

Judicial Council FY26-27 Budget Summary.

Judicial Council (JC) Budget Comparison with Notes			
FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Adjusted Authorized	FY2026 Governor's Recommended	FY2026 Passed by House
\$42,981,739	\$37,674,462	\$37,680,699	\$39,466,742
Does not include \$1,053,108 in federal funds that was used to fund lateral hires and training.	Note: An additional \$3.4 million was allocated to the Judicial Council through HB2, which raised the total budget to \$41,074,462. FY25 YTD actual expenditures as of 4/14/2025 are \$41,391,078 due to additional needs for assigned counsel, non-counsel services, and GALs. The Judicial Council estimates that it will expend approximately \$43,000,000 in FY 2025.	Note: There was an error in the Governor's recommended budget which led to the recommended budget being approximately \$1.8 million lower than intended.	The House restored the money that was mistakenly removed from the Judicial Council's budget.

FY2024 Public Defender Actual	FY2025 Adjusted Authorized	FY2026 Governor's Recommended	FY2026 Passed by House	FY2026 Judicial Council Recommended Funding for NHPD	FY2026 Funding Recommended to Prevent Cuts at NHPD
Total: \$27,794,554	\$24,994,554	\$27,030,362	\$28,807,405	\$37,063,498	\$32,600,000
Does not include \$982,098 in Federal ARPA funding which was used to hire lateral attorneys. Total NHPD FY24 budget \$28,776,652.	This does not include money from HB2. HB1 and HB2 combined bring actual FY24 amount to \$27,794,554.	This number was mistakenly \$1.77 million lower than intended.	\$1.77 million restored by House.	Amount recommended by Judicial Council to add lawyers to take on additional cases and match county attorney salaries for entry level attorneys.	Amount recommended to keep NHPD at current staffing without federal funding.

1. The Judicial Council **must pay** for indigent defense. N.H. Const. Art. 15.
2. Paying for indigent defense through the public defender is more affordable than paying for these services through assigned counsel. Paying for the same services through assigned counsel costs two to three times more.
3. The Judicial Council recommends funding NHPD at least at \$32,600,000 to avoid even more expensive assigned counsel bills later.