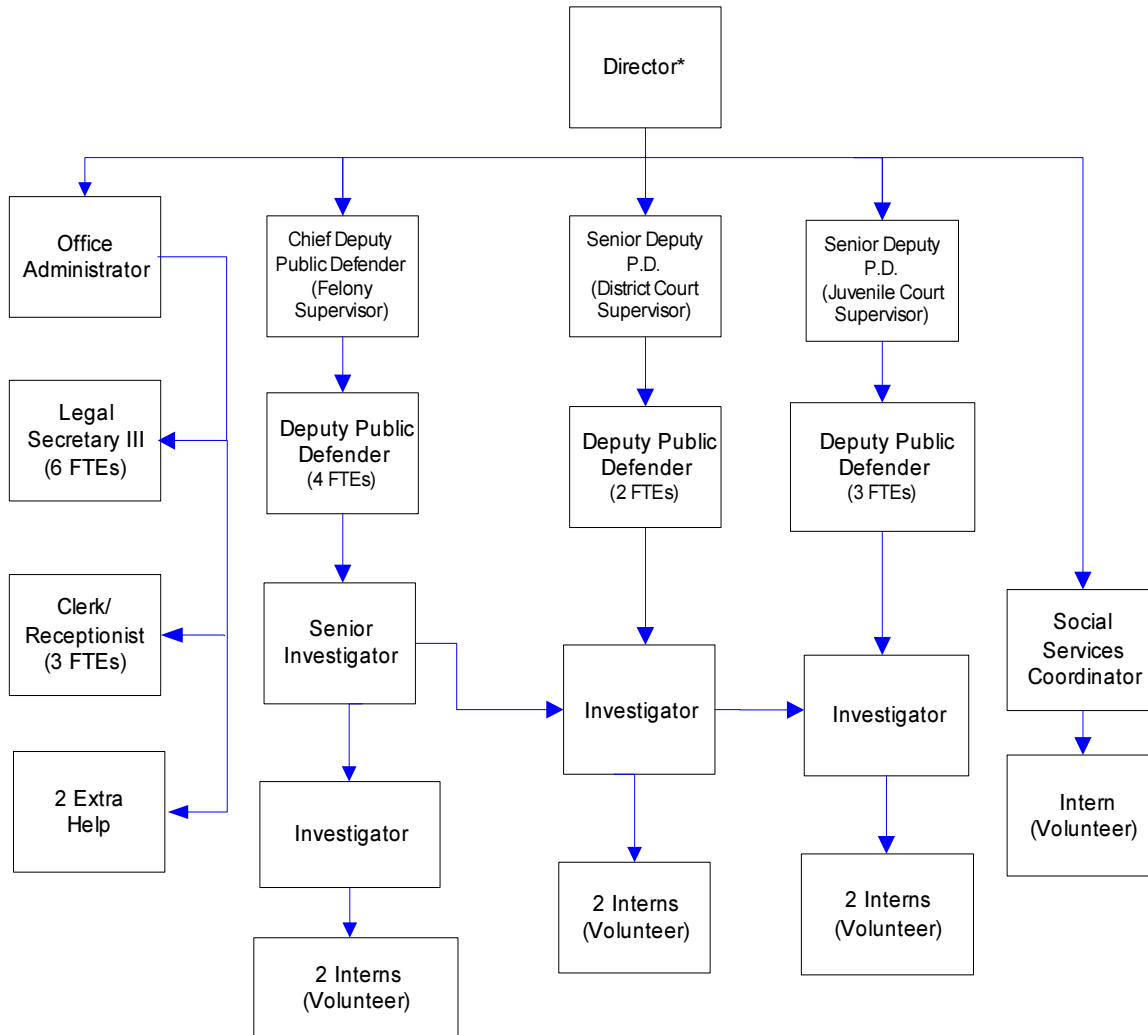


Public Defender's Office



**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.

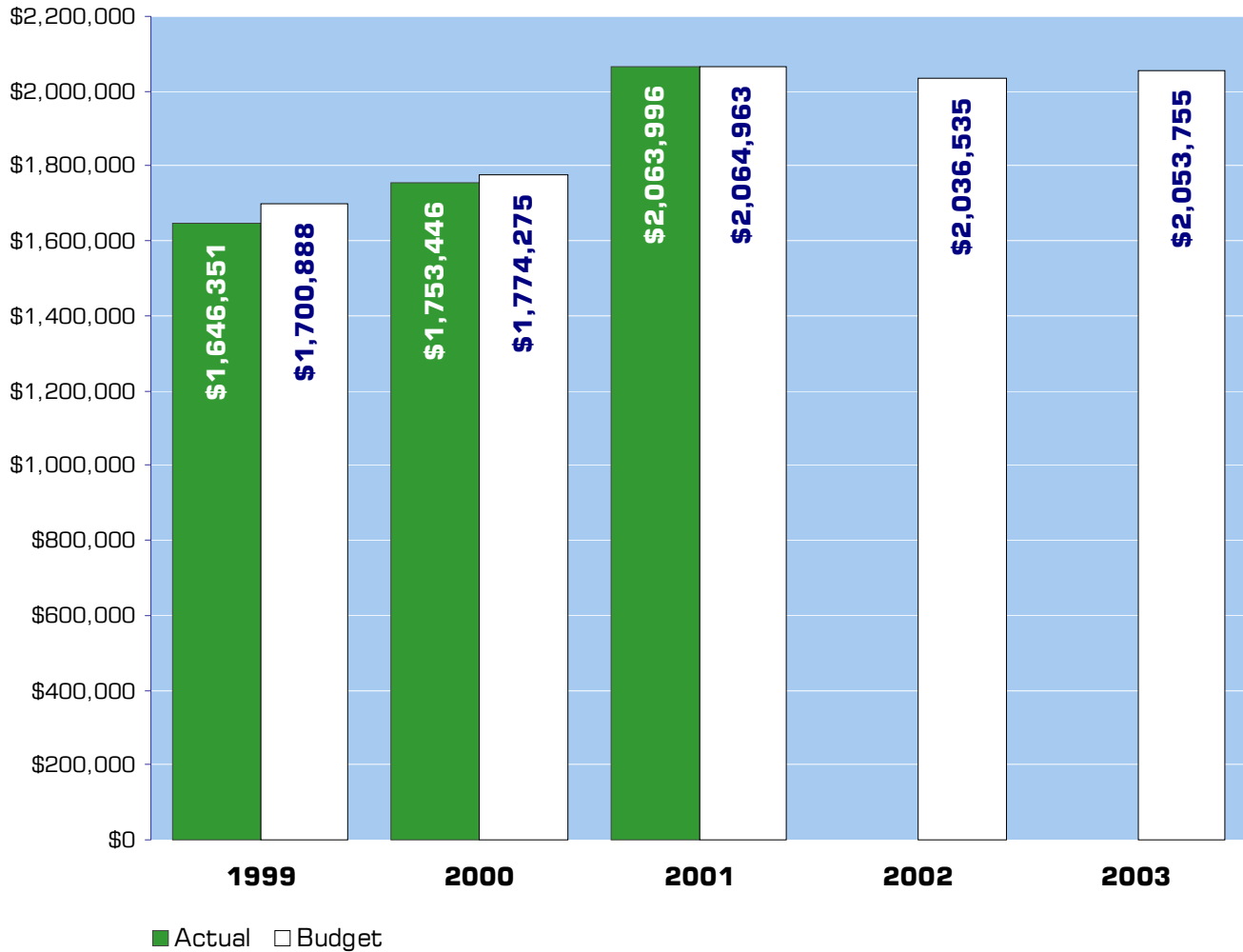
Objectives

- To continue to provide competent representation to each of our clients. This is both a constitutional and an ethical requirement. It must always remain as the core objective and mission of the Public Defender's Office. With increasing adult felony caseloads and budgetary restrictions this becomes increasingly difficult, but remains mandatory.
- 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. To date in 2002 both our adult felony and misdemeanor cases have increased substantially (approximately 10%) and the juvenile civil cases have increased by 20%, with only a slight decrease in juvenile delinquency filings. This objective can only be met if our caseload decreases, which is subject to the crime rate in Whatcom County, the arrest rate, and the exercise of discretion of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. If our caseload does not decrease this goal can only be met through an increase in attorney staffing.
- Continue to work with other branches of the criminal justice system, the Department of Social and Health Services, and the Attorney General's Office to continue the implementation and expansion of drug courts and family treatment courts in Whatcom County. However, it should be noted that our ability to expand support to these various drug courts is limited by our other caseloads. Drug courts, at both the adult and juvenile level, have proven to be highly effective in reducing criminal behavior and curing chemical dependency. Our local adult drug court, in existence since 1999, has proven to be extremely successful. There is hope that we will be able to join with the rest of the criminal justice system to continue to support and expand these drug courts.
- Continue to attempt to reach out to the community. In the past year we have kept contact with representatives of both the Nooksack and Lummi tribes and have worked with the Lummi Tribal Drug Court. However, we hope to increase our efforts to reach out to other community groups, such as the Hispanic community, as well as other community organizations, to determine how better we can serve our clients and what additional resources can be made available to provide assistance to our clients. One specific objective is an initiative to work with Columbia

Objectives continued

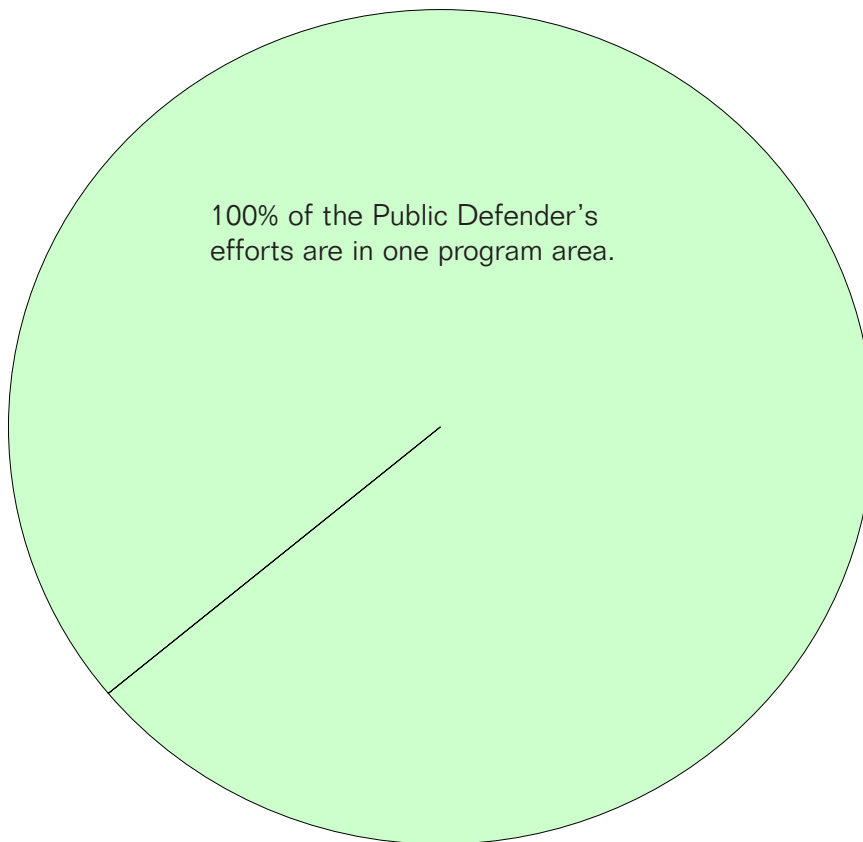
- Legal Services to provide more holistic legal services to our mental health clients beyond what we can provide only within the context of criminal charges. These goals are consistent with Goals 3A and 6A of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan.
- We continue to seek appropriate grant funds which we are eligible to apply for and that would fit within our mission to help better serve our clients and which might also benefit Whatcom County as a whole. This goal is consistent with Goal 4B of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan.
 - Study possible implementation of a case weighting system for internal case management and performance evaluation. This is a carry over from a prior goal. However, to date this office has not had the staffing or time available to establish an internal case weighting system. However, the King County public defender offices, through the King County Office of Public Defense, is attempting to set up a case weighting system. This is expected to be accomplished by the end of 2002 and we, as well as the other county public defender offices, expect to evaluate the King County model to determine its applicability at other county public defender offices, including ours. Not all cases are equal and in order to more effectively measure the work load and performance of each attorney, as well as the overall office work load, the case weighting system would much more accurately and realistically document work load and performance than the current simple case counting method. The National Legal Aid and Defender Association has encouraged public defender offices across the country to implement this system. Implementation of this system is consistent with Goal 1B of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan.
 - Continue the development of a Policy 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.

2003 Budget by Program



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

Program Summary

	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Actual 2001	Budget 2002	Budget 2003	\$ Change 2002 to 2003	% Change 2002 to 2003
OPERATIONS							
General Fund							
2650 Public Defender	1,646,351	1,753,446	1,818,220	1,987,471	2,053,755	66,284	3.34%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney	-	-	245,776	49,064	-	(49,064)	-100.00%
<i>Total Public Defender Operations</i>	1,646,351	1,753,446	2,063,996	2,036,535	2,053,755	17,220	0.85%
CAPITAL							
General Fund							
2650 Public Defender	-	-	4,836	-	-	-	0.00%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney	-	-	10,168	-	-	-	0.00%
<i>Total Public Defender Capital</i>	-	-	15,004	-	-	-	0.00%
TRANSFERS							
General Fund							
2650 Public Defender	-	-	15,692	-	-	-	0.00%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney	-	-	1,457	-	-	-	0.00%
<i>Total Public Defender Transfers</i>	-	-	17,149	-	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL PUBLIC DEFENDER	1,646,351	1,753,446	2,096,149	2,036,535	2,053,755	17,220	0.85%

2003 Funding Sources

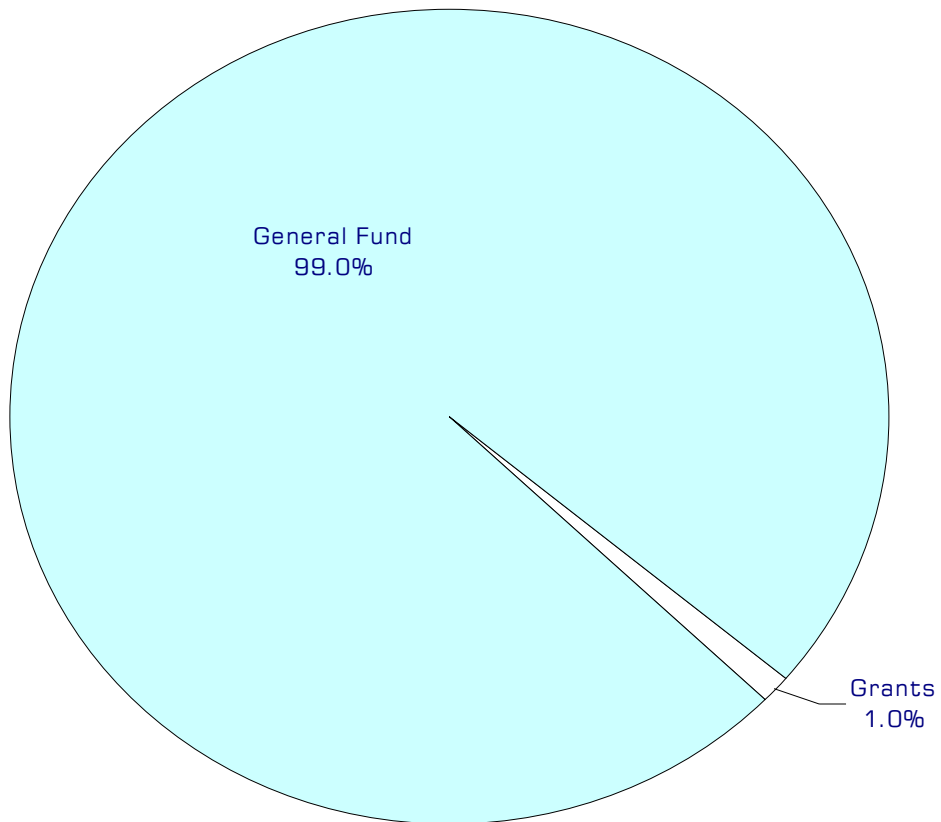
Grants	21,537
General Fund	2,032,218
<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Funding	2,053,755

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 1999	Actual 2000	Actual 2001	Projected 2002	Projected 2003
Felonies	1,123	1,218	1,193	1,316	1,400
Probation Violations (Sup/Dist Cts)	839	794	757	586	400
Misdemeanors	1,454	1,405	1,211	1,330	1,350
Juvenile (Delinquency)	1,323	1,174	987	962	975
Juvenile (Probation)	726	742	791	678	700
Juvenile (Dependency)	153	137	139	167	180
Mental/Alcohol Commitments	240	212	235	230	230
Appeals/Other	54	35	24	42	40
Total	5,912	5,717	5,337	5,310	5,275

Expenditures Summary

	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Actual 2001	Budget 2002	Budget 2003	\$ Change 2002 to 2003	% Change 2002 to 2003
GENERAL FUND							
2650 Public Defender							
Salaries & Wages	1,124,463	1,184,104	1,174,566	1,333,879	1,372,202	38,323	2.87%
Benefits	286,864	273,376	320,360	331,259	346,054	14,795	4.47%
Supplies	24,239	23,266	36,155	29,760	33,380	3,620	12.16%
Other Services & Charges	210,785	272,700	287,139	292,573	302,119	9,546	3.26%
Capital Outlay	-	-	4,836	-	-	-	0.00%
Operating Transfers	-	-	15,692	-	-	-	0.00%
<i>Total Public Defender</i>	1,646,351	1,753,446	1,838,748	1,987,471	2,053,755	66,284	3.34%
2655 Public Defender-Kinney							
Salaries & Wages	-	-	150,118	26,049	-	(26,049)	-100.00%
Benefits	-	-	35,442	6,173	-	(6,173)	-100.00%
Supplies	-	-	4,699	700	-	(700)	-100.00%
Other Services & Charges	-	-	55,517	16,142	-	(16,142)	-100.00%
Capital Outlay	-	-	10,168	-	-	-	0.00%
Operating Transfers	-	-	1,457	-	-	-	0.00%
<i>Total Public Defender-Kinney</i>	-	-	257,401	49,064	-	(49,064)	-100.00%
TOTAL PUBLIC DEFENDER	1,646,351	1,753,446	2,096,149	2,036,535	2,053,755	17,220	0.85%

