

Pretrial Services

Date: Tuesday June 24, 2025

What reductions would your department have to make. Please indicate by % what reductions are related to personnel, operations, allocations and capital items:

The Pretrial department is currently not facing direct budget cuts, which is favorable given the proposed projections. However, the interconnected nature of the criminal justice system could lead to unfavorable outcomes if other departments, with which this department collaborates, have to make budget-related personnel adjustments. Such cuts, including within Pretrial, the results would be increased caseloads for the staff, potentially leading to detrimental effects on court efficiency and the quality of services provided to clients. Indirectly, this could delay judicial decisions regarding pretrial release and create a waiting list for judges seeking our assistance as an alternative to incarceration. Furthermore, the increased workload could strain staff, potentially leading to departures and exacerbating the challenge.

- **Sole Focus on high-risk offenders:** With limited resources, Pretrial case manager would need to prioritize supervision of high-risk offenders, potentially leaving low-to-mid risk offenders with less supervision leading to a higher rate of individuals falling through the cracks. (Recidivism)
- **Reduced efficiency:** Overworked staff, high caseloads can lead to increased inefficiencies in operations. Reduced client contact might lead to fewer clients reporting as directed. (Court appearance and safety rates would fall.)

PERSONNEL: 81%, OPERATIONS: 3%, ALLOCATIONS: 15%, CAPITAL ITEMS: 2%

Please explain how the reductions would impact the operations of your department, including estimates of what % of your functions are required by statute and what % are discretionary in nature.

Pretrial Services programs are mandated by statute to perform several key functions related to defendants awaiting trial. The pretrial process includes gathering and presenting information about defendants to the court, conducting risk assessments to determine the appropriate release or detention recommendation, and providing supervision for those released prior to trial. Pretrial Services also play a role in monitoring and reviewing the status of detained defendants.

- Statutory requirements ensure that Pretrial Services agencies play a vital role in the fair and efficient administration of justice, balancing the need to protect public safety with the defendant's right to liberty.
Personnel: 65%
- **Discretionary in nature:** with a limited overall budget for operations is **1%**. Current allocations for: (Possible reductions)
 - i. Employee Awards:
 - ii. Subscriptions:
 - iii. Food:
 - iv. Office Supplies:

Please address the cost of turnover on your operation. For instance, if positions were reduced and then brought back in future budget seasons, what would be the impact of retraining positions?

Employee turnover among case managers within Pretrial Supervision carries indirect costs, notably the reduction of overall productivity. New personnel necessitate a period of acclimation and training, which may extend up to six months or more depending on previous experience, before achieving optimal effectiveness. Furthermore, the departure of a case manager increases the caseloads of their colleagues and necessitates the re-establishment of client trust and rapport as the new case manager assumes oversight of individuals' criminal justice needs. Overworked case managers in Pretrial, resulting from high client referrals, could experience lost productivity, leading to clients falling through the cracks and ultimately, staff burnout.

What statutory functions are currently being impeded or not taking place due to budgetary constraints?

- **77-20-202 Collection of Pretrial Information:**
- **Explained:** When an individual is arrested without a warrant for an offense and booked at a jail facility, an employee at the jail facility, or an employee of a pretrial services program, shall submit information to the court with the probable cause statement. This is what a jail SCREENING Unit would provide to the releasing judge at booking. We perform this screening procedure prior to initial court appearance and/or once released from incarceration.
- **Gathering and presenting defendant information:** Pretrial Services agencies are required to collect and verify information about a defendant's background, including residence, employment, family ties, criminal history, and health, including any mental health or substance use issues.
- **Supervision of released defendants:** If a defendant is released, Pretrial Services agencies are responsible for supervising them, ensuring compliance with release conditions, and reporting any violations to the court.