

# Agency 94 - Commission On Public Advocacy

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**Statutory Authority:**

The Commission on Public Advocacy was created by the County Revenue Assistance Act, LB 646, of the 1995 Session of the Legislature. In 1997, LB 729 expanded its duties. The Commission's duties and organization are outlined in Chapter 29, Sections 3919 to 3931 and Sections 25-3001 to 3004 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska. The agency has a complete set of rules and regulations on file with the Secretary of State.

**Vision Statement:**

The vision of the Commission on Public Advocacy is to continue providing quality legal representation for indigents who are accused of crimes, while also providing property tax relief for county property owners and improving the inconsistent and inadequate funding of indigent defense services in Nebraska. It shall also continue to administer the Legal Aid and Services Fund to help provide civil legal services to indigent citizens of this state.

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the agency is to continue to assist the counties of Nebraska in providing indigent defense services which are mandated by the state and federal constitutions and state laws establishing crimes and penalties. Our principles include a commitment to quality legal representation for persons accused of crimes who cannot afford to hire an attorney. The agency is also assisting indigent citizens who are in need of civil legal services and cannot afford to hire an attorney.

**Goals:**

Our goals include: Continuation of provision of quality legal representation for persons accused of crimes who cannot afford to hire an attorney, to continue to reduce the costs for counties to provide constitutionally mandated legal representation of indigent citizens of this state, to continue to increase accountability for the state and to continue to administer the Legal Aid and Services Fund to disburse funds to civil legal service providers to assist indigent citizens with direct civil legal services.

**Financial Data:**

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	579,134	485,978	536,523	514,328	537,384	536,869
Cash Fund	700,781	940,000	940,000	940,000	940,000	940,000
Federal Fund	150,124	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>1,430,039</b>	<b>1,425,978</b>	<b>1,476,523</b>	<b>1,454,328</b>	<b>1,477,384</b>	<b>1,476,869</b>

## Agency 94 - Commission On Public Advocacy Program 425 - Operations

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### Program Objectives:

1. To create and maintain balance in the criminal justice system.
2. To reduce the financial burden on county property taxes.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	529,554	485,978	536,523	514,328	537,384	536,869
Cash Fund	0	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>529,554</b>	<b>555,978</b>	<b>606,523</b>	<b>584,328</b>	<b>607,384</b>	<b>606,869</b>

### Performance Measures:

This agency measures performance by tracking appointments to represent indigent defendants, completion of cases, resource assistance provided, assistance to indigent civil legal service providers, savings to counties and assurance of competent and fair representation of defendants in criminal cases.

## Agency 94 - Commission On Public Advocacy Program 426 - Legal Services Aid

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### Program Objectives:

To provide State aid for providers of legal civil services to the indigent.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	700,781	870,000	870,000	870,000	870,000	870,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>700,781</b>	<b>870,000</b>	<b>870,000</b>	<b>870,000</b>	<b>870,000</b>	<b>870,000</b>

### Performance Measures:

This agency measures performance by funds actually provided to qualifying indigent civil legal service providers after establishing eligibility criteria and the application process.

## Agency 94 - Commission On Public Advocacy Program 575 - Byrne Grants

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### Program Objectives:

1. To create and maintain balance in the criminal justice system.
2. To reduce the financial burden on county property taxes.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	49,580	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	150,124	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>199,704</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Performance Measures:

This agency measures performance by tracking appointments to represent indigent defendants, completion of cases, savings to counties and assurance of competent and fair representation of defendants in criminal cases.