

Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Peter Simpson

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Executive Summary

The Investigations Unit assists deputy district attorneys, victim advocates, and legal staff in the investigation of cases, locating, interviewing and transporting witnesses, serving subpoenas, preparation of court exhibits, and the gathering and protecting of evidence. Often, an investigator makes the initial contact with a witness or crime victim. Investigators are excellent communicators to a diverse community and are expertly trained in cultural competence and problem solving. The backlog of trial work will lead to a spike in all forms of investigator service requests.

Program Description

The Investigations Unit is led by the Chief Investigator and staffed by experienced investigators. Every division and unit of the office utilizes investigative services. Investigators work closely with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The program provides case specific evidence gathering and evaluation, location of witnesses, witness interviews and transport for testimony, court testimony, video redaction of 911 tapes and video evidence, background investigations and personal service of subpoenas that require witness court appearance.

Investigators are a critical part of the core function of the District Attorney's Office. The Investigations Unit supports criminal prosecutions by performing tasks unique to their qualifications and skill set. Investigators perform all of the duties listed above and other critical tasks needed to support deputy district attorneys and help them protect the community and hold defendants accountable. As the community and MCDA continues to reckon with the historical truths of over-representation of persons of color in all facets of the justice system, investigators are front line ambassadors. MCDA has assembled a diverse, gifted, caring and committed investigative team, reflective of the community.

Members of the Investigations Unit have developed unique skills and are called upon every day to use those skills and learn new skills. Reviewing, compiling, and editing body worn camera data, for example. Additionally, investigators serve as the primary threat assessment team when office members are the subject of threats - including threats of bodily harm or death.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Subpoenas issued	2,020	3,000	1,900	1,725
Outcome	Subpoenas served	461	700	500	450

Performance Measures Descriptions

Target reductions for next year are a result of proposed elimination of 2.00 DA Investigators to meet budget constraint. These positions were restored in 15402B. See 15402B for supplemental performance metrics.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$929,188	\$0	\$1,366,922	\$100,000
Materials & Supplies	\$24,500	\$0	\$24,500	\$0
Internal Services	\$235,521	\$0	\$262,628	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,189,209	\$0	\$1,654,050	\$100,000
Program Total:	\$1,189,209		\$1,754,050	
Program FTE	6.06	0.00	8.32	0.68

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$491,202	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Service Charges	\$0	\$0	\$971,601	\$0
Total Revenue	\$491,202	\$0	\$971,601	\$100,000

Explanation of Revenues

General Fund ~ City of Portland IGA (Direct Revenue): \$505,047 - funds 3.00 FTE investigators

General Fund ~ Gresham Police Department IGA (Direct Revenue): \$149,929 - funds 1.00 FTE investigator

General Fund ~ TriMet IGA (Direct Revenue): \$316,625 - funds 2.00 FTE investigators

Direct Federal Fund ~ Hate Crimes Response & Initiative Supplemental Grant: \$100,000 - funds 0.68 FTE investigator

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 15402 Investigations

Moved 1.0 FTE DA Investigator position from PO 15304B Gun Violence Case Backlog to this program offer to align with operations; Added 1.0 FTE DA Investigator position from within general fund constraint. In FY 2024, this position was funded with one-time-only general fund. This position is assigned to Gun-Violence case backlog; Added .71 FTE DA Investigator position funded by a grant; Moved 1.0 FTE DA Investigator position from PO 15207A MAAP to this program offer to align with operations; Added 2.0 FTE DA Investigator positions funded by a service inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with Trimet; Moved .56 FTE DA Investigator position from PO 15021 JIU to this program offer to align with operations.