

Program #15101 - Juvenile Unit
FY 2026 Proposed
Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Amanda Nadell

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

The Juvenile Unit makes the community safer, reduces juvenile delinquency, and provides fair, impartial and equitable procedures for the initiation, adjudication and disposition of allegations of delinquent conduct. This conduct includes minor misdemeanors to serious felonies—including murder, rape, and serious assaults under Senate Bill 1008. The unit works closely with the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Division in developing appropriate sanctions aimed at accountability, community protection and reformation of the child or youth. Additionally, one of the goals of this program is to pursue equity and reduce the number of youths exposed to the adult criminal system.

This unit is involved with the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). This unit provides opportunities for youth to have their matters handled informally, either through the Community Health Initiative Early Intervention Program, or through informal handling by the Juvenile Department. MCDA provides legal sufficiency screening of all referrals, to ensure that youth are held accountable only for acts that are legally sufficient. Legal sufficiency screening by non-lawyers has resulted in youth being charged inappropriately. MCDA takes more of a restorative approach with youths than the adult system. Deputy District Attorneys coordinate with the Department of Human Services, DCJ, and juvenile court counselors to serve families impacted by the system. MCDA has been engaged with system partners on the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform Transforming Juvenile Probation. As a result of this project, MCDA started a new level of informal handling; taking youth who would otherwise have a formal criminal charge. Instead, allowing them to proceed with informal handling with a step up in supervision and services ultimately ending with no criminal record. This unit also engages in Restorative Justice, by identifying cases where the harmed party supports an alternative route to case resolution than what is provided in traditional prosecution.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of cases reviewed	766	1000	750	750
Outcome	Number of cases diverted from formal system involvement	148	250	80	150

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Juvenile Trial Court: 8.685 Assisting juvenile court; right to appear. (1) The District Attorney shall, upon request of the juvenile court, appear in the juvenile court to assist the court in any matter within its jurisdiction. (2) In counties having a population of more than 150,000, according to the latest federal decennial census, the district attorney shall designate a deputy to assist the juvenile court as provided in subsection (1) of this section. [1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$1,855,061	\$0	\$1,492,940	\$0
Contractual Services	\$8,000	\$0	\$9,702	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$26,432	\$0	\$21,432	\$0
Internal Services	\$189,486	\$0	\$20,725	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$2,078,979	\$0	\$1,544,799	\$0
Program Total:	\$2,078,979		\$1,544,799	
Program FTE	8.79	0.00	7.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 15101A Juvenile Unit

To meet the FY 2026 general fund budget constraint, 1.00 FTE Deputy District Attorney 1 position has been reduced. To better align with operations, 1.00 FTE has been moved to PO 15001-Admin Support Svcs and 1.00 FTE to PO 15203-Unit A/B.