

MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Defender Commission Budget Committee

FROM: Fritz Gillespie, Chair

DATE: July 8, 2016

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 (OBPP) and approved by the Budget Director. This funding is biennial, restricted and one-time-only.

OBPP has provided further guidance regarding the use of these funds in light of OPD's potential shortfall for the biennium. They have instructed that use of the remaining funds must demonstrate a net cost savings to the agency in this biennium.

Please keep these guidelines in mind as we consider proposals for use of the funds.