

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.22  
(ID # 29850)**

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, March 03, 2026

**FROM :** PUBLIC DEFENDER

**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC DEFENDER: Acceptance of the Expanded Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) Grant Award, part of the Holistic Outreach Participation and Enrichment (HOPE) Program, from the California Office of the State Public Defender; Approve the Grant Award Agreement and Authorize the Public Defender to Execute Said Agreement and Amendments Thereto; Approve Purchase of One (1) Vehicle, All Districts. [\$825,198 – State Funds 100%].

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Accept the Expanded Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) Grant Award, part of the Holistic Outreach Participation and Enrichment (HOPE) program, from the California Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) in the amount of \$825,198 for the grant period of February 1, 2026 to June 1, 2028, and the Grant Service Term is March 2, 2026 through May 15, 2028;
2. Authorize the Public Defender to execute a Standard Agreement (Form STD 213) with the California OSPD (Grant Agreement) to accept the Grant Award in the amount of \$825,198 on behalf of the County, commencing on or after February 1, 2026 and ending no later than June 30, 2028, with terms consistent with the Grant Application, as approved as to form by County Counsel;

Continued on Page 2

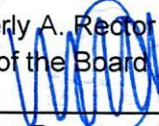
**ACTION:4/5 Vote Required**

---

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Perez, and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: Washington  
Date: March 3, 2026  
xc: Public Defender

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

3. Authorize the Public Defender, or designee, to take all actions necessary related to the implementation and administration of the Grant Agreement, and to sign and submit any documents, reports, and certifications, including scope of work revisions, amendments and extensions to the Grant Agreement requiring OSPD approval, subject to the availability of fiscal funding and as approved as to form by County Counsel;
4. Approve the Riverside County Law Offices of the Public Defender to purchase one (1) vehicle using Holistic Defense grant funding not to exceed a total amount of \$100,000;
5. Approve assets to Riverside County Law Offices of the Public Defender for one (1) vehicle to support the Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) Grant Award program;
6. Approve additional implementation of Client Record Dialogs and SMS Messaging to the existing Justice Works' DefenderData Case Management System using Holistic Defense grant funding not to exceed a total amount of \$15,000;
7. Direct the Purchasing Agent to issue Purchase Orders not to exceed the amount approved by the Board; and
8. Approve and direct the Auditor-Controller to make budget adjustments to appropriations and estimated revenue as referenced in Schedule A.

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 107,800	\$ 358,699	\$825,198	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> Office of the State Public Defender 100%			<b>Budget Adjustment: Yes</b>	
			For Fiscal Year: 25/26 – 27/28	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

On 10/27/2025, the Public Defender's Office applied for the Expanded Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) grant, also known as the Holistic Outreach Participation and Enrichment (HOPE) program, which is funded by the California Office of the State Public Defender. As a result, the Public Defender's Office has been awarded the grant in the amount of \$825,198, for the timeframes of FY25/26 through FY 27/28.

The Riverside County Law Offices of the Public Defender seeks to expand our mission of public defense services to better serve the increasingly diverse needs of our county's population. With the HOPE Program, we will be able to provide more client-centered, holistic services, in accordance with evolving, integrative practices designed to promote

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

improved legal outcomes, including decreased technical violations, mitigated collateral consequences, and removal of barriers to successful reintegration. The HOPE Program will focus on five (5) key projects: (1) Justice Van for mobile outreach and remote advocacy within the community; (2) Enhanced client-communication system for streamlined resource connections, including RivCoOne; (3) Community engagement and information sharing; (4) Expungement and record clearing resources and opportunities; and (5) Creation of a Family Preservation Program to expand defense against adverse immigration consequences.

The HOPE Program's five components are described in more detail below:

1. Justice Van (New): Equipped with remote access to the court system, our attorneys and social workers will travel to geographically remote areas to serve those who are underserved in Riverside County, which is comparable in size to the state of New Jersey, covering over 7,300 square miles. Given the geographic expanse of the county, travelling to court is an impossibility for many clients. With the new Justice Van, we will go to them, meeting them where they are at, both literally and figuratively. We will connect remotely to the court to clear bench warrants, modify misdemeanor summary probation, re-enroll in court-required classes, and resolve outstanding fines.

2. Data System Modification for Holistic Defense (New)

(a) Our internal case management system will add a "Whole Person Evaluation" function, whereby Community Health Workers will use the screening tool to identify client needs and then alerts will be immediately sent to RivCoOne. This function will push the focus beyond immediate legal needs, requiring a deeper dive into the whole person and underlying issues driving them into the justice system.

(b) Our case management system will also add a "Client Reminder" function. Assuming the client opts in, the system will send text message reminders of future court dates, probation check-in appointments, diversion program appointments, social service appointments, and other relevant dates. Our clients have unstable life circumstances. Remembering dates or finding that reminder slip handed out when discharged from custody isn't always top priority when worried about housing or feeding one's family. Considering that violating a term of probation or having a warrant issued for failure to appear or missing a court ordered check-in creates a likelihood of incarceration, assisting the client with important reminders provides needed support to improve overall outcomes.

(c) Our case management system will help us identify those who need assistance to pay for court-ordered mandatory DV or Anger Management classes. Our court or probation does not cover the cost of classes for indigent clients, and we find that our clients are often at risk of violating probation and being returned to custody because they cannot afford these court-ordered classes.

3. Community Outreach Program (New)

Community outreach is a key component of the HOPE Program. Sharing information,

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

building awareness of available services, and establishing connections to community-based resources is an effective way to serve the holistic needs of our clients and streamline access to services. As such, our HOPE Program expands the role of the Public Defender from inside the courtroom to outside in the community, both with the Justice Van, as well as with a strong presence at community events and to provide legal consultation and assistance with case information, as well as assist with calendar additions for warrant clearing. They would also have applications for our Fresh Start Program to begin the expungement process, and work with the clients to remove the barriers created by prior convictions. Providing this information, educating the community on effects of warrants, prior convictions and opportunities to create a clear path forward, while also providing resource connections services at community events offers dignity and *hope* for a better future for the client, their families, and the community.

**4. Fresh Start Expungement Program (Expansion)**

This expansion part of the Program increases the number of personnel necessary (TAP paralegals) to improve output of expungement petitions. Currently, we have a backlog of petitions that need to be processed, and additional TAP paralegals would help us to clear the backlog and resolve cases more quickly, removing barriers to economic, employment and housing stability for clients.

**5. Immigration Family Preservation Program (New)**

The Immigration Family Preservation Program entails adding TAP paralegals to our immigration unit to assist attorneys who conduct Padilla analyses with the intake process and filing of Penal Code section 1473.7 Petitions. These petitions are vital post-conviction relief tools that allow out of custody clients to vacate legally defective convictions. Consequently, increasing our paralegal resources to screen beyond the immediate charge and sentence, and being able to identify eligible clients and prepare the petitions would be a tremendous step forward in removing barriers for non-citizen clients to be able to seek relief and remain in their communities with their families.

Below is an itemized breakdown of how the grant funds will be allocated.

Item	Amount
Salaries of New Personal (TAP)	\$ 528,780
Equipment/Fixed Assets	\$ 107,800
Professional Services	\$ 97,200
Indirect Costs	\$ 75,018
Services & Supplies	\$ 10,400
Other (Travel & Training)	\$ 6,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 825,198</b>

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

There is no negative impact to the Residents or Businesses within Riverside County. If the Public Defender is awarded the grant funds, the department would like to expand its

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

level of service to its clients across the County. The additional services will be paid for fully with the requested grant funds and the County's existing county budget and does not require any additional county funding to be allocated.

**ATTACHMENT A: AWARD LETTER**

**ATTACHMENT B: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WORK COMMENCEMENT AUTHORIZATION  
DISCLAIMER**

**ATTACHMENT C:**

**Schedule A  
BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FY 2025/2026**

Increase Appropriations:		
10000-2400100000-546320	Vehicles – Cars/Light Trucks	\$107,800
Increase Revenues:		
10000-2400100000-751680	CA – State Grant Revenue	\$107,800

  
Melissa Curtis, Deputy Director of Purchasing and Fleet

1/28/2026

  
Tami Douglas-Schatz, Director of Human Resources

1/26/2026

  
Aaron Gettis, Chief Deputy County Counsel

1/29/2026



**Office of the State  
Public Defender**

SACRAMENTO  
770L Street, Suite 1000  
Sacramento, CA95814  
(916) 322-2676  
(916) 327-0459 (fax)

OAKLAND  
1111Broadway, 10th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 267-3300  
(510) 452-8712 (fax)

December 18, 2025

Attn: Steve Harmon  
4075 Main Street  
Riverside CA 92501

Dear Steve,

Congratulations! Riverside County Public Defender's Office has been awarded \$825,198 for the Expanded Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) Grant. The Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD)'s offer of these grant funds is contingent on your agreement to the following terms:

**1. Grant Period and Service Term**

- o The grant service term - meaning the period during which services must be made available to clients using grant funds - is March 2, 2026 - May 15, 2028.
- o The grant period is February 1, 2026 - June 1, 2028.
  - This allows for some time before and after the service term to use funds for planning and wrap up. Some examples may include data collection planning or reporting and work related to hiring. All grant funds expire on June 1, 2028.

**2. Disbursement of Funds**

- o The grant award will be processed for payment upon receipt of this letter signed by Grantee acknowledging acceptance of all terms herein.
- o OSPD will then fully execute the letter and return a copy to Grantee. OSPD will then begin the process to disburse the entire Grant award to Grantee. Disbursements can take several weeks to be processed after receipt of all documents.
- o Grantees may commence work when all approvals have been obtained, the grant period has commenced, and Grantee has been given written authorization to begin work by OSPD.
- o Grantee shall provide written acknowledgment to OSPD at [ospd.grant@ospd.ca.gov](mailto:ospd.grant@ospd.ca.gov) within 10-days of receipt of funds.

I certify that the organization named above accepts the terms outlined in this letter as a condition of accepting and using grant funds under the Expanded Public Defense Grant and that I am authorized to legally bind the organization to these requirements.

KAREN SPIEGEL

Legal Applicant Printed Name

CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Title

MAR 03 2026

Date

[Redacted]

OSPD Printed Name

[Redacted]

Title

[Redacted]

Date

ATTEST:  
KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk

By [Signature]  
DEPUTY

Karen S. Spiegel  
Signature

[Redacted]  
Signature

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: [Signature] 1/23/2026  
LISA SANCHEZ  
DATE



**Office of the State  
Public Defender**

SACRAMENTO  
770L Street, Suite 1000  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-2676  
(916) 327-0459 (fax)

OAKLAND  
1111 Broadway, 10th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 267-3300  
(510) 452-8712 (fax)

December 18, 2025

Attn: Steve Harmon  
4075 Main Street  
Riverside CA 92501

Re: Expanded Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) Grant

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WORK COMMENCEMENT AUTHORIZATION DISCLAIMER**

The attached Award Letter shall be of no force or effect until it is signed by the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD). The signing of this Award Letter by your organization does not authorize the commencement of work.

By signing this letter, your organization acknowledges and agrees not to begin work until all approvals have been obtained, the Award Letter has been fully executed, the Grantee has been given written authorization to begin work, and the grant term has commenced. Should any work begin before all approvals are obtained or authorization is given, any activities will be considered voluntary and will not be attributable to grant funds.

Karen S. Spiegel  
Authorized Signature

MAR 03 2026  
Date

**KAREN SPIEGEL**  
**CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Printed Name and Title of Person Signing

ATTEST:  
KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk

By [Signature]  
DEPUTY

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: Lisa Sanchez 1/23/2026  
LISA SANCHEZ DATE

MAR 03 2026

3.22