



Steve Bullock  
Governor

# OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

*The Budget Committee's recommendations from the November 16 and November 23 meeting are noted in red.*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Defender Commission Budget Committee

FROM: Harry Freebourn

DATE: November 16, 2015

RE: Potential Uses for Public Defender Commission's Discretionary Funds

The Public Defender Commission was appropriated \$250,000 per year for the 2017 biennium to address criminal caseload growth, dependent and neglect caseload funding pressures, appellate caseload pressure, or any other unforeseen fiscal pressures the agency might experience. The funding is to be distributed among the programs by the Commission after needs are identified in a plan to the Office of Budget and Program Planning and approved by the Budget Director.

The agency has identified several possible uses for the funds for your consideration.

1. *Agency workload study*
2. Website development
3. *Enhancements to CRM (online contract attorney claim submission system)*
  - a. *Contractor case analysis function*
  - b. *Add additional non-attorney contractor vendors**Up to \$100,000 for software enhancements and analysis function*
4. Enhancements to case management program
  - a. Import outside information into case management system
  - b. Electronic input of client information
5. Electronic records management consultant
6. New FTE
  - a. Executive director position
  - b. *Program requests*  
*One FTE for Appellate office*
7. ~~Resources to address state special revenue issue~~  
*Withdrawn*