colorado.gov/performance-management/department-performance-plans).

[7] Section 2-7-205, C.R.S.
[8] Section 2-7-204 (3)(a), C.R.S.
[9] Section 2-7-204 (6), C.R.S.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

Appendix A details the actual expenditures for the last two state fiscal years, the appropriation for the current fiscal year, and the requested appropriation for next fiscal year. Appendix A organizes this information by line item and fund source.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
Department of Law **Phil Weiser, Attorney General -- Jena Griswold, Attorney General-elect**					
(1) Administration					
Personal Services	6,018,145	7,005,264	7,328,936	7,421,600	
FTE	59.9	64.0	63.7	63.7	
General Fund	0	683,546	684,756	684,941	
Reappropriated Funds	6,018,145	6,321,718	6,644,180	6,736,659	
Office of Community Engagement	1,539,147	1,587,558	1,644,543	1,647,514	
FTE	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	
General Fund	1,058,830	1,096,341	1,118,435	1,121,197	
Cash Funds	480,317	491,217	526,108	526,317	
Reappropriated Funds	0	0	0	0	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Health, Life, and Dental	8,997,572	9,596,691	11,579,910	14,640,630	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	2,293,302	2,308,345	2,774,535	3,945,180	
Cash Funds	1,496,414	1,623,984	2,011,514	1,972,979	
Reappropriated Funds	4,989,274	5,418,752	6,452,467	8,340,902	
Federal Funds	218,582	245,610	341,394	381,569	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
Short-term Disability	112,933	58,188	60,741	61,110	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	27,748	14,127	14,746	15,768	
Cash Funds	16,808	8,069	8,791	6,732	
Reappropriated Funds	65,850	34,599	35,712	36,544	
Federal Funds	2,527	1,393	1,492	2,066	
Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance	338,797	374,062	390,481	389,241	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	83,244	90,815	94,797	100,465	
Cash Funds	50,424	51,872	56,511	43,278	
Reappropriated Funds	197,549	222,420	229,580	234,925	
Federal Funds	7,580	8,955	9,593	10,573	
PERA AED and SAED	7,528,824	8,312,502	8,677,367	8,625,942	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	1,849,860	2,018,121	2,106,599	2,225,616	
Cash Funds	1,120,534	1,152,712	1,255,809	958,308	
Reappropriated Funds	4,389,980	4,942,662	5,101,782	5,206,781	
Federal Funds	168,450	199,007	213,177	235,237	
Salary Survey for Classified Employees	583,068	620,440	0	406,929	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	157,840	180,095	0	144,873	
Cash Funds	206,081	202,916	0	122,950	
Reappropriated Funds	193,621	202,331	0	116,203	
Federal Funds	25,526	35,098	0	22,903	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
Salary Survey for Exempt Employees	2,717,146	2,531,389	0	1,929,264	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	623,492	576,394	0	422,571	
Cash Funds	220,716	173,676	0	83,102	
Reappropriated Funds	1,848,438	1,746,289	0	1,405,056	
Federal Funds	24,500	35,030	0	18,535	
Step Increases	2,212,783	487,416	779,464	1,758,692	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	493,191	101,123	164,834	446,210	
Cash Funds	258,943	57,793	84,805	203,067	
Reappropriated Funds	1,444,080	324,257	516,804	1,088,460	
Federal Funds	16,569	4,243	13,021	20,955	
PERA Direct Distribution	1,398,718	1,521,258	1,555,786	1,597,955	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	345,060	405,753	416,299	449,728	
Cash Funds	214,256	210,956	225,880	178,482	
Reappropriated Funds	839,402	904,549	913,607	969,745	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Workers' Compensation	241,118	223,238	326,078	325,502	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	62,827	59,985	91,609	90,267	
Cash Funds	31,756	28,705	40,856	40,177	
Reappropriated Funds	138,519	127,330	183,349	185,585	
Federal Funds	8,016	7,218	10,264	9,473	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
Attorney Registration and Continuing Legal Education	201,977	201,977	219,635	225,903	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	38,995	38,995	46,325	46,326	
Cash Funds	5,123	5,123	4,905	5,450	
Reappropriated Funds	155,816	155,817	165,953	171,675	
Federal Funds	2,043	2,042	2,452	2,452	
Operating Expenses	243,805	275,053	250,685	264,623	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	0	33,310	8,942	8,942	
Cash Funds	0	0	0	0	
Reappropriated Funds	243,805	241,743	241,743	255,681	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Legal Services	197,609	250,530	361,406	534,374	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	76,507	96,678	139,464	5,344	
Cash Funds	121,102	153,852	221,942	529,030	
Reappropriated Funds	0	0	0	0	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Administrative Law Judge Services	517	431	2,580	4,429	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	0	0	0	1,227	
Cash Funds	517	431	2,580	548	
Reappropriated Funds	0	0	0	2,525	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	129	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
Payment to Risk Management and Property Funds	468,794	425,259	245,969	485,067	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	122,155	114,273	69,106	134,517	
Cash Funds	61,742	54,680	30,817	59,873	
Reappropriated Funds	269,313	242,555	138,303	276,560	
Federal Funds	15,584	13,751	7,743	14,117	
Vehicle Lease Payments	95,901	99,694	105,839	87,058	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	39,401	27,869	30,596	22,299	
Cash Funds	15,500	16,824	18,250	16,759	
Reappropriated Funds	33,100	49,426	50,993	42,000	
Federal Funds	7,900	5,575	6,000	6,000	
Information Technology Asset Maintenance	1,369,433	1,369,433	1,369,433	1,369,434	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	356,828	367,981	384,733	379,764	
Cash Funds	180,366	176,081	171,579	169,032	
Reappropriated Funds	786,714	781,087	770,012	780,781	
Federal Funds	45,525	44,284	43,109	39,857	
Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center Leased Space	3,701,935	3,727,340	4,274,915	4,859,543	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	964,602	1,001,570	1,201,011	1,347,615	
Cash Funds	487,574	479,263	535,613	599,828	
Reappropriated Funds	2,126,693	2,125,974	2,403,719	2,770,666	
Federal Funds	123,066	120,533	134,572	141,434	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
Payments to OIT	1,380,760	620,678	918,535	781,836	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	359,881	169,578	258,055	216,814	
Cash Funds	181,817	79,368	115,087	96,505	
Reappropriated Funds	793,172	354,353	516,478	445,762	
Federal Funds	45,890	17,379	28,915	22,755	
Digital Trunk Radio	25,884	24,831	26,173	31,429	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	13,587	13,922	14,813	16,697	
Cash Funds	7,270	6,449	6,715	12,473	
Reappropriated Funds	5,027	4,460	4,645	2,259	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Attorney General Discretionary Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
CORE Operations	12,030	11,522	65,505	76,317	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	3,134	3,097	18,404	21,164	
Cash Funds	1,584	1,480	8,206	9,419	
Reappropriated Funds	6,912	6,572	36,833	43,512	
Federal Funds	400	373	2,062	2,222	

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Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
TOTAL - (1) Administration	39,391,896	39,329,754	40,188,981	47,529,392	18.3%
FTE	73.9	78.0	77.7	77.7	0.0%
General Fund	8,975,484	9,406,918	9,643,059	11,852,525	22.9%
Cash Funds	5,158,844	4,975,451	5,325,968	5,634,309	5.8%
Reappropriated Funds	24,545,410	24,206,894	24,406,160	29,112,281	19.3%
Federal Funds	712,158	740,491	813,794	930,277	14.3%

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request		Request vs. Appropriation
(2) Legal Services to State Agencies						
Personal Services	55,844,085	59,765,404	63,542,015	63,922,578		
FTE	358.2	362.9	370.0	369.1		
General Fund	11,279	0	0	0		
Cash Funds	0	0	0	0		
Reappropriated Funds	55,832,806	59,765,404	63,542,015	63,922,578		
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0		
Operating and Litigation	3,108,466	3,140,463	3,343,175	3,327,084		
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
General Fund	1,253	0	0	0		
Cash Funds	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000		
Reappropriated Funds	2,907,213	2,940,463	3,143,175	3,127,084		
Indirect Cost Assessment	5,731,983	5,512,959	5,865,064	6,517,764	*	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Cash Funds	1,990,242	1,747,137	1,473,179	1,878,675		
Reappropriated Funds	3,741,741	3,765,822	4,391,885	4,639,089		
TOTAL - (2) Legal Services to State Agencies	64,684,534	68,418,826	72,750,254	73,767,426		1.4%
FTE	358.2	362.9	370.0	369.1		(0.2%)
General Fund	12,532	0	0	0		0.0%
Cash Funds	2,190,242	1,947,137	1,673,179	2,078,675		24.2%
Reappropriated Funds	62,481,760	66,471,689	71,077,075	71,688,751		0.9%
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0		0.0%

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
(3) Criminal Justice and Appellate					
Special Prosecutions Unit	6,262,995	6,655,312	6,714,417	6,774,860	
FTE	45.9	46.4	45.4	45.4	
General Fund	3,402,246	3,608,949	3,557,000	3,582,460	
Cash Funds	1,901,380	2,029,862	2,110,588	2,141,577	
Reappropriated Funds	959,369	1,016,501	1,046,829	1,050,823	
Auto Theft Prevention Grant	203,299	222,465	377,343	205,637	
FTE	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	
Reappropriated Funds	203,299	222,465	377,343	205,637	
Appellate Unit	5,767,426	6,236,031	6,334,433	6,072,904	*
FTE	41.6	41.6	41.1	37.1	
General Fund	4,651,424	5,376,375	5,401,637	4,427,446	
Cash Funds	0	0	0	0	
Reappropriated Funds	1,116,002	859,656	932,796	1,645,458	
Peace Officers Standards and Training Board Support	6,235,595	6,323,396	6,466,130	5,969,790	*
FTE	16.0	16.0	16.3	18.3	
Cash Funds	6,235,595	6,323,396	6,466,130	5,969,790	
Indirect Cost Assessment	592,885	605,785	628,284	684,223	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	0	0	0	0	
Cash Funds	491,203	490,249	508,457	553,727	
Reappropriated Funds	101,682	115,536	119,827	130,496	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
TOTAL - (3) Criminal Justice and Appellate	19,062,200	20,042,989	20,520,607	19,707,414	(4.0%)
FTE	104.5	105.0	104.8	101.8	(2.9%)
General Fund	8,053,670	8,985,324	8,958,637	8,009,906	(10.6%)
Cash Funds	8,628,178	8,843,507	9,085,175	8,665,094	(4.6%)
Reappropriated Funds	2,380,352	2,214,158	2,476,795	3,032,414	22.4%
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0.0%

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
(4) Water and Natural Resources					
Federal and Interstate Water Unit	1,420,026	1,496,305	1,562,408	1,575,346	
FTE	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.5	
General Fund	1,420,026	1,496,305	1,562,408	1,575,346	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Defense of the Colorado River Basin Compact	1,036,399	1,061,699	1,700,000	4,000,000	*
FTE	3.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	
General Fund	0	0	0	0	
Cash Funds	1,036,399	1,061,699	1,700,000	4,000,000	
Consultant Expenses	475,000	549,909	3,750,000	5,550,000	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cash Funds	475,000	549,909	3,750,000	5,550,000	
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act	625,474	655,018	669,154	680,365	
FTE	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	
General Fund	0	0	0	0	
Reappropriated Funds	625,474	655,018	669,154	680,365	
Indirect Cost Assessment	54,752	54,646	56,675	61,721	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Reappropriated Funds	54,752	54,646	56,675	61,721	
Defense of the Republican River Compact	110,000	35,091	0	0	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cash Funds	110,000	35,091	0	0	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
TOTAL - (4) Water and Natural Resources	3,721,651	3,852,668	7,738,237	11,867,432	53.4%
FTE	17.3	18.5	18.5	18.5	0.0%
General Fund	1,420,026	1,496,305	1,562,408	1,575,346	0.8%
Cash Funds	1,621,399	1,646,699	5,450,000	9,550,000	75.2%
Reappropriated Funds	680,226	709,664	725,829	742,086	2.2%
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0.0%

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
(5) Consumer Protection, Antitrust, and Civil Rights					
Consumer Protection, Antitrust, and Civil Rights	6,661,522	7,228,801	7,549,474	7,580,150	
FTE	44.6	45.2	45.6	45.2	
General Fund	3,026,116	3,287,367	3,467,517	3,461,748	
Cash Funds	3,452,360	3,739,440	3,871,468	3,907,156	
Reappropriated Funds	183,046	201,994	210,489	211,246	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Consumer Credit Unit	2,715,818	2,891,920	2,976,217	2,995,093	
FTE	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	
Cash Funds	2,715,818	2,891,920	2,976,217	2,995,093	
False Claims Recovery Act Reimbursements	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cash Funds	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	
Patterns and Practices	490,118	547,820	692,013	693,426	
FTE	3.0	3.2	4.0	4.0	
General Fund	490,118	547,820	692,013	693,426	
Medicaid Fraud Control Unit	3,725,239	3,815,292	3,657,795	4,238,718	*
FTE	28.0	28.0	26.0	29.7	
General Fund	931,310	953,823	914,448	1,059,679	
Cash Funds	0	0	0	0	
Reappropriated Funds	0	0	0	0	
Federal Funds	2,793,929	2,861,469	2,743,347	3,179,039	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request		Request vs. Appropriation
Indirect Cost Assessment	1,121,633	1,164,733	1,183,699	1,188,024	*	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
General Fund	0	0	0	0		
Cash Funds	769,656	813,439	843,649	847,974		
Reappropriated Funds	23,465	23,420	24,289	24,289		
Federal Funds	328,512	327,874	315,761	315,761		
TOTAL - (5) Consumer Protection, Antitrust, and Civil Rights	15,014,330	15,948,566	16,359,198	16,995,411		3.9%
FTE	100.6	101.4	100.6	103.9		3.3%
General Fund	4,447,544	4,789,010	5,073,978	5,214,853		2.8%
Cash Funds	7,237,834	7,744,799	7,991,334	8,050,223		0.7%
Reappropriated Funds	206,511	225,414	234,778	235,535		0.3%
Federal Funds	3,122,441	3,189,343	3,059,108	3,494,800		14.2%

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
(6) Special Purpose					
District Attorneys' Salaries	2,878,674	2,943,586	5,959,256	5,885,510	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	2,878,674	2,943,586	5,959,256	5,885,510	
Reappropriated Funds	0	0	0	0	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	
Deputy District Attorney Training	350,000	350,000	500,000	500,000	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	350,000	350,000	500,000	500,000	
District Attorney Assistance for Bond Hearings Grants	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	
Litigation Management	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cash Funds	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
Tobacco Litigation	100,000	100,000	100,000	25,000	*
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cash Funds	100,000	100,000	100,000	25,000	
CORA OML Attorney	109,174	116,580	0	0	
FTE	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	
General Fund	109,174	116,580	0	0	

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix A: Numbers Pages

	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Appropriation	FY 2027-28 Request	Request vs. Appropriation
TOTAL - (6) Special Purpose	4,237,848	4,310,166	7,359,256	7,210,510	(2.0%)
FTE	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
General Fund	3,937,848	4,010,166	7,059,256	6,985,510	(1.0%)
Cash Funds	300,000	300,000	300,000	225,000	(25.0%)
Reappropriated Funds	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL - Department of Law	146,112,459	151,902,969	164,916,533	177,077,585	7.4%
FTE	655.5	666.8	671.6	671.0	(0.1%)
General Fund	26,847,104	28,687,723	32,297,338	33,638,140	4.2%
Cash Funds	25,136,497	25,457,593	29,825,656	34,203,301	14.7%
Reappropriated Funds	90,294,259	93,827,819	98,920,637	104,811,067	6.0%
Federal Funds	3,834,599	3,929,834	3,872,902	4,425,077	14.3%

NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates that the FY 2027-28 request for a line item is affected by one or more decision items.

Appendix B: RFI Responses

Documents attached in this appendix are RFI's from the Colorado District Attorney Council related to General Fund appropriations that support activities to educate and staff district attorney offices. This is the primary oversight over the expenditure because the Council does not report to any state entity.

Colorado District Attorneys' Council Training Fund Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (FY 25-26), RFI #3
HB 14-1144 Training Funds

	Actual Expenditures
Personnel	$183,995.82
Supplies & Operating	$6,607.22
Travel	$3403.46
Registration Fees	$142,325.00
Scholarships	$26,616.91
Equipment	$0.00
TOTAL	**$362,948.41**

Expenditure Summary

Personnel: Salary and benefits

As contemplated by the legislation, this funding covers a resource staff attorney, and admin support. The staff attorney is available for prosecution related trainings and services who is a readily available resource to prosecutors in every jurisdiction on case law, legislation and case strategy and preparation. This person also assists on prosecution related services including legislative issues and legal analysis of court decisions and often serves as a subject matter expert on such topics for prosecutors, law enforcement and legislators when necessary. This staff attorney travels the state on a regular basis and provided various in person trainings to prosecutors and law enforcement all over the state. This attorney has also actively mentored new prosecutors in several offices by spending time with them in the courtroom and in reviewing and preparing cases. Further, they have been instrumental in assisting prosecutors around the state in creating and facilitating working groups on specialized areas of prosecution. The impact and benefit of this position has been significant to the rural offices in Colorado.

Supplies and Operating: Costs to organize trainings and training materials

Covered expenses included contractual fees to create and maintain a training library, which provided DA office staff with on-demand training opportunities. Funds support the administration of a robust and diverse Training committee which meets monthly to create courses best suited to the needs of rural and metro districts to ensure prosecutors are knowledgeable and subject to growth in their legal acumen. These trainings were CLE accredited for attorneys, with special attention to ethics credits and equity, diversion and inclusion credits. We use Zoom webinars to increase the number of people we are able to train as webinars can

be offered virtually and are later recorded and edited for on-demand viewing. Legislative Update booklets, written and edited by our staff, are provided as valuable training resource – in reflection of the constraints of the General Assembly's budget, we have shifted for the first time to providing digital Legislative Update booklets in order to reduce costs and maximize funds for scholarships, shown below.

Registration Fees: Reduced registration fees for DA office members

The HB 1144 funding allowed CDAC to reduce the registration fees for six previously existing CDAC trainings charged to DA office members. Registration fees for the major case course (3 day) were reduced from $160 to $0, from $260 to $105 for the annual conference, from $210 to $0 for four trial techniques courses (5 day), and from $80 to $0 for a felony prosecution skills class (3 day). CDAC brought back a Juvenile Prosecution Skills Course (3-day) where registration fees were reduced from $80 to $0.

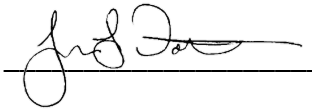
This resulted in savings for every one of the district attorneys' offices. Total savings for the offices to send the 927 attendees to CDAC trainings was $142,325.00. The net effect of this funding resulted in the ability of each office in the state to offer more training to their prosecutors than was previously available through local budgets alone. The conference alone provides a single training where the prosecutors can fulfill nearly all of their required CLE credits at one time each year.

Equipment: Equipment for Trainings

No equipment was purchased this fiscal year.

Over-Expended funds:

We had $12,948.41 in over-expended funds this fiscal year, due in part, to the addition of a Juvenile Prosecution Skills course, as well as the additional 117 attendees. This was over-expended from rollover reported in FY 23/24 and FY 24/25.



10/26/26

Jessica Dotter

Executive Director

Colorado District Attorneys' Council

Colorado District Attorneys' Council Training Fund Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (FY 25-26), RFI #4
SB 22-188 Behavioral Health Support

Statutory Authority and Purpose

The Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) receives annual funding from the General Assembly through the Public Defender and Prosecutor Behavioral Health Support Program, which was created by Senate Bill 22-188, Behavioral Health Support for Criminal Justice Advocates, and is codified at section 24-32-3502, C.R.S. The program is housed in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), which receives a $500,000 General Fund appropriation for the program each year. Originally, DOLA allocated fifty percent of that money to the Office of the State Public Defender and the remaining fifty percent, $250,000, to CDAC to award grants to Colorado's district attorneys' offices.

The General Assembly established the program in recognition that prosecutors and the staff who support them, including victim advocates, investigators, and paralegals, are routinely exposed to traumatic material in the course of their work: graphic evidence of violent crime, child abuse and exploitation, and the accounts of victims and survivors. Repeated exposure of this kind places criminal justice professionals at elevated risk of secondary and vicarious trauma, which can affect their health, their decision-making, and their ability to remain in public service.

Under section 24-32-3502(2), C.R.S., grant funds may be used for three purposes: (1) counseling services for prosecutors and other employees of a district attorney's office, including reimbursement for those who have paid the costs of their own counseling services provided by a licensed mental health professional; (2) training and education programs that teach prosecutors and other district attorney's office employees the symptoms of job-related trauma and how to prevent and treat it; and (3) peer support programs for employees of a district attorney's office.

The statute directs CDAC to administer the grant program, including developing policies that set the form and deadlines for applications, the criteria for awarding grants, the timeframes for awarding and distributing grant money, and the information grant recipients must report to CDAC. District attorneys' offices apply to CDAC in accordance with those policies, and CDAC awards grants on or before October 1 of each year, subject to available money.

Funding Received and Expended

CDAC has received a total of $1,000,000 across four fiscal years (FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26). As of the end of FY 2025-26 on June 30, 2026, CDAC had disbursed $392,874.79 in reimbursements for programs and for individual prosecutor and staff expenses, approximately 39 percent of total funding received. As of October 15, 2026, cumulative expenditures total $415,146.69, leaving a program balance of $584,853.31.

Annual spending has grown steadily as offices have become familiar with the program. FY 2025-26 expenditures of $146,566.00 were **more than six times the first-year total** and the highest of any year since the program began.

Colorado District Attorneys' Council Training Fund Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (FY 25-26), RFI #4
SB 22-188 Behavioral Health Support

Table 1. SB 22-188 expenditures by fiscal year

Fiscal Year	Amount Expended	Cumulative Total	Share of $1,000,000
FY 2022-23	$22,144.60	$22,144.60	2.2%
FY 2023-24	$85,194.29	$107,338.89	10.7%
FY 2024-25	$138,969.90	$246,308.79	24.6%
FY 2025-26	$146,566.00	$392,874.79	39.3%
FY 2026-27 (through Oct. 15, 2026)	$22,271.90	$415,146.69	41.5%
Total	**$415,146.69**		**41.5%**

Source: CDAC general ledger, SB 188 Mental Health class, as of October 15, 2026. Fiscal years run July 1 through June 30; amounts are assigned by bill date.

Nearly all program funds, $406,124.85 or 97.8 percent, have been distributed as reimbursements to district attorneys' offices for counseling services and behavioral health programs for their employees. An additional $6,297.00 (1.5 percent) reimbursed individual prosecutors and staff directly for counseling costs, and $2,724.84 (0.7 percent) supported CDAC-sponsored training and wellness programming and related costs, including a resilience workshop presented by the Lyda Hill Institute for Human Resilience in January 2024 and a wellness session at CDAC's fall conference. Next week, CDAC is hosting national presenters on Stress First Aid, a 2-day wellness summit designed for implementing wellness programs in individual offices. CDAC is working with the Learning Experience and Design team at University of Colorado-Anschutz to create a scalable Wellness guide and associated tools and training specifically for prosecutors and will be utilizing funds towards this project to ensure prosecutors and prosecution staff are onboarded with tips for wellness as well as organizational/cultural tools.

Participation by District Attorneys' Offices

Fourteen of Colorado's 23 district attorneys' offices have received reimbursements since the program began. Eleven of the then 22 offices received reimbursements during the program's first year, five during the second year, and seven during the third year. In FY 2025-26, eight offices received reimbursements, including two offices participating for the first time (the 12th and 19th Judicial Districts) and two offices returning after first-year participation (the 20th and 22nd Judicial Districts). Table 2 shows reimbursements by office and fiscal year.

Table 2. Reimbursements to district attorneys' offices by fiscal year

Judicial District	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27*	Total
1st	$1,000.00	$41,410.00	$33,200.00	$78,905.00	$9,575.00	$164,090.00
2nd	$1,600.00	—	—	—	—	$1,600.00
6th	$1,000.00	—	—	—	—	$1,000.00
7th	$489.60	—	—	—	—	$489.60
8th	$5,405.00	$12,345.00	$17,734.00	$16,667.50	$6,770.00	$58,921.50
9th	$1,000.00	—	$230.00	—	—	$1,230.00
12th	—	—	—	$714.00	—	$714.00
13th	$4,500.00	$7,955.00	$8,875.00	$6,965.00	$660.00	$28,955.00

Colorado District Attorneys' Council Training Fund Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (FY 25-26), RFI #4
SB 22-188 Behavioral Health Support

Judicial District	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27*	Total
17th	—	—	$67,375.00	—	—	$67,375.00
18th	$1,900.00	$12,900.00	$1,350.00	—	—	$16,150.00
19th	—	—	—	$315.00	$315.00	$630.00
20th	$1,000.00	—	—	$15,000.00	—	$16,000.00
21st	$3,250.00	$8,242.45	$8,249.90	$21,600.50	$4,751.90	$46,094.75
22nd	$1,000.00	—	—	$1,875.00	—	$2,875.00
Total, DA offices	**$22,144.60**	**$82,852.45**	**$137,013.90**	**$142,042.00**	**$22,071.90**	**$406,124.85**

**FY 2026-27 through October 15, 2026. Excludes direct reimbursements to individuals and CDAC-sponsored training shown above.*

Program Administration and Outlook

Upon reviewing the spending rate and the challenges associated with program implementation, CDAC has taken a more proactive approach and has increased collaboration with district attorneys' offices to provide additional resources and training guidance in support of the program's overall goals. To ensure accountability and measure progress, CDAC has also initiated a more detailed request policy and new request forms. As a result, requests for support are now being submitted more regularly.

Under House Bill 26-1385, the full FY 2026-27 program appropriation is directed to the Office of the State Public Defender, and CDAC will not receive a new allocation this fiscal year. CDAC will continue to reimburse district attorneys' offices from the remaining program balance of $584,853.31.

Although stigma around seeking mental health services for job-related issues persists and addressing behavioral health continues to be a barrier to prosecutor well-being, we have seen a marked improvement in the number of support requests being submitted and expect this trend to continue.

Sincerely, Date:

_____ _10/29/2026_____

Jessica Dotter, Executive Director

Colorado District Attorneys' Council

Colorado District Attorneys' Council Training Fund Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (FY 24-25), RFI #5
HB 21-1280 Weekend Bond Hearing Assistance Grant

The Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) is the recipient of annual funding from the General Assembly in the amount of $600,000 to provide funding assistance to each office in recognition of increased costs related to weekend bond hearings required by the legislation. These funds are divided into $150,000 per quarter with 75% of funding allocated to the District Attorney Offices with a population of less than 200,000. The remaining 25% of the funds are split between the larger offices. The majority of the offices, on average 21 of the 23 Judicial Districts, request their allocation of the funds quarterly. This grant has played a critical role in reducing the financial burden on districts, which are already operating under constrained budgets.

Actual Expenditures Per District	
District	Totals
1	$11,621.16
2	$55,698.43
3	$11,911.20
4	$754.72
5	$36,403.60
6	$44,941.60
7	$58,716.37
8	$11,302.04
9	$32,837.36
10	$0.00
11	$36,760.31
12	$21,926.84
13	$45,147.78
14	$20,151.43
15	$8,272.04
16	$23,786.48
17	$0.00
18	$21,728.80
19	$28,617.71
20	$11,576.22
21	$87,513.62
22	$21,631.38
23	$8,700.95
TOTAL	$600,000.04

Request

The Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) respectfully requests a General Fund appropriation of **$600,000** for FY 2027-28 to the Department of Law, for allocation to

Colorado District Attorneys' Council Training Fund Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (FY 24-25), RFI #5
HB 21-1280 Weekend Bond Hearing Assistance Grant

CDAC, for the District Attorney Assistance for Bond Hearings Grant Program created by House Bill 21-1280.

We submit this request under C.R.S. 20-1-111(4)(d), which directs the General Assembly to annually appropriate the funds necessary for these grants. That same provision requires CDAC to submit its request to this Committee by November 1 of each year. Since HB22-1067 repealed the original cash fund, the appropriation is made directly to the Department of Law for district attorney bond hearing grants.

Background and History of HB21-1280

HB21-1280 made the 48-hour bond hearing a statewide statutory mandate, and it made district attorney funding part of the deal. It built on SB19-191, which set timelines for bond hearings and release and required each chief judge to develop a 48-hour bond plan, with a report to the Judiciary Committees by November 1, 2019.

The General Assembly has refined the framework every year since: HB22-1067 extended the 48-hour requirement to municipal courts, HB23-1151 clarified the 48-hour requirement, HB25-1015 clarified online bond payment, and SB26-037 directed the State Court Administrator to evaluate bond hearing officers. None of these changes reduced the prosecutorial workload the 48-hour mandate creates.

What the Law Requires of District Attorneys

The 48-hour clock runs seven days a week, so district attorneys must staff bond hearings on weekends and holidays. Under C.R.S. 16-4-102(2)(a), a judge, magistrate, or bond hearing officer must enter an individualized bond order no later than 48 hours after an arrestee arrives at a jail or holding facility.

The Act gives prosecutors a defined role at every one of those hearings:

- **Notice and appearance.** C.R.S. 16-4-104(6) gives the prosecuting attorney the right to be notified of each person set for initial hearing and to appear and state a position on bond type and conditions.
- **Preparation.** Prosecutors receive the pretrial assessment, arrest warrant, probable cause statement, and criminal history before the hearing (16-4-104(7)) and must be ready to argue on that record.
- **Victim participation.** Weekend and holiday hearings held by a bond hearing officer must allow the crime victim, if any, to participate (16-4-116(1)(b)). Prosecutors carry the statutory duty to notify and support victims at these settings.

In practice, this means attorney and victim-advocate time on weekends and holidays, on-call pay or overtime, remote-hearing equipment, and travel. Small and rural offices

bear the heaviest burden because a handful of attorneys must cover every weekend and holiday of the year.

The General Assembly recognized this cost in the Act itself. C.R.S. 16-4-117(1) declares all costs related to a DA office's compliance with 16-4-102(2)(a) to be "reasonable and necessary expenses" of the office, and 20-1-111(4)(d) states that the General Assembly "shall annually appropriate" the funds necessary to cover them.

Funding History and Need

The General Assembly has already found $600,000 to be the right annual level: it set the grant at that amount for FY 2022-23, the first full year of 48-hour hearings. HB21-1280 seeded the program with $150,000 for FY 2021-22, before the mandate took effect. In 2022, the Senate amended the Long Bill (HB22-1329) to add $450,000 for district attorney costs of implementing 48-hour bond hearings, and HB22-1067 redirected the full $600,000 to the Department of Law for bond hearing grants.

Fiscal year	Appropriation	Source
FY 2021-22	$150,000	HB21-1280, re-routed by HB22-1067
FY 2022-23	$600,000	2022 Long Bill as amended; HB22-1067
FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27	$600,000	2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 Long Bills as amended
FY 2027-28 (requested)	$600,000	This request

The workload has not shrunk. Every judicial district must still hold bond hearings within 48 hours, every day of the year, and the costs of doing so have risen with attorney and advocate salaries since 2022.

Use and Administration of Funds

CDAC will award the full $600,000 as grants to district attorneys' offices, under the rules CDAC has promulgated and the statutory criteria in C.R.S. 16-4-117:

- **Eligible costs.** Any reasonable cost directly related to 48-hour bond hearing compliance, including personnel, equipment, and travel.
- **Rural priority.** The CDAC Executive Committee reviews every application and prioritizes at least 75 percent of available money for offices in judicial districts of 200,000 people or fewer.
- **Timing.** Grants are awarded on or before October 1 of each grant year, subject to appropriation.

CDAC will report to the Committee on awards by district and how the money was used, on whatever schedule the Committee prefers.

Closing

Colorado District Attorneys' Council Training Fund Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (FY 24-25), RFI #5
HB 21-1280 Weekend Bond Hearing Assistance Grant

Prompt bond hearings protect the rights of the accused and give victims a voice at the first critical stage of a case. Both depend on a prosecutor being present, prepared, and able to reach the victim — on a Saturday night as much as a Tuesday morning. We respectfully ask the Committee to fund the District Attorney Assistance for Bond Hearings Grant Program at $600,000 for FY 2027-28, consistent with the General Assembly's commitment in HB21-1280.

Thank you for your consideration. I am glad to answer questions or provide additional data at jessica@cdac.state.co.us.

Respectfully,

10/29/26

Jessica Dotter
Executive Director
Colorado District Attorneys' Council