



Community Safety and Justice

Nicole Gorle

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

ECAF: 2024-2909

Motion: 24-519

Type:

- Contract
- Board Appt.
- Code Amendment
- Budget Action
- Other

Requested Handling:

- Normal
- Expedite
- Urgent

Fund Source:

- General Fund
- Other
- N/A

Executive Rec:

- Approve
- Do Not Approve
- N/A

Approved as to

Form:

- Yes
- No – State Contract
- N/A

Subject: Washington State – Indigent Defense Improvement Funds

Scope: Motion 24-519 would approve an agreement between the State Office of Public Defense and Snohomish County, under which the State will provide the County with \$451,616.13 of indigent defense improvement funds for the purpose of improving the quality of legal representation.

The Agreement stipulates that the County will use the funds to add additional attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads.

Duration: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Fiscal Impact: Current Year Multi-Year N/A

Expenditures	Current Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Fund 002	\$451,616.13					\$451,616.13
Total's	\$451,616.13	0	0	0	0	\$451,616.13

Revenue	Current Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Fund 002	\$451,616.13					\$451,616.13
Total's	\$451,616.13	0	0	0	0	\$451,616.13

Authority Granted: For the Executive to execute the agreement.

Background: Chapter 10.101 RCW established a grant program to improve public defense services within local jurisdictions of Washington State. The statute outlines a procedure for allocation and expenditure of these indigent defense improvement funds. If funds are set aside by the legislature for this purpose, jurisdictions can apply to the [Washington State Office of Public Defense](#) for a portion of these funds.¹ The Snohomish County Office of Public Defense applied and has been awarded funding for 2025.

Requested Action: Move to GLS January 22nd for consideration.

¹ 2024 Award – [ECAF 2023-1396](#) (Scope – Creating or expanding a county or regional public defense agency)

2023 Award – [ECAF 2022-1249](#) (Scope – increase defense attorney compensation)