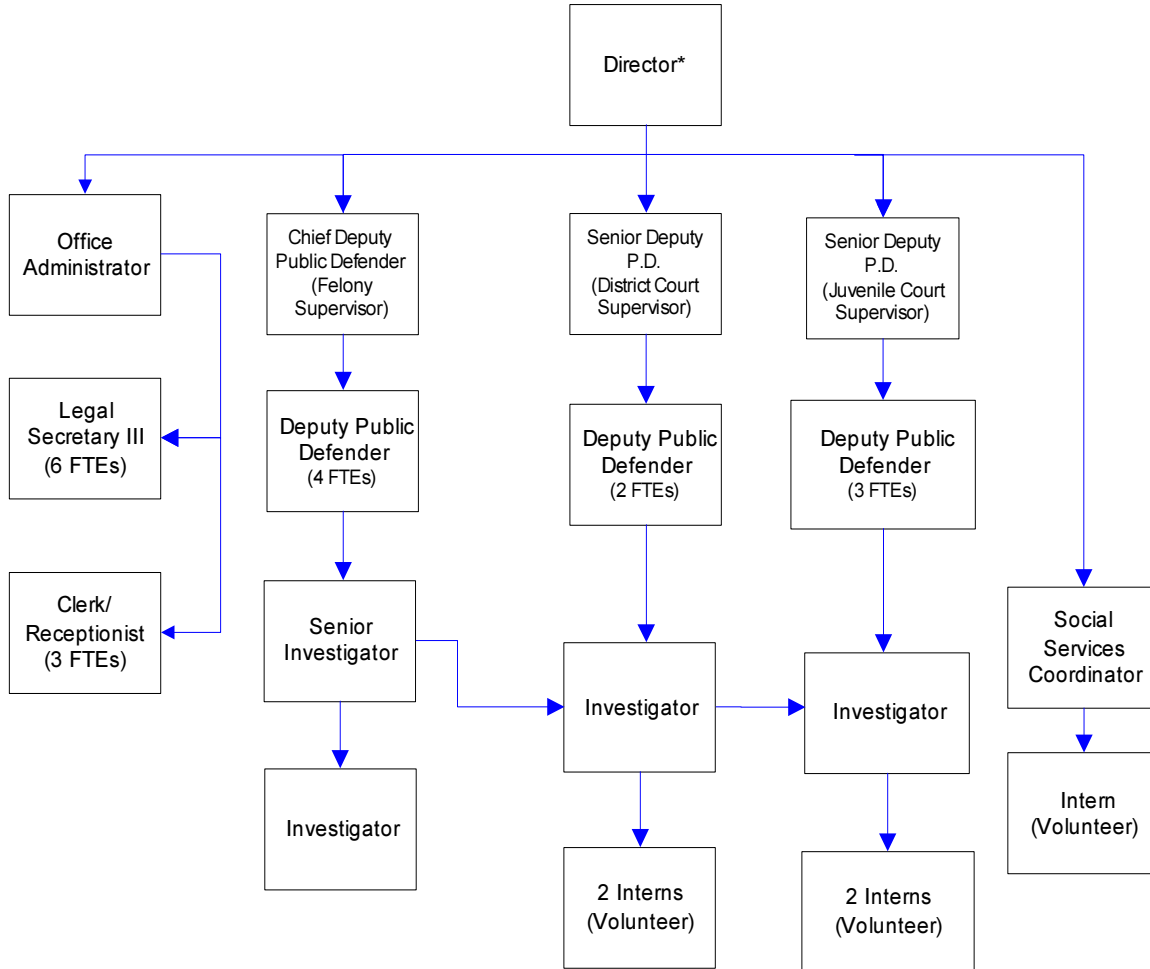


Public Defender's Office



**Director to carry a half-time caseload.*

Mission & Objectives

Mission

The Public Defender's Office was created in 1982 by county ordinance pursuant to RCW 36.26 and mandated to provide legal representation for those who cannot afford an attorney and who are entitled to legal defense at public expense pursuant to the constitutions of the United States and the State of Washington, or pursuant to statute. The overall mission of the department is to provide high quality legal representation as efficiently and economically as possible, while maintaining the confidence of clients that they are receiving competent and skilled representation.

Objectives

- Work toward bringing our caseloads closer to national and state standards. The Whatcom County Law and Justice Plan recommends that staffing of the Public Defender's Office be increased to meet these standards, per Goal 2B of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan. Although slight progress has been made in adult felonies and misdemeanor caseloads, our caseloads in juvenile criminal and civil cases continue to increase. Dependency filings have doubled in the last year and we have been advised by Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) that this trend will continue in 2002. To actually bring our present caseloads per attorney down to national standards would require the addition of six new attorneys to this office.
- Continue to work with the other branches of the criminal justice system and DSHS to plan, develop and implement additional juvenile and family drug courts and to study the feasibility

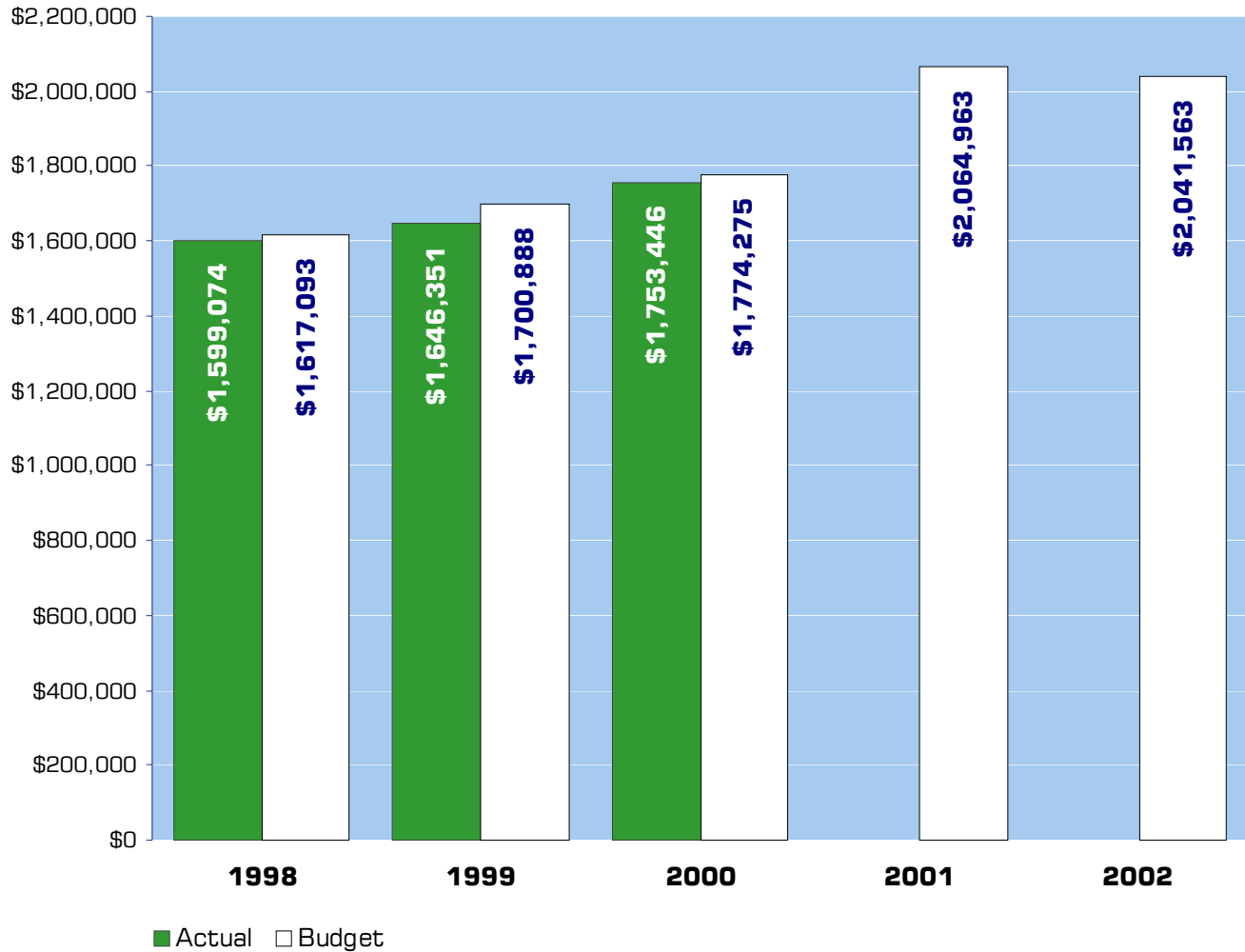
of establishing other drug and specialty courts within the Whatcom County criminal justice system. We believe that the Adult Drug Court will be able to expand to its full capacity of approximately 70 participants by the end of 2001.

- Implement a case weighting system for internal case management and performance evaluation. Since the office was established in 1982 we have measured performance and caseloads by the most simple method, that is, counting numbers of cases assigned to each attorney and total numbers of cases. However, not all cases are equal. In order to more effectively measure the work load and performance of each attorney, as well as the overall office work load, we would like to try to implement a case weighting system. The National Legal Aid and Defender Association has encouraged defender offices across the country to implement this system. However, implementation and effective use of the system does require more work on the part of the attorneys and requires record keeping of actual time spent on cases. For this reason we have resisted implementing this system in the past. The implementation of this system, which would more effectively measure performance, is consistent with Goal 1B of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan.
- Reach out to the community. In 2002 we hope to meet regularly with representatives of the Nooksack and Lummi Tribes, as well as the Whatcom County Hispanic community to determine how we can better serve the members of these communities who are our clients. We also plan to determine what resources these various communities can

Objectives continued

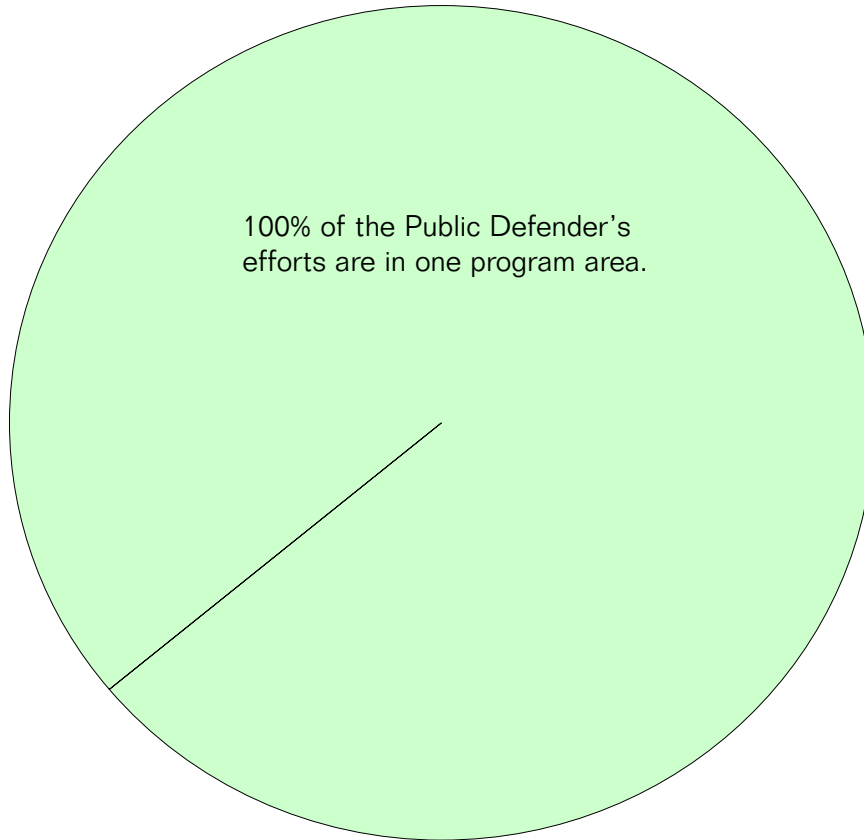
- provide to our clients to help them help themselves break the cycle of involvement with the criminal justice system. At the same time we intend to try to meet regularly with other community organizations, such as churches, service clubs, the university, and mental health and drug and alcohol services, to determine how we can better serve our clients and what resources can be made available to provide assistance to our clients in becoming productive, law-abiding citizens. This goal is consistent with Goals 3A and 6A of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan. Public defender offices are also being encouraged nationally to reach beyond their traditional roles to better serve their clients.
- Seek appropriate grant funds. As mentioned above, the federal government is encouraging public defender offices to reach beyond their traditional roles to better serve their clients. We believe that there are federal grants available for which we may be eligible. We hope to apply for appropriate grants which will help us better serve our clients and which will benefit Whatcom County as a whole. This goal is consistent with Goal 4B of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan.
 - Improve and expand attorney and staff training. It is imperative that we increase and improve both out of house and in house training for our attorneys, investigators, and social worker in 2002, as well as management training opportunities for our supervisors. This is consistent with Goal 5B of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan and is very important for the morale of the staff. The attorney training is mandated.
 - Arrange for an outside audit of the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office. In July of 2002, this office will have been in existence for 20 years. It is time that we arranged an outside audit of the performance of this office, to include management, procedures and policies. Such audits have recently been performed in the Spokane Public Defender's Office and the King County public defender system by the Spangenburg Group operating out of Boston. Representatives of American University in Washington, D.C. have indicated they may be able to assist in arranging an evaluation for this office. We will arrange such an evaluation, if possible, at no cost to the County.
 - Review job descriptions for all staff in the Public Defender's Office and begin to develop the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office.

Expenditure Trends



NOTE: Capital expenditures and interfund operating transfers are not shown to more accurately reflect ongoing operational costs.

2002 Budget by Program



NOTE: Capital expenditures are not shown to more accurately reflect ongoing operational costs.

Program Summary

	Actual 1998	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Budget 2001	Budget 2002	\$ Change 2001 to 2002	% Change 2001 to 2002
OPERATIONS							
General Fund							
2650 Public Defender	1,594,228	1,646,351	1,753,446	1,805,472	1,992,499	187,027	10.36%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney	-	-	-	259,491	49,064	(210,427)	-81.09%
2670 Civil Commitments	4,846	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
<i>Total Public Defender Operations</i>	<i>1,599,074</i>	<i>1,646,351</i>	<i>1,753,446</i>	<i>2,064,963</i>	<i>2,041,563</i>	<i>(23,400)</i>	<i>-1.13%</i>
CAPITAL							
General Fund							
2650 Public Defender	38,115	-	-	4,800	-	(4,800)	-100.00%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney	-	-	-	11,348	-	(11,348)	-100.00%
<i>Total Public Defender Capital</i>	<i>38,115</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>16,148</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(16,148)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
TRANSFERS							
General Fund							
2650 Public Defender	-	-	-	15,692	-	(15,692)	-100.00%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney	-	-	-	1,457	-	(1,457)	-100.00%
<i>Total Public Defender Transfers</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>17,149</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(17,149)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
TOTAL PUBLIC DEFENDER	1,637,189	1,646,351	1,753,446	2,098,260	2,041,563	(56,697)	-2.70%

2002 Funding Sources

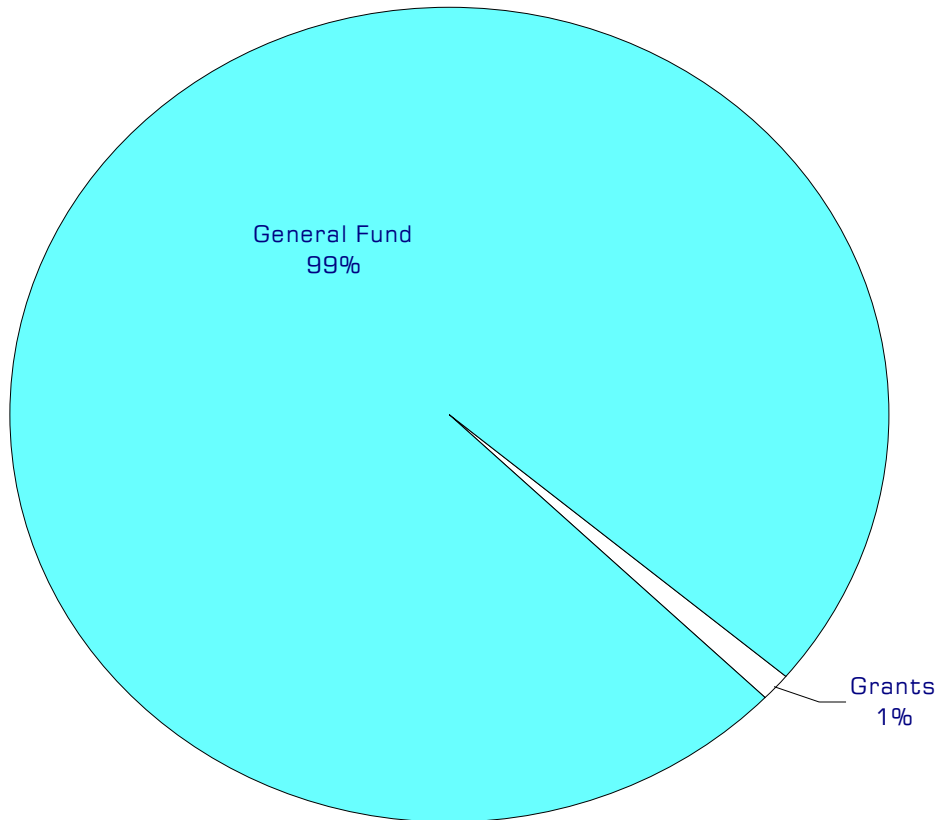
Grants	21,537
General Fund	2,020,026
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Total Funding	2,041,563

Grants

Revenue received from the State of Washington, based on the funding model for the Becca Bill.

General Fund

Undedicated General Fund resources.



Performance / Activity Measures

Actual 1998	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Projected 2001	Projected 2002
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Public Defender					
Felonies	1,128	1,123	1,218	1,102	1,250
Probation Violations (Sup/Dist Cts)	793	839	794	826	800
Misdemeanors	1,656	1,454	1,405	1,342	1,300
Juvenile (Delinquency)	1,653	1,323	1,174	1,212	1,250
Juvenile (Probation)	651	726	742	894	900
Juvenile (Dependency)	170	153	137	138	150
Mental/Alcohol Commitments	186	240	212	204	210
Appeals/Other	46	54	35	28	40
Total	6,283	5,912	5,717	5,746	5,900

Expenditures Summary

	Actual 1998	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Budget 2001	Budget 2002	\$ Change 2001 to 2002	% Change 2001 to 2002
GENERAL FUND							
2650 Public Defender							
Salaries & Wages	1,061,172	1,124,463	1,184,104	1,179,965	1,338,635	158,670	13.45%
Benefits	273,850	286,864	273,376	295,103	331,731	36,628	12.41%
Supplies	30,385	24,239	23,266	41,939	29,760	(12,179)	-29.04%
Other Services & Charges	228,821	210,785	272,700	288,465	292,373	3,908	1.35%
Capital Outlay	38,115	-	-	4,800	-	(4,800)	-100.00%
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	15,692	-	(15,692)	-100.00%
<i>Total Public Defender</i>	1,632,343	1,646,351	1,753,446	1,825,964	1,992,499	166,535	9.12%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney							
Salaries & Wages	-	-	-	162,666	26,049	(136,617)	-83.99%
Benefits	-	-	-	31,736	6,173	(25,563)	-80.55%
Supplies	-	-	-	3,680	700	(2,980)	-80.98%
Other Services & Charges	-	-	-	61,409	16,142	(45,267)	-73.71%
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	11,348	-	(11,348)	-100.00%
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	1,457	-	(1,457)	-100.00%
<i>Total Public Defender-Kinney</i>	-	-	-	272,296	49,064	(223,232)	-81.98%
2670 PD - Civil Commitment							
Other Services & Charges	4,846	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
<i>Total Civil Commitments</i>	4,846	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL PUBLIC DEFENDER	1,637,189	1,646,351	1,753,446	2,098,260	2,041,563	(56,697)	-2.70%

