

Annual Report of the Commission on Indigent Defense Services

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



**Submitted to the
North Carolina General Assembly
Pursuant to G.S. 7A-498.9
March 15, 2026**



Wake County APD Alexis Strombotne shows up for a client wanting to accept a plea deal in district court.

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Our Statutory Charge

The Office of Indigent Defense Services is required to:

- *enhance oversight of the delivery of counsel and related services provided at State expense;*
- *improve the quality of representation and ensure the independence of counsel;*
- *establish uniform policies and procedures for the delivery of services;*
- *generate reliable statistical information to evaluate the services provided and funds expended; and*
- *deliver services in the most cost-effective manner without sacrificing quality representation.*

Working closely with the IDS Commission, the IDS Executive Director and staff continuously evaluate cost and effectiveness of existing policies to ensure that quality representation is provided in a fiscally responsible manner.

In addition to oversight and policy work, IDS provides direct support to public defense attorneys through regional defenders, forensic resource counsel, and contract consulting attorneys. IDS's fiscal staff oversee attorney fee payments as well as agency spending and revenue collections.

SAFEGUARDINGJUSTICE

IDS Organizational Structure



About Us*

The 13-member volunteer **Commission on Indigent Defense Services** (The Commission) was established by the General Assembly in 2000. Since that time, the Commission has provided the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS) and the North Carolina public defense community oversight and guidance to through periods of growth and austerity. The Commission and its various committees develop and improve programs by which IDS provides legal representation to indigent persons.

Indigent Defense Services administers the North Carolina public defense system, provides administrative support to the local Public Defender and Statewide Defender Offices; administers the PAC fund; and administers individually negotiated and large-scale contracts for services.

Public Defender Offices provide criminal and non-criminal trial level defense to eligible people in 28 Defenders Districts. Chief Public Defenders for each district are appointed through a statutory process by the Senior Resident Superior Court

Judge to serve four-year terms. Chief PDs and Assistant PDs are state employed defenders.

Five **Statewide Defender Offices** provide oversight and supervision in specialized areas of the law. The Chiefs of each office are appointed by the Commission to serve four-year terms. They administer rosters of specialized attorneys; supervise in-house attorneys; and work with legislators, court actors, and other stakeholder groups on court improvement initiatives. The State Defenders and their Assistants are state employed defenders.

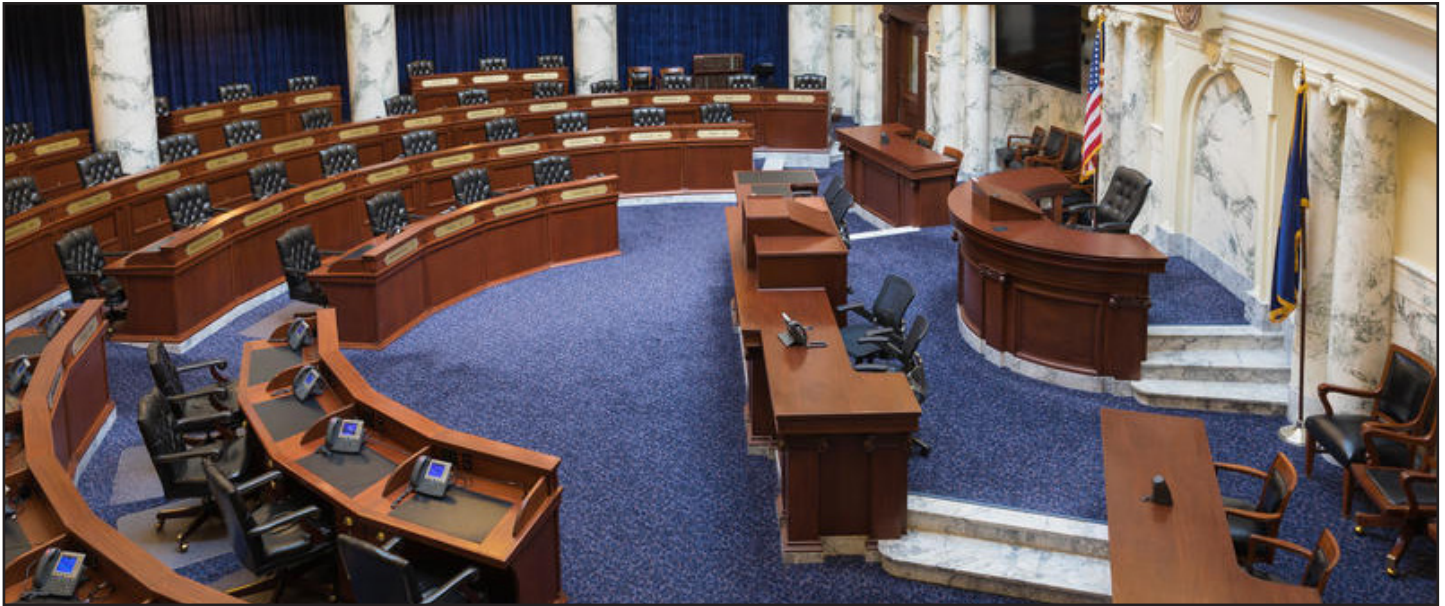
Private Assigned Counsel, often referred to as “PAC,” are private attorneys who agree to accept appointment for eligible clients for an hourly rate or other arrangement. They are independent contractors. In districts/counties without a public defender, IDS must rely on local volunteer bar committees to enforce the standards for performance and qualifications set forth in IDS’s Uniform Appointment Plans.

IDS Contract Counsel refers to a subset of PAC who contract with IDS to cover specified case types. IDS administers the Managed Assigned Counsel or “MAC” program, a 17-county system where private attorneys contract with IDS to provide representation in adult criminal defense. IDS also administers contracts statewide for non-criminal cases, including civil commitment, juvenile, and parent defense cases.

IDS employs two **Regional Defenders** who provide guidance, consultations, training and additional support to attorneys who are part of the Managed Assigned Counsel (MAC), also referred to as IDS Contract Counsel.

North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services is a non-profit, public service law firm that provides legal advice and assistance to people incarcerated in the state in response to the United States Supreme Court decision in *Bounds v. Smith*, 430 U.S. 817 (1977). IDS contracts with NCPLS to fulfill North Carolina’s constitutional obligation to provide inmates with access to court.

*This section describes what public defense in North Carolina looks like as of March 15, 2026.



N.C. House of Representatives

Legislative Requests

IDS Budget Expansion Requests for the 2025-27 Biennium

The Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS) requests the General Assembly's consideration of the following budget expansion items. These investments will ensure legal representation statewide, fulfill North Carolina's constitutional obligations, improve court efficiency, and leverage new technology to manage costs.

Priority #1 Private Assigned Counsel (PAC) Funding

Non-recurring: FY2026-27: \$15M

To ensure the solvency of the PAC fund for FY2026-27, IDS requests a one-time appropriation of \$15 million. The expected budget for FY2026-27, in the absence of a new appropriations act, allocates \$69 million to PAC, while actual trends indicate a need closer to \$85 million.

The FY2023-25 biennial budget established eight new public defender offices by shifting funds from the PAC fund. However, it can take 18 to 24 months for a new PD office to become fully operational and

absorb up to 75% of PAC demand. Consequently, PAC funding is still required to compensate private attorneys for all pending cases assigned prior to the expansion.

Early returns indicate noticeable decreases in PAC demand in the districts with newly established PD offices. The demand elsewhere in the state, including districts with existing PD offices, is increasing. A table is provided in the Appendix with PAC demand by county. IDS continues to research the drivers of increased PAC demand which are believed to be increased number of capital cases following the pandemic, increased time out of court reviewing digital discovery materials, and additional attorney case time due to the implementation of eCourts.

Priority #2

Additional Staffing in Response to HB307, Iryna's Law

Recurring: FY2026-27: \$4.09M

Non-recurring: FY2026-27: \$181K

Additional staff in the Offices of the Capital (OCD) and Appellate Defenders (OAD) and Defender District 26 (Mecklenburg County) will enable the public defense system to meet new demands placed on it by Iryna's Law and mitigate the risk of courtroom inefficiency, unnecessary delay, and increased cost to the State.

The 24-month deadlines imposed by Sections 6(a) and 6(b) of HB307 create an immediate and compounding efficiency problem at the appellate and post-conviction level. IDS already is struggling to recruit post-conviction counsel for nearly 30 pending capital cases, and the pool of roster attorneys willing to accept these appointments is insufficient to meet current demand, let alone the accelerated pace required by HB307. Cases that lack assigned counsel cannot proceed, meaning the statutory deadlines imposed by the General Assembly will be missed not because courts are slow, but because the defense bar lacks the capacity to staff the cases.

Section 9(a) of HB307 authorizes 10 new assistant district attorney positions in Mecklenburg County. To maintain balance and ensure effective representation in response to this prosecutorial expansion, the Mecklenburg County Public Defender, which is presently understaffed, requires 10 additional assistant public defenders (APD). The additional positions are needed to preserve parity in caseload capacity and to meet constitutional requirements for effective assistance of counsel.

Staffing in the Mecklenburg Public Defender's Office has not increased since 2002 and the number of private attorneys in the county taking court appointed cases has decreased from 135 to 12. Meanwhile, the county population has grown by 39%.

The imbalance created by HB307 is made greater when county funded positions are considered. Mecklenburg County currently funds 13 more ADA positions than it does APD positions. Because cases

cannot progress through the courts unless both the state and defendant are represented, increasing the number of prosecutors without also increasing the number of defense attorneys risks further delays. Defense counsel who are overextended are unable to prepare cases on the same timeline as prosecutors, leading to continuances, delayed trials, and extended pretrial detention that burdens the jail, the court calendar, and county resources alike.

Position Request Summary

- Assistant Appellate Defenders: 5
- Assistant Capital Defenders: 5
- Administrative Assistants (split between OAD and OCD): 5
- Assistant Public Defenders (PD26): 10
- Administrative Assistants (PD26): 5

Priority #3

Indigency Determination Pilot Project

Recurring: FY2026-27: \$38K

Non-recurring: FY2026-27: \$53K

Accurately determining indigency for individuals seeking court-appointed defense attorneys is crucial to the fiscally responsible delivery of indigent defense services. The current affidavit of indigency processes can be ineffective and are prone to inaccuracies that consume valuable staff time at the back end of the process. Inaccurate collection of information or improper procedures can ultimately result in losses of revenue for IDS by way of recoupment.

The Indigency Determination Pilot Project will furnish kiosks in courthouses and local jails with tablets programmed with a user-friendly electronic application for services. Applicants will use these devices to input their personal and financial information, and the program will verify identity through CLEAR or a similar identity verification service. This automated system aims to ensure the collection of accurate data, simplify decision making, and provide users with clearer instructions and better guidance to inform their decision about whether to seek court-appointed counsel. The pilot will establish whether implementing such a program statewide would increase recoupment revenues and possibly decrease demand for services.

IDS will determine pilot locations through outreach to the judges and clerks of court and will pilot in rural, suburban, and urban locations. A special provision

ensuring participation by three such jurisdictions might be helpful even though several judicial actors have expressed interest in participation.

Future Legislative Requests

IDS Budget Expansion Requests for the 2027-29 Biennium

Due to the absence of a biennial budget for FY2025-27, IDS has additional requests that were made during the previous long session budget deliberations and will be resubmitted during the next biennial budget deliberations. These requests include:

Increase the Private Assigned Counsel (PAC) Rates

Recurring: \$45.08M
Non-recurring: \$684K

PAC rates have only increased once since 2011, and the increased rate still is \$10 an hour less in district court than it was in 2011. The rates remain significantly below inflation-adjusted levels of \$105–\$150 per hour. Low rates hinder attorney recruitment and retention, leading to longer pretrial detentions, delayed trials, and reduced defense quality.

Shift Financial Services Staff to Appropriations

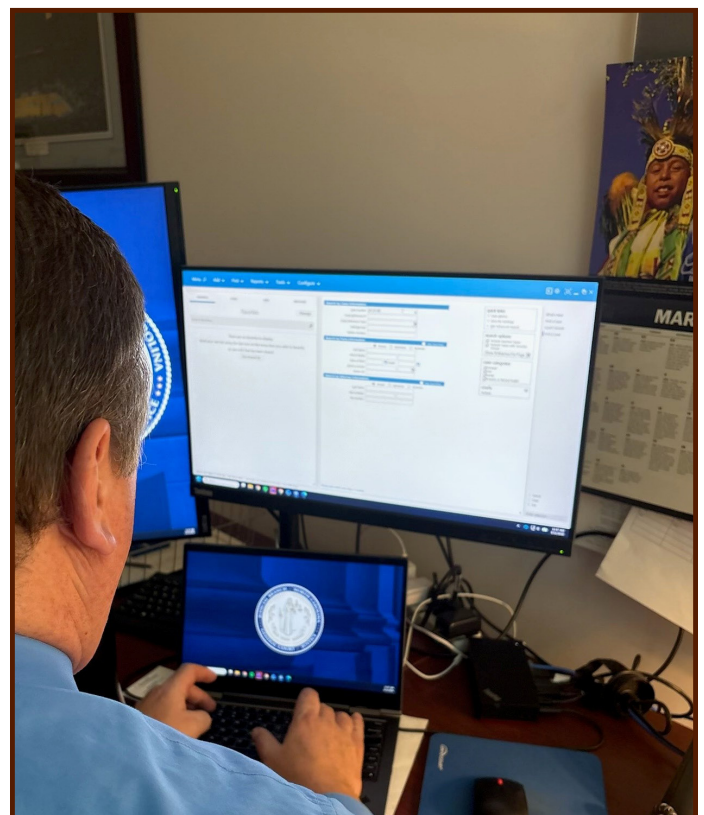
Recurring: \$546K

Six IDS financial services staff are currently funded through court-ordered recoupment and Set-off Debt collections. This shift would fund these positions with appropriations and free up PAC funds for direct defense services and prevent potential staffing disruptions caused by unpredictable collections.

Fund Broader Access to Digital Discovery (Axon Justice Licenses)

Recurring: \$530K

IDS seeks Axon Justice licenses for 500 users across Public Defender and Capital Defender offices in order to improve case preparation, align IDS technology with District Attorney offices, reduce trial delays, and facilitate compliance with the bars six-year file retention rule.



Wake County APD John Akins combs through some digital discovery using Axon Justice.

Actions to Improve Quality and Cost-Effectiveness

Quality of Service Delivery

IDS is committed to ensuring qualified lawyers are available for indigent cases in all of North Carolina’s 100 counties.

The Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to effective assistance of counsel. Yet lawyers burdened by excessive caseloads struggle to adequately balance courtroom appearances, case preparation, increased technological demands including digital discovery, and client communications, directly undermining this constitutional right.

To fulfill that commitment, IDS follows the roadmap established by the 2017 NC Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice (NCCALJ Report), developed by a group of judicial stakeholders convened by former NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Martin. The report called for statewide expansion of the public defender system, backed by well-trained and adequately compensated private assigned counsel.

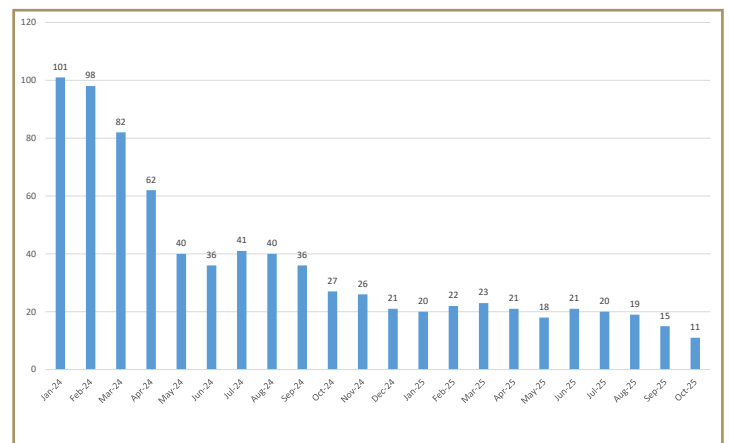
Public Defender Expansion: Status Report

FY2025 saw a significant increase in the availability of public defenders to handle cases in areas that had been struggling due to the lack of private attorneys available to take appointed cases. This is because the eight new public defender offices authorized by the FY2023-25 biennial budget staffed up and began handling more and more cases throughout the fiscal year.

With the addition of District 5, District 7, District 13, District 15, District 30, District 32 and District 43, public defender offices now operate in 27 judicial districts covering 60 counties.

IDS requested sufficient staffing to cover 75% of the caseload in the districts when it sought public defender expansion and most of the expansion offices were staffed at that level. However, staffing in the pre-expansion offices, or “legacy offices,” remains a concern. Caseloads in some legacy offices are so excessive that they threaten the offices’ ability to provide timely and effective assistance of counsel.¹ IDS plans to seek additional positions in these offices in its long session budget request.

Challenges for all public defender offices include recruiting staff in rural districts, finding conflict coverage in lawyer deserts, and an explosion in digital discovery that is both expensive to access and time-consuming to review and analyze. To address staffing issues, many of the new and legacy public defender offices have worked closely with IDS’ Recruitment and Training Coordinator. Through expanded outreach to law schools, specialized onboarding

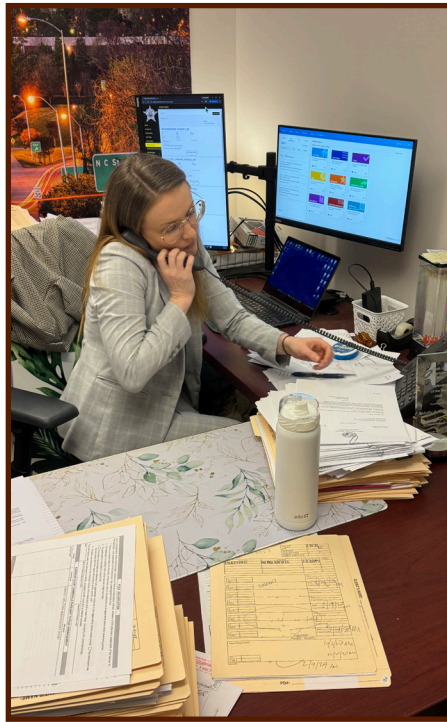


This graph shows the decline in vacancies from our newest public defender offices over time. It charts vacancies from January 2024 (when the offices were established) through October 2025.

and support programs, ongoing recruitment and retention efforts, training initiatives, and work to enhance internship opportunities, most offices now are almost fully staffed. As of March 1, 2026, the North Carolina public defender system currently has a vacancy rate of 2.86 percent, or 21 vacancies out of 733 positions.

North Carolina Chief Public Defenders have also collaborated with IDS and other judicial branch partners on initiatives to recruit and retain private assigned counsel, or PAC attorneys. For a more detailed discussion of this work see the “Building the Pipeline,” section on page 11. IDS is grateful to the General Assembly for its commitment to the expansion of the public defender system in North Carolina and looks forward to continued, measured growth in the future.

¹ In 2017, the General Assembly directed IDS to work with the National Center for State Courts to develop a “workload formula” for public defender offices. The study, which was completed in 2019, found that most existing offices were significantly understaffed. IDS currently has undertaken a NC specific workload assessment for both PD and PAC attorneys.



Top: On Mondays, public defenders cover calendar calls in multiple district courtrooms throughout the Wake County Justice Center. Bottom left: Juvenile Section Chief Mary Wilson cradles a stack of discovery (files from DSS, school, law enforcement, etc.) for just one juvenile client. Middle: Molly O'Neil handles high-level felonies in the Wake County office. Right: Na'Vonne Lewis handles DWI's/misdemeanors only; here, she works to update data for all the prior month's DWI cases.

Spotlight on... District 10, Wake County

Steady Surges in Caseloads Handled with the Same Size Team for 20 Years

When the Wake County Public Defender's Office opened in 2005, it was staffed with 31 attorneys, a number calculated to handle roughly 50% of criminal indigent defense demand in the county. Twenty-one years later, that headcount has not changed by a single position.

Wake County has grown from roughly 780,000 residents in 2005 to more than 1.2 million today, making it the largest county in North Carolina and one of the fastest growing in the nation. At the same time, the pool of private assigned

counsel (PAC) attorneys available to share the load has shrunk as experienced practitioners have retired and fewer private lawyers have chosen to take indigent assignments.

Despite those compounding pressures, the Wake County Public Defender's Office absorbs approximately 60% of all criminal indigent defense demand in the district, or 10% more than the office was originally staffed to carry.

Chief Public Defender Deonté L. Thomas credits the office's resilience to a deliberate hiring philosophy and a culture of mutual support but is candid that resilience has limits. The demand has not eased; it has only been absorbed by attorneys accustomed to punching above their weight.

Keys to Success

- **Interns as a Recruitment Pipeline**

The office has turned its intern program into its most reliable hiring tool. By bringing law students into the demanding day-to-day reality of the office before extending a job offer, the office ensures that every incoming attorney already understands the caseload. The result is a staff with a shared identity and unusual staying power, something the office relies on to maintain institutional knowledge and quality across the years.

- **Keeping the Hardest Cases In-House**

The Wake County Public Defender's Office treats complex matters as core work. Thomas believes it is incumbent on the office to absorb the most difficult cases. Keeping that work in-house protects institutional expertise, sets a standard for quality, and ensures that the most vulnerable clients receive seasoned representation.

- **Leadership That Still Tries Cases**

Chief Thomas does not manage from a distance. Even after five-plus years leading the office, he continues to personally carry cases. For Thomas, remaining an active trial lawyer is both a professional obligation and a source of credibility with his team.



Between cases, Misdemeanor Section Chief Ashleigh Powell, left, and Molly O'Neil discuss arranging Notary services for an incarcerated client who is in urgent need of power of attorney papers.

Chief Public Defender **Deonté L. Thomas**

Reflection after
an LWOP verdict



"It is important for chiefs to take on the hardest cases in the county — the ones nobody else wants... That's what we are here for."



(Left to right) Chief Thomas; Kristen Johnson, mitigation specialist; Hailey LaRock, Campbell Law L3 student intern and voir dire scribe; Tom Sallenger, co-counsel and PAC Attorney out of Wilson County; (Not pictured) Eddie Harrant, fact investigator.

From the Bench

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

Paul Ridgeway Wake County

"The public defender's office in Wake County has consistently been very well managed and attracts very high-quality criminal defense lawyers at really every level. We are lucky; it is certainly the largest criminal defense law firm in Wake County, if you look at it that way."



"Dedication alone won't continue to equip the Public Defender's Office to meet the ever-increasing workload... It just must be a priority for policy makers to fund indigent defense in our criminal justice system."

the rate has never been fully restored. When adjusted for inflation, the 2007 rates align with the \$100 per hour rate cited by respondents in the survey. Anything less than that, and attorneys report they will not make money but will in fact lose it.

Many attorneys represent indigent clients out of a sense of professional obligation and because they believe the work matters. Industry data suggests that a typical law firm spends 45–50% of gross earnings on operating costs, meaning an attorney must earn roughly twice the cost of their time just to break even. At current appointed rates, most attorneys with established practices cannot take indigent cases at volume without subsidizing those cases from other revenue, effectively losing money on every case.

Improved Payment Processing

While IDS cannot raise rates without additional appropriated funding, IDS has implemented two programs that ensure attorneys are paid timely and can forecast their cash flow, which helps the agency in recruitment and retention.



OASIS was successfully implemented statewide (for payment for all noncapital adult criminal cases at the trial level) as of December 2025. IDS staff celebrated this important milestone in January 2026. (Photo by NC AOC Photographer Roger Winstead)

OASIS

In response to processing delays caused by the implementation of Enterprise Justice (“eCourts”) IDS developed the Online Attorney State Invoice System, or “OASIS.” Developed in-house at a cost of approximately \$6,000, OASIS is now used statewide for all fee applications in adult criminal cases. Attorneys are paid within 30 days of simultaneously submitting their fee applications to the court and IDS. Because attorneys are provided with a receipt at successful submission, they know how much and when they will be paid. By the end of calendar year 2026, OASIS will expand to fee applications for parent defense, involuntary commitment, and juvenile cases.

Attorney response has been positive. As of March 9 of



“I am now getting accustomed with the File & Serve and OASIS systems, and I must say that the processing of fee applications and payment of those fee applications is much more prompt and efficient than it has ever been in the 33 years that I have been doing court appointed work. The “old way” of doing things was extremely time consuming and cumbersome for all involved parties.”

Quote from a
Halifax County PAC Attorney

this year, 735 attorneys across the state were using the system, with 47,544 invoices processed to date. The faster payments and built-in submission confirmation have reduced the administrative burden on PAC and eliminated the delays caused by lost or misdirected fee applications.

Managed Assigned Counsel

The Managed Assigned Counsel Program, referred to as “MAC,” which replaced the unit-based Request for Proposals (RFP) system in December 2022, continues to grow. As of March 1, 2026, IDS contracted with 165 attorneys. In comparison, IDS had contracts with 108 attorneys at the end of the RFP system, and 154 attorneys as of March 1, 2025. This increase has expanded indigent defense coverage and improved caseload distribution, which enhances service quality for clients. The growth suggests that the MAC system is developing a pipeline of attorneys in MAC counties who are willing to do indigent work. The MAC program is attracting more attorneys and expanding indigent defense coverage more successfully than the alternative roster model.

Central to MAC’s growth and quality of service is the Regional Defender Program. Two full-time IDS resource attorneys provide critical support to MAC attorneys, offering consultation services and roster management. Because these Regional Defenders work in the field, they also serve as IDS’s boots on the ground in MAC counties, playing a pivotal role in assessing service gaps and identifying and cultivating talent.

IDS plans to do a formal evaluation of cost-effectiveness and quality of MAC when the program has been up and running long enough for a valid assessment. A MAC system run by five to seven regional defenders may be the best complement to a statewide public defender system and would be similar to how Kentucky, Colorado, and parts of Texas deliver indigent defense services.

Key to MAC’s continued success is its payment structure. Unlike PAC attorneys who must wait until finishing a case, MAC attorneys are paid monthly for work performed the previous month, with fees and expenses invoiced to IDS reimbursed within two weeks.

DefenderData, the contract management software now fully deployed across the MAC coverage area, gives attorneys a single platform for tracking hours and case-related expenses. It provides a clear and detailed picture of their court-appointed workload and expected compensation at any given time. Together, these features meaningfully reduce the financial uncertainty that deters many attorneys from taking on court-appointed work.

Building the Pipeline: Training, Mentorship, and Recruitment

During its May 2025 meeting, the IDS Commission adopted changes to the Uniform Appointment Plan specifically designed to facilitate recruitment. Changes included relaxing certain requirements while offering expanded training and mentorship opportunities. Because these changes coincide with a broader offering of free, readily available training for private assigned counsel, IDS is hopeful that local indigent committees will be able to expand their rosters by attracting new and experienced attorneys who lack criminal law experience.

In response to IDS’s attorney incentives survey, 31% of the respondents who do not accept indigent cases indicated they are interested in court-appointed work but felt stymied by training and workload barriers. Accordingly, IDS has also enhanced and improved efforts to reach and train attorneys who may be new to indigent defense.

In 2024, IDS renegotiated its contract with its training partners at the UNC School of Government (SOG) to ensure PAC had greater access to continuing legal education. Beginning in January 2025, the School agreed to provide a minimum of six hours of online CLE free to PAC attorneys. The SOG and IDS also agreed to a 1:1 dollar match to provide scholarships to PAC attorneys to attend in-person defender training and the SOG also agreed to solicit contributions to support additional scholarships for appointed counsel to attend School-sponsored training programs at free or reduced cost. Finally, the defender education educators at the SOG are working closely with IDS resource attorneys to create and package a free “boot camp” series for attorneys interested in joining the rosters.

Another outreach project is the regional resource

libraries funded through the recruitment and training grant IDS had with IOLTA. This program will furnish courthouses or other locations with resources such as evidence courtroom manuals, pattern cross examination, and defender manuals. IDS currently plans to install at least one resource library in each judicial district but hopes to scale the project to outfit a library in all 100 counties.

IDS continues to work with its partners in the judicial branch, including James “Jimbo” S. Perry, Executive Director of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, on efforts to identify and recruit talent across the state. As a result of this partnership, the Office of the Appellate Defender will be holding a regional training in Charlotte in March 2025 for attorneys with no experience in criminal appellate work but are interested in helping. Other promising efforts include expanded outreach to law schools, distributing recruitment materials to bar exam takers, and meetings with local bars. Central to these efforts is the early identification of law students who have an interest in public defense and connecting them with attorneys who practice in the field in both urban and rural districts. The group worked closely with IOLTA during FY2025 to expand student internship funding for use by private attorneys providing indigent defense services.



Cost Effectiveness

Efforts to ensure the agency is a careful and responsible steward of taxpayer resources fall into three categories:

1. Effective allocation of resources under the public defender budget;
2. Responsible management of the Private Assigned Counsel fund; and
3. Working to maximize revenues flowing to the agency.

Allocation of Resources: The Public Defender Budget

A well-run public defender office handles as many cases as ethically possible. To manage demand effectively, public defender districts use a mix of salaried public defenders and PAC attorneys. The 2019 work study commissioned by the NCGA showed that the legacy PD offices were significantly understaffed, and a recent poll of chief public defenders showed many offices laboring under burdensome caseloads. Accordingly, IDS has full confidence that staff in every public defender office is fully utilized.

As expected, PAC demand has begun to decline steadily in the expansion public defender offices, and IDS is optimistic that those new offices will handle a healthy majority of cases in their jurisdictions and meet the IDS projection that they would handle 75% of the criminal caseload. This decline in demand, which reflects the disposition of cases assigned to PAC that originated before the offices opened. The PAC spending in those districts is expected to continue to decline over time.

IDS does not exercise supervisory authority over the chief public defenders, who are appointed by the senior resident superior court judge in their district, but in conjunction with NCAOC Human Resources does provide guidance on leadership and office management. IDS staff offers centralized support for equipment and technology purchases to ensure uniformity and cost effectiveness. IDS also manages travel budgets and reviews salary requests and adjustments to keep offices within their allotments.

Responsible Management of the Private Assigned Counsel Fund

The IDS Commission adopted revisions to Part 1 of the Rules for the Delivery of Service, which cover non-capital criminal and non-criminal cases at the trial level appointed after January 1, 2026. The changes, which were effective January 1, 2026, require attorneys to submit their fee applications within 90 days of disposition of the case. This will help IDS better monitor its cash flow and better estimate future PAC expenditures. The rule also requires attorneys to maintain their time sheets and billing records for five years and to be able to make them available for review

upon request.

The two new fee app payment systems—OASIS and DefenderData—capture more detailed billing data, strengthening audit capabilities and reducing costly errors. While most attorneys bill accurately and in good faith, the enhanced data also allows IDS to identify and address the rare instances of fraudulent billing practices.

The programs provide an unprecedented level of data and financial transparency for IDS and for attorneys who do indigent work. Together, these systems equip IDS with greater insight into attorney billing trends, case workflows, and overall cash flow management. Both OASIS and Defender Data offer close to real-time, structured invoicing systems that enhance our ability to track payments, project expenditures, and identify emerging cost patterns. This improved visibility will allow IDS to better manage its financial obligations and ensure timely payments to PAC attorneys.

OASIS Audit Capabilities

By digitizing the invoice system for private assigned counsel, OASIS not only significantly improved IDS's efficiency in billing but also improved its auditing capability. IDS worked with NCAOC Internal Audit during program development to ensure that fiscal staff had the right auditing tools in place and that the agency was following best practices in auditing.

The paper-based legacy system required significant labor at each step of a multi-step process. In fact, IDS staff calculated at least sixteen discrete steps in the process from submission by the attorney to a judicial official, through the clerk's office, to IDS fiscal services, and finally to the state accounting system for payment.

OASIS has made it much easier for IDS to catch or eliminate errors such as duplicate payment requests, incorrect rates, and computational errors, which, primarily due to human error, frequently occurred under the old system. For example, through OASIS, IDS can program and enforce hourly rates based on case-type. This ensures that attorneys invoice IDS for the correct rate every time. Because the system does calculations for the attorney, it also eliminates the risk of mathematical error. Using case numbers, fees invoiced, and disposition dates, OASIS can quickly

identify and report possible duplicate payments, leading to a reduction in the number of erroneous duplicate payments. OASIS also does the mathematical calculations required for the attorney applicants to total hours and expenses and eliminates that source of human error and allows IDS to immediately identify and correct duplicate billing in any given matter.

Through attorneys' use of OASIS, IDS has reduced time needed for accounts payable staff to process individual invoices and has allowed that time instead to be spent on higher-end customer service and auditing tasks. To support audit and customer service functions, the IDS Research and Development team developed a user-friendly look-up tool that gives staff consolidated visibility into OASIS payment and invoice data. This tool allows staff to quickly assess, by case or by attorney, the number of invoices submitted and authorized. This new, simplified task previously required staff to do lookups in as many as three different programs and then compile the information.

DefenderData and MAC Audit Capabilities

IDS is using DefenderData (a customized and web based billing tool) to confront another limitation of the paper-based system: data retrieval for important metrics such as time in court waiting and time. In the paper systems, this data retrieval was manual, making meaningful analysis impractical without significant staff resources. Further, because fee applications were not filed until a case was disposed, it was difficult to track overall and attorney-specific demand in real time.

IDS can now generate reports showing precisely how individual attorneys (or the full MAC roster) are spending their time, broken down by case, date, and activity type. The same capability that previously required manual collection of individual paper forms is now accessible through a single report. OASIS provides similar visibility for the PAC, also giving IDS a comprehensive, system-wide audit picture for the first time.

To ensure this capability is matched by a clear accountability framework, IDS worked with the Budget Committee of the IDS Commission to develop and adopt Billing Review Guidelines for the MAC Program, effective late 2024. The guidelines establish specific thresholds that trigger additional review, including

time entries exceeding nine hours in court in a single day, total work time exceeding ten hours in a single day, and total work time exceeding 60 hours in a week or 258 hours in a month. Vouchers flagged under these thresholds are subject to approval, reduction, rejection, or a request for additional documentation. IDS further reserves the right to place an attorney's ability to receive new appointments on hold when patterns of excessive billing are identified. These are designed to protect the PAC fund and not as punishment.

What IDS cannot yet fully report on is the impact of eCourts on per-case billing time. eCourts did not go live in all MAC counties until late October 2025, meaning the system was operational across the MAC coverage area for only a portion of this reporting period. IDS is actively monitoring overall time per attorney per month and has identified this as an area requiring careful analysis. Early indicators suggest that per-case time may be increasing, and IDS is exploring possible drivers, including time associated with the eCourts transition itself. IDS is optimistic that the audit infrastructure it has built (DefenderData, the Billing Guidelines, and OASIS) will allow it to address that question in the FY2026 Annual Report.

Implementing OASIS and DefenderData provided attorneys and IDS the tools necessary to submit, process, and pay for work with record efficiency and accuracy. OASIS allows IDS to review, process, and pay attorneys within 30 days of invoicing; and DefenderData within two weeks. Both payment systems allow fiscal services to run close to real-time projections on demand and schedule payments in a fiscally responsible manner. This increased insight allows the agency to more accurately predict the risk of exhausting the PAC fund on a quarterly and yearly basis.

Increased Access to Technology

The Sixth Amendment's guarantee of effective assistance of counsel includes an attorney's duty to adequately review discovery. The NC Rules of Professional Conduct further require attorneys to review all discovery materials in criminal cases to fulfill their professional obligations. The need to resource both public defenders and private assigned counsel with the tools to practice in an increasingly digital environment cannot be overstated.

Technology changes, including the proliferation of digital discovery, are a feature of practicing law in the twenty-first century. Adapting to this new landscape presents both costs and benefits. Addressing uneven access, fixing critical issues, and making improvements now may lead to long-term savings by increasing attorney efficiency and, thereby, improving courtroom efficiency without sacrificing effective representation.

Digital Discovery

Public defenders and PAC, many of whom already struggle under burdensome caseloads, must manage increasing volumes of digital discovery, including police body camera footage, dashcam video, interrogation recordings, phone records, electronic communications, and extensive metadata. Attorneys also must retain client files, including discovery, for six years, creating a significant storage burden. The cost of secure digital storage, particularly cloud-based solutions, continues to rise, placing financial strain on attorneys working at current IDS rates.

While all 1,100 prosecutors statewide have Axon Justice licenses, public defenders lack equivalent access due to funding constraints. IDS made substantial strides in evening the playing field when it renegotiated its current contract, which resulted in an overall cost reduction for the agency of \$8.8 million. Despite the negotiated gains, public defenders still lack the same access that prosecutors have. To ensure parity and efficiency, IDS will continue to seek an appropriation to provide Axon Justice to all public defender staff who need it.

IDS's Research and Development team along with its Business and Process Manager also are working to identify possible pilot programs to increase PAC access to Axon and other technology.

Adapting to eCourts

IDS has been an active participant in the cross-stakeholder remediation process, initiated by NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul Newby in January 2026, that includes clerks of superior court, district attorneys, district and superior court judges, and the North Carolina State Bar.

In December 2025, IDS submitted a report to Chief Justice Newby identifying fifteen priority improvements affecting public defenders, PAC attorneys, and IDS

operations.

Among IDS’s most pressing concerns is the absence of automated notice to private counsel when filings are made, orders are entered, or hearings are scheduled. This gap places a disproportionate administrative

burden on PAC attorneys who often lack the institutional support available to public defenders and prosecutors. IDS will continue to work with its judicial branch partners to advance improvements that reduce this and other burdens and that support more efficient court operations.

Table 1.0

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 YTD
FMS Recoupment						
Attorney Fees - as ordered	\$ 4,227,308	\$ 4,473,146	\$ 4,179,453	\$ 3,772,828	\$ 3,909,381	\$ 2,555,101
Appointment Fees	\$ 927,297	\$ 1,003,245	\$ 955,286	\$ 927,353	\$ 958,993	\$ 640,767
	(\$55 to IDS; \$5 to tech fund as of 12/1/2020)	(\$70 to IDS; \$5 to tech fund)				
Set Off Debt Recoupment						
Intercepted Tax Refunds or Lottery Winnings	\$ 4,569,001	\$ 4,414,445	\$ 5,625,521	\$ 5,439,159	\$ 5,968,626	\$ 962,114
Criminal Court Fees						
General Court of Justice Fee	\$ 414,665	\$ 1,664,161	\$ 2,892,582	\$ 2,882,096	\$ 2,793,702	\$ 1,868,966
	(\$2 as of 1/1/2020)	(\$5 as of 2/1/2022)				
IV-E Reimbursement						
	\$ -	\$ 327,852	\$ 1,745,545	\$ 1,121,742	\$ 3,006,916	\$ 1,852,211
Total Revenues						
Total Revenues	\$ 10,138,271	\$ 11,882,849	\$ 15,398,387	\$ 14,143,178	\$ 16,637,618	\$ 7,879,159

Table 1.0 shows the amount of revenue collected from each of the main revenue sources for FY2025.



Maximizing Revenues

In addition to its annual appropriation, IDS relies on three revenue streams to support its operations.

1. Receipts are funds collected through the General Court of Justice Fee (GCJF), a portion of court costs designated for indigent defense funding.
2. Recoupment includes revenue generated from court-ordered judgments for attorneys’ fees and appointment fees. These funds are collected through direct payments made to clerks of court and probation offices, as well as through intercepts

of state income tax and NC Education Lottery (NCEL) funds processed through the Department of Revenue’s Set-off Debt Program.

3. IDS is reimbursed for a portion of its costs for legal representation for the parent of a child in foster care through federal Title IV-E funding. Costs must be approved by the NC DHHS and the federal Children’s Bureau.

Key Takeaways

- IDS saw a very modest decline in receipts, from \$2.9 million in FY24 to \$2.8 million in FY2025.
- At \$10.8 million, IDS saw a modest increase in recoupment revenue collected, or around 6.5% over FY2024.
- IDS saw a significant increase in IV-E reimbursement, to \$3 million, but some of this is attributable to receipt of delayed payments from FY2024. As noted in Table 1.1 on page 16. The future of this revenue is uncertain.

IDS continues to work closely with NCAOC to monitor

Table 1.1

FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 YTD
IV-E Reimbursement					
\$ -	\$ 327,852	\$ 1,745,545	\$ 1,121,742	\$ 3,006,916	\$ 1,852,211

Table 1.1 shows the amount of revenue collected from federal IV-E reimbursements.

the timely application of intercepts to the applicable judgments, on a county-by-county basis. This includes work detailed in the following section to establish an efficient and accurate workflow to correct the 30 – 40% error rate in offsetting debts with DOR and NCEL intercepts.

Set-off Debt

Inaccurate social security numbers obtained from handwritten indigency affidavits hampers IDS efforts to recoup attorneys’ fees in cases that are eligible for collection through the Department of Revenue’s set-off debt program. The data migration from VCAP to Enterprise Justice brought to light the extent of this problem, which has existed for years. The social security number verification process in the proposed indigency determination pilot is designed to address this problem.

As has been previously reported, the set-off debt module provided by Tyler Technologies has an error rate in excess of 30%. Working in collaboration with AOC BAPM, who provided the necessary underlying data, IDS research staff has developed a program that identifies the causes of the errors and provides the information needed to correct them, including identifying to which judgments the intercepted funds should be applied. At this juncture, the thousands of identified errors must be manually corrected, and IDS and AOC are cooperating on efforts to make this happen. However, IDS is optimistic that continued internal program improvement will help prevent future errors and that over time, the 30% error rate will decline.

IDS has recently begun working with other judicial branch stakeholders to educate judges about the importance of collecting affidavits of indigency from individuals seeking IDS-funded counsel, and about the

recoupment law, which does not allow judicial waiver of attorneys’ fees.

IV-E Reimbursements

In FY2022, IDS began receiving Title IV-E funds from a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services program to reimburse certain costs for parent representation in cases where a child is in or at risk of foster care placement. The funds pass to IDS through the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

The N.C. Office of the Parent Defender (OPD) uses these funds to support the interdisciplinary parent representation program, which aims to reduce the length of time children spend in foster care, facilitate meaningful family visitation, and ensure that families receive effective services leading to lasting reunifications.

IDS uses a portion of the funds to offset the January 2022 increased rate for private assigned counsel representing parents in cases involving children in foster care. This offset for parent defender rates eased the increased burden on the PAC resulting from the rate increase to attorneys providing other types of representation.

To maximize its use of this important federal funding, IDS and OPD continue to actively negotiate for NC DHHS to revise its interpretation of reimbursable expenses.

Because many states receive reimbursements for similar activities, IDS and OPD currently are negotiating with NC DHHS to amend the current MOU to:

- Include reimbursement for training for parent attorneys. This would result in a 75% reimbursement for expenses associated with staff and roster training expenses. Training opportunities will increase for parent attorneys.

- Expand the recovery of OPD staff salaries to include Parent Defender, Assistant Parent Defenders, Contract Manager, Legal Assistant.

NC DHHS is piloting a new program called NC PATH, which will capture information about children who are at risk of entering foster care. Once the information is available, it will expand the number of cases eligible for reimbursement. This is expected to result in an increase of the penetration rate by 2% to 3%.

While Title IV-E funding has provided critical support for parent representation, its long-term availability remains uncertain. Changes in federal policy, funding priorities, or administrative rules could impact future reimbursement levels, potentially affecting IDS’s ability to sustain current service levels and rates. Continued monitoring and contingency planning will be necessary to ensure stability in this area.

Grant and Federal Funding Update

Since receiving an NC IOLTA grant in 2023, the IDS Recruitment and Training Coordinator position has implemented a comprehensive “Best Practices in Recruitment and Training Project” aimed at strengthening the indigent defense attorney pipeline across North Carolina.

In FY2025, Dogwood Health Trust, which funds housing, education, and economic opportunity projects in North Carolina’s western counties, began supporting a Client Advocate position in District 42 (Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania Counties). The client advocate works alongside public defenders to address the social and personal circumstances that often underlie clients’ criminal court involvement. The advocate connects clients with treatment programs, healthcare, housing, and community resources, and provides attorneys with relevant information to support favorable case outcomes. By helping clients navigate these needs from arrest through case resolution, the position aims to reduce clients’ long-term contact with the court system.

Throughout FY2025, the NC Office of the Juvenile Defender continued work on an extensive evaluation of juvenile defense delivery across North Carolina, supported by a monetary award from the US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This effort began in FY2022, when OJD identified critical areas of need and took steps to expand contract defense for juveniles in under-resourced regions. The office also developed and deployed new resources to support juvenile defenders.

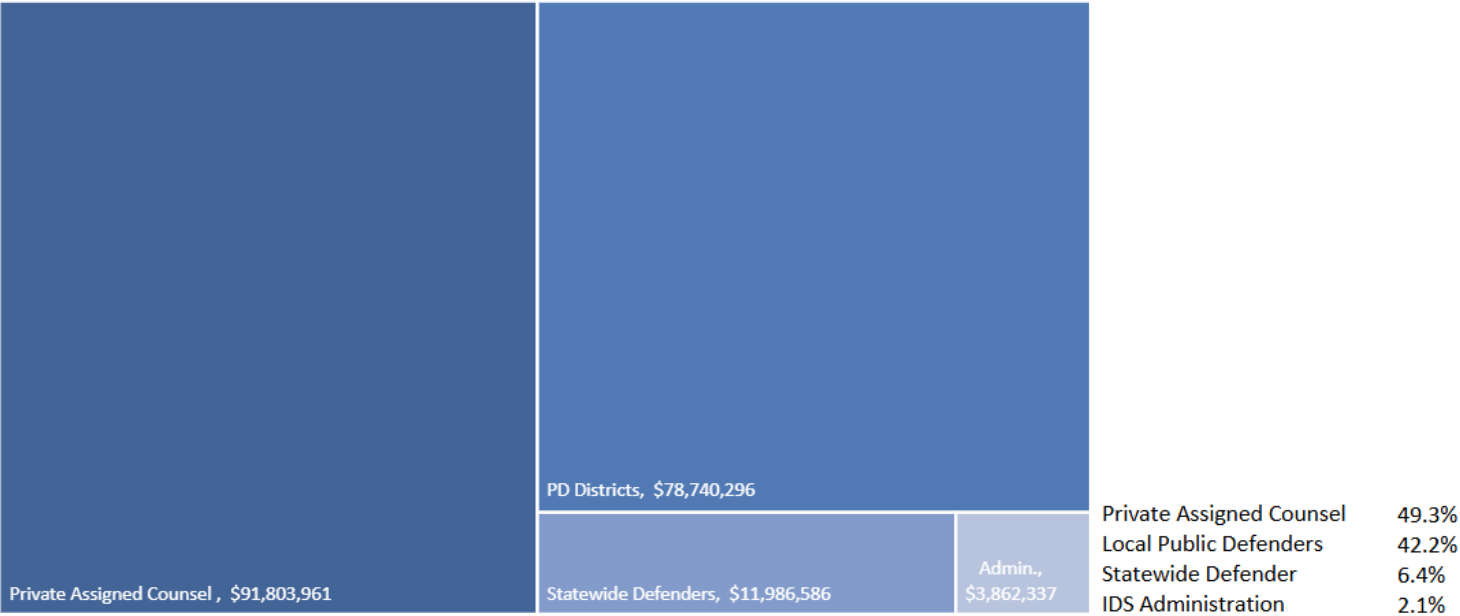


“When people are charged with crimes, there’s so much more to them than just their crime. They need help with other things, and you have to look beyond the crime. They are human beings.”

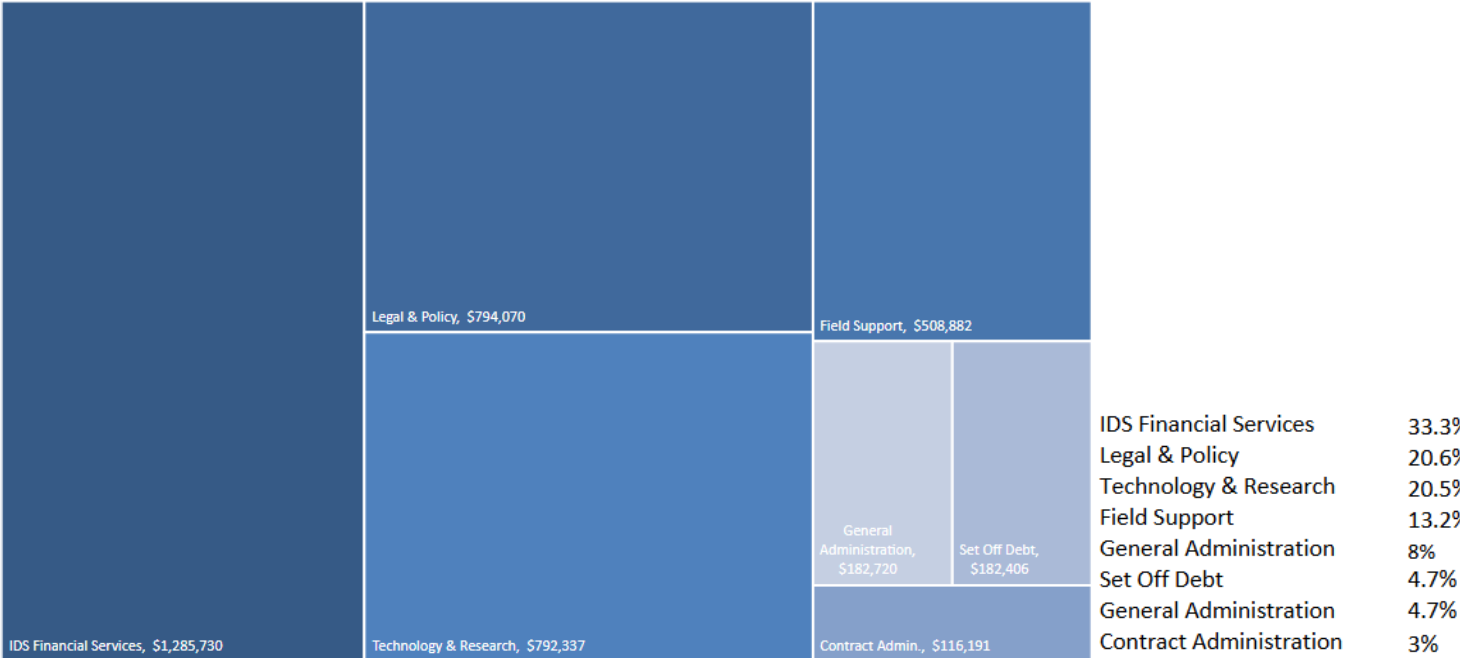
Angela Ratner
Client Advocate for
Defender District 42

Angela Ratner (left), client advocate for District 42, and District 42 Chief Public Defender Beth Stang. Ratner’s position is funded through a grant from the Dogwood Health Trust.

FY2025 Expenditures



IDS Administration Costs



Plans for Changes in Rules, Standards or Regulations

Changes to Part 1 of the Rules for Delivery of Service and IDS Billing Policies

During its August 2025 Meeting the IDS Commission adopted changes to Rules for the Delivery of Services in Non-Capital Criminal and Non-Criminal Cases at the Trial Level (Part 1) and updated the IDS policies governing attorney fee and expense applications in these cases.

Changes to Part 1 and the billing policies were overdue and many were made to resolve readability and clarity through plain language drafting. The changes align rules and policies with evolving practices and clarify billing procedures.

Perhaps the most significant change to the billing policies is a new 90-day deadline for submitting fee applications in non-capital cases for attorneys appointed on or after January 1, 2026. Previously attorneys had up to 12 months to submit after disposition to file a fee application, with late filings subject to penalty. While 90 days is a significant reduction in time for late filing, IDS is confident that tools such as OASIS and Defender Data will make compliance easier.

The IDS Commission intends to review and revise Parts 2 (Capital) and 3 (Appellate) of the Rules for the Delivery of Service in the future.

Other Plans

Developing Caseload Standards

Pursuant to G.S. 7A-498.5(c)(3), the Commission on Indigent Defense Services is required to develop a set of standards for public defender and appointed

counsel caseloads. To meet this mandate, IDS has begun a North Carolina centric workload study for both state-employed defenders and private assigned counsel.

IDS has compiled research on indigent defense workload studies in other states and at the national level and convened an Indigent Defense Workload Standards Advisory Committee. IDS intends to work with the newly created committee to review workload standards, to include a review of existing research, and ultimately make recommendations to the IDS Commission for adoption.

Establishing Standardized Policies to Guide Public Defender Offices

Public Defender expansion has highlighted the need for standardized policies to be consistently applied to all new and existing Public Defender offices. After conducting comprehensive assessment of existing policies and procedures, including an assessment of Public Defender office technology needs, IDS created a compendium of resources for Chiefs and administrative staff. IDS hopes this approach will allow it to note and triage emergent issues and needs as they arise.

Appendices

For a list of State and Chief Public Defenders by district, see Appendix A.

To see where Local Defender Programs are located throughout the state, see the Appendix B.

For detailed descriptions of the Statewide Defender Offices see Appendix C.

For data on Costs and Fee Applications, see Appendix D.

For Recoupment numbers by county, see Appendix E.

Appendix A

State Public Defenders

G. Glenn Gerding

Appellate Defender

Glenn.Gerding@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

J. Chad Perry

Chief Special Counsel

J.C.Perry@nccourts.org

Robert Sharpe, Jr.

Capital Defender

Robert.E.Sharpe@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Annick Lenoir-Peek

Parent Defender

Annick.Lenoir-Peek@nccourts.org

Eric Zogry

Juvenile Defender

Eric.J.Zogry@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

District Public Defenders

Thomas P. Routten

Defender District 1: Camden,
Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates,
Pasquotank, Perquimans

Thomas.Routten@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Laura N. Gibson

Defender District 2: Beaufort, Hyde,
Martin, Tyrrell, Washington

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☆☆☆

Robert C. Kemp III

Defender District 3: Pitt

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☆☆☆

Joshua W. Willey, Jr.

Defender District 4: Carteret,
Craven, Pamlico

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☆☆☆

Niccoya Dobson

Defender District 5: Duplin,
Jones, Sampson

Niccoya.Dobson@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Thomas L. "Bud" Woodrum

Defender District 6:
New Hanover, Pender

Thomas.L.Woodrum@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Tonza D. Ruffin

Defender District 7: Bertie, Halifax,
Hertford, Northampton

Tonza.D.Ruffin@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Deonte' L. Thomas

Defender District 10: Wake

Deonte.L.Thomas@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Adam J. Phillips

Defender District 14: Cumberland

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☆☆☆

Jacob D. Ward

Defender District 15: Bladen,
Brunswick, Columbus

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☆☆☆

Dawn Y. Baxton

Defender District 16: Durham

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☆☆☆

Ricky W. Champion

Defender District 17: Alamance

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☆☆☆

Woodrena D. Baker-Harrell

Defender District 18:
Chatham, Orange

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☆☆☆

Jack H. Moody, Jr.

Defender District 20: Robeson

Jack.H.Moody@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Phillip A. Elkins

Defender District 21: Hoke, Scotland

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Jennifer L. Rierson

Defender District 24: Guilford

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Kevin P. Tully

Defender District 26: Mecklenburg

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Randolph M. Lee

Defender District 30: Union

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Paul James

Defender District 31: Forsyth

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☆☆☆

Seth Johnson

Defender District 32:
Alexander, Iredell

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Rocky Lutz

Defender District 38: Gaston

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Lydia A. Hoza

Defender District 39:
Cleveland, Lincoln

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☆☆☆

Samuel A. Snead

Defender District 40: Buncombe

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☆☆☆

Laura A. Powell

Defender District 41:
McDowell, Rutherford

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☆☆☆

Beth W. Stang

Defender District 42: Henderson,
Polk, Transylvania

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☆☆☆

Janna D. Allison

Defender District 43: Cherokee, Clay,
Graham, Haywood, Jackson,
Macon, Swain

Janna.D.Allison2@nccourts.org

☆☆☆

Appendix C

Statewide Specialized Defenders

Five **Statewide Defender Offices** provide oversight and supervision in specialized areas of the law. The Chiefs of each office are appointed by the Commission to serve four-year terms. They administer rosters of specialized attorneys; supervise in-house attorneys; and work with legislators, court actors, and other stakeholder groups on court improvement initiatives. The Chief and their Assistants are state-employed defenders.

In addition to screening applicants, all statewide defender offices provide advice and support on highly specialized areas of law to the nearly 2,000 PAC across the state. The Chiefs in each of the statewide defender offices also work closely with other state agencies and stakeholder groups to develop policies and draft proposed legislation affecting their clients, their offices, and IDS.

- Office of the Appellate Defender
- Office of the Capital Defender
- Office of the Juvenile Defender
- Office of the Parent Defender
- Office of Special Counsel



IDS plans to establish regional libraries for PAC across the state.

Office of the Appellate Defender

The Office of the Appellate Defender (OAD) represents indigent adult and juvenile clients on appeal after a criminal conviction and when the State appeals a trial court ruling. OAD strives to provide each client with competent, zealous, and cost-effective representation.

Appellate Defender	1
Deputy Appellate Defender	1
Assistant Appellate Defenders	19
Private Assigned Attorney Roster	77

In FY25, OAD

Appointments made to AAD	306
Cases closed by OAD	290
Appointments made to PAC	306

In addition to direct representation of clients on appeal, OAD monitors and mentors appellate roster counsel, consults with and provides briefs and litigation guides to trial and appellate counsel, and trains public defenders and private assigned counsel at continuing legal education courses around the state throughout the year.

Appendix C

(continued)

Office of the Capital Defender	
The Office of the Capital Defender (OCD) represents indigent adult clients charged with potentially capital cases at the trial level. OCD strives to provide each client with competent, zealous, and cost-effective representation.	
Capital Defender	1
Deputy Capital Defender	1
Assistant Capital Defenders	16
Durham	5
Buncombe	1
Forsyth	3
Nash	1
New Hanover	2
Robeson	4
Private Assigned Attorney Roster	104
In FY25, OCD	
All cases worked by ACD	215
Cases closed by ACD	52
Average case load per ACD	13.44

Office of the Parent Defender	
The Office of the Parent Defender provides and promotes high quality legal representation for parents affected by the child welfare system (DSS) and parents facing contempt in child support and other civil proceedings.	
Parent Defender	1
Staff Attorneys	3
Private Assigned Attorney Roster	22
In FY25, OPD	
Appellate appointments made (in office)	36
Appellate appointments made to PAC	178
Number of cases disposed (in office)	35
Trial level PAC contracts executed	108
Attorneys	93
Social Workers	15
In FY2023, OPD, through IDS, and NC DHHS executed a memorandum of understanding allowing DHHS to reimburse a portion of IDS spending on parent defense and parent defense case related expenses.	
FY22	\$327,852
FY23	\$1.7 million
FY24	\$1.22 million
FY25	\$3 million

Office of the Juvenile Defender	
OJD's mission is to provide services and support to juvenile defense attorneys, evaluate the current system of representation through observation of court, speaking with court officials and making recommendations as needed, while also elevating the stature of juvenile delinquency representation and working with juvenile justice advocates to promote positive change in the juvenile justice system.	
Juvenile Defender	1
Assistant Juvenile Defenders	2
Buncombe	1
Iredell	1
In FY25, OJD	
Number of cases assigned (in office)	38
Number of cases disposed (in office)	37

Office of Special Counsel (Involuntary Commitments)		
People facing involuntary commitment have a right to counsel because a commitment represents a significant infringement on a respondent's liberty interest. In North Carolina, respondents facing involuntary commitment who have not arranged private counsel are represented by Special Counsel or an appointed attorney.		
Chief Special Counsel		1
Staff Attorneys		8
In FY25, OSC attorneys and PAC disposed of		
Office Location	Attorneys	Dispositions
Raleigh ¹	5	9052
Broughton (Burke)	1	684
Central Regional (Granville) ¹	1	2255
Cherry (Wayne)	1	932

Appendix D

Cost and Fee Application Data on Attorney Services for Representation		
	FY2024-2025	
	Number of Payments	Payments Made to Assigned Counsel
Private Assigned Counsel Fund*		
Fee Apps (non-capital)	121,637	\$ 64,602,473.00
Fee Apps (capital)	2,641	\$ 15,042,639.00
Investigators (non-capital)	882	\$ 1,895,382.00
Investigators (capital)	1,207	\$ 2,013,886.00
Mitigators (non-capital)	212	\$ 232,132.00
Mitigators (capital)	625	\$ 903,576.00
Experts (non-capital)	532	\$ 1,362,010.00
Experts (capital)	1,176	\$ 2,384,052.00
Prisoner Legal Services	--	\$ 2,681,669.00
Interpreter Services \diamond	357	\$ 50,829.00
Total	129,269	\$ 91,168,648.00
PD Office Cost and Case Data on Representation		
	FY2024-2025	
	Count	Cost of Operating PD Offices
Public Defender Office		
Personnel and Operating Cost	624	\$ 90,125,045.00
Number of Dispositions \ddagger	93,771	--
Total	--	\$ 90,125,045.00
Statewide Office Cost and Case Data on Representation		
	FY2024-2025	
	Number of Cases Worked \ddagger	Cost of Operating Statewide Offices
Statewide Offices		
Office of the Appellate Defender	306	\$ 4,242,654.00
Office of the Capital Defender	215	\$ 4,614,648.00
Office of Juvenile Defender	75	\$ 693,970.00
Office of Parent Defender	71	\$ 882,852.00
Office of Special Counsel	12,923	\$ 2,374,940.00
Total	13,590	\$ 12,809,064
Total Cost for Services for Representation		\$194,102,757.00

Notes:

* Includes payments to PAC, MAC, and other contractors.

\diamond For interpreter services, a "payment" is defined as as disbursement of some amount to a single county. In some instances, a single invoice may include multiple payments.

\ddagger In December 2023, IDS's PD Disposition Reporting System became non-operational, requiring IDS to rapidly transition to a new disposition reporting system. As a result, this number should be considered an approximation, as some data was likely lost during the transition.

\ddagger Data includes both disposed and pending cases to provide a more comprehensive view of the work produced by Statewide Offices.

Appendix E

FY2024-2025 PAC/MAC Demand by County			
County	Payments	Total Payments	
Pamlico	104	\$ 81,246.00	
Pasquotank	160	\$ 483,942.00	
Pender	514	\$ 365,061.00	
Perquimans	32	\$ 43,451.00	
Person	145	\$ 158,781.00	
Pitt	2,074	\$ 1,296,492.00	
Polk	279	\$ 182,233.00	
Randolph	3,908	\$ 1,603,456.00	
Richmond	2,637	\$ 1,037,217.00	
Robeson	4,692	\$ 2,981,091.00	
Rockingham	2,980	\$ 1,160,171.00	
Rowan	4,317	\$ 1,757,704.00	
Rutherford	984	\$ 496,240.00	
Sampson	1,389	\$ 657,205.00	
Scotland	533	\$ 500,099.00	
Stanly	1,403	\$ 540,709.00	
Stokes	1,033	\$ 459,357.00	
Surry	1,894	\$ 623,705.00	
Swain	376	\$ 274,832.00	
Transylvania	387	\$ 217,002.00	
Tyrrell	61	\$ 31,025.00	
Union	3,021	\$ 1,574,369.00	
Vance	301	\$ 342,279.00	
Wake	2,158	\$ 3,043,867.00	
Warren	33	\$ 32,182.00	
Washington	193	\$ 151,689.00	
Watauga	1,440	\$ 509,198.00	
Wayne	455	\$ 908,326.00	
Wilkes	2,126	\$ 644,065.00	
Wilson	2,274	\$ 1,141,177.00	
Yadkin	750	\$ 276,336.00	
Yancey	543	\$ 255,973.00	
NCPLS*	--	\$ 2,681,669.00	
MAC*	2,396	\$ 8,866,535.00	
Total	129,269	\$91,168,644.00	

FY2024-2025 PAC/MAC Demand by County			
County	Payments	Total Payments	
Franklin	438	\$ 258,209.00	
Gaston	1,434	\$ 1,310,103.00	
Gates	18	\$ 36,221.00	
Graham	288	\$ 187,766.00	
Granville	197	\$ 196,565.00	
Greene	232	\$ 229,987.00	
Guilford	5,030	\$ 3,527,877.00	
Halifax	1,973	\$ 1,384,379.00	
Harnett	714	\$ 737,006.00	
Haywood	1,064	\$ 698,684.00	
Henderson	1,172	\$ 709,580.00	
Hertford	382	\$ 258,960.00	
Hoke	323	\$ 466,737.00	
Hyde	50	\$ 40,048.00	
Iredell	3,652	\$ 1,388,690.00	
Jackson	829	\$ 432,796.00	
Johnston	657	\$ 949,137.00	
Jones	133	\$ 53,354.00	
Lee	227	\$ 336,425.00	
Lenoir	558	\$ 915,574.00	
Lincoln	507	\$ 299,598.00	
Macon	691	\$ 350,098.00	
Madison	425	\$ 157,970.00	
Martin	376	\$ 273,784.00	
McDowell	366	\$ 383,391.00	
Mecklenburg	7,722	\$ 7,757,599.00	
Mitchell	488	\$ 188,699.00	
Montgomery	448	\$ 325,446.00	
Moore	2,578	\$ 1,151,811.00	
Nash	1,574	\$ 811,734.00	
New Hanover	2,285	\$ 1,651,015.00	
Northampton	254	\$ 231,443.00	
Onslow	5,011	\$ 1,804,490.00	
Orange	279	\$ 479,426.00	

FY2024-2025 PAC/MAC Demand by County			
County	Payments	Total Payments	
Alamance	1,078	\$ 585,434.00	
Alexander	540	\$ 245,161.00	
Alleghany	328	\$ 93,855.00	
Anson	866	\$ 385,393.00	
Ashe	626	\$ 190,285.00	
Avery	556	\$ 195,362.00	
Beaufort	890	\$ 479,477.00	
Bertie	400	\$ 413,293.00	
Bladen	1,060	\$ 739,110.00	
Brunswick	1,758	\$ 946,079.00	
Buncombe	1,398	\$ 1,960,454.00	
Burke	1,996	\$ 677,401.00	
Cabarrus	4,419	\$ 1,700,514.00	
Caldwell	3,191	\$ 1,149,012.00	
Camden	11	\$ 17,306.00	
Carteret	317	\$ 315,007.00	
Caswell	81	\$ 170,392.00	
Catawba	3,360	\$ 1,553,606.00	
Chatham	169	\$ 298,500.00	
Cherokee	456	\$ 304,519.00	
Chowan	48	\$ 61,098.00	
Clay	197	\$ 111,304.00	
Cleveland	1,138	\$ 1,112,970.00	
Columbus	1,709	\$ 1,118,703.00	
Craven	2,237	\$ 1,703,743.00	
Cumberland	2,266	\$ 2,356,296.00	
Currituck	70	\$ 74,258.00	
Dare	109	\$ 198,578.00	
Davidson	4,354	\$ 1,483,022.00	
Davie	989	\$ 404,116.00	
Duplin	799	\$ 526,703.00	
Durham	739	\$ 1,250,358.00	
Edgecombe	1,261	\$ 702,924.00	
Forsyth	1,886	\$ 2,281,125.00	

*County Unspecified

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§ 7A-498.9.

Annual report on Office of Indigent Defense Services. The Office of Indigent Defense Services shall report to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Justice and Public Safety by March 15 of each year on the following: (1) The volume and cost of cases handled in each district by assigned counsel or public defenders; (2) Actions taken by the Office to improve the cost-effectiveness and quality of indigent defense services, including the capital case program; (3) Plans for changes in rules, standards, or regulations in the upcoming year; and (4) Any recommended changes in law or funding procedures that would assist the Office in improving the management of funds expended for indigent defense services, including any recommendations concerning the feasibility and desirability of establishing regional public defender offices. (2014-100, s. 18B.1(j); 2015-241, s. 18B.1.)

Safeguarding individual liberty and the Constitution by equipping the North Carolina public defense community with the resources it needs to achieve fair and just outcomes for clients
