

Agency 94 - Commission On Public Advocacy

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 provide 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 also shall 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 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: Providing quality legal representation for persons accused of crimes who cannot afford to hire an attorney, to reduce the costs for counties to provide constitutionally mandated legal representation of indigent citizens of this state, to increase accountability for the state and to develop fair criteria for civil legal service providers to receive funds to help and assist indigent citizens with direct civil legal services.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	506,846	451,217	451,217	467,854	451,217	488,339
Cash Fund	50,743	940,000	940,000	940,000	940,000	940,000
Federal Fund	121,535	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	679,124	1,391,217	1,391,217	1,407,854	1,391,217	1,428,339

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Program 425 - Operations

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 FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	467,441	451,217	451,217	467,854	451,217	488,339
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
Total Agency	467,441	521,217	521,217	537,854	521,217	558,339

Performance Measures:

This agency measures performance by tracking appointments to represent indigent defendants, completion of cases, resource assistance provided, 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

Program Objectives:

To provide operating funds for providers of legal civil services to the indigent.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	50,743	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
Total Agency	50,743	870,000	870,000	870,000	870,000	870,000

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

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 FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	39,405	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	121,535	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	160,940	0	0	0	0	0

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.