



2024-2025

Annual Report

Introduction

Indiana has been a long-standing leader in providing attorneys to individuals who are unable to afford private legal counsel in criminal or certain family law cases. While the United States Supreme Court did not declare the right to an attorney to be a constitutional right until 1963, the Indiana Supreme Court recognized that any person whose liberty rights were in jeopardy deserved an attorney in 1854.

All states are required to provide competent attorneys to those unable to pay. In Indiana, because counties are a creation of the state, counties are required to provide that representation.

The State of Indiana created the Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys (originally known as the Indiana Public Defender Commission) to provide support to counties, if they choose to follow the Commission's standards and guidelines - requiring appropriate caseloads, experience, and compensation to attorneys who provide this legal representation.

Since the Commission was created in 1989, it has reimbursed over \$400 million in state funding to the counties and regions participating in the reimbursement program. Currently, 68 of Indiana's 92 counties participate, covering over three-fourths of Indiana's population.

We invite you to enjoy this Annual Report covering fiscal year 2024-25.

Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys

(317) 233-6908

www.in.gov/ccaa

information@ccaa.in.gov

*Cover photo: Clark County Courthouse
Chris Flook, Ball State University*

Commission Members

The Commission is an eleven-member, independent, judicial branch state governing board. The membership is set by state statute and is composed of 3 members appointed by the Governor, 3 members appointed by the Chief Justice, 2 members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House, and 1 member appointed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. Members serve four-year terms.



Mark W. Rutherford,
Chairperson
Hamilton County
Appointed by the Governor
Term Expires: 06.30.27



Bernice A. N. Corley
Marion County
Appointed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
Term Expires: 06.30.2025



Samantha DeWester
Marion County
Appointed by the Governor
Term Expires: 06.30.2027



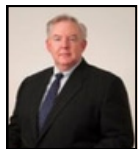
Judge Mary Ellen Diekhoff
Monroe County
Appointed by the Chief Justice
Term Expires: 06.30.2029



Judge Kelsey Hanlon
Owen County
Appointed by the Chief Justice
Term Expires: 06.30.2029



Rep. Ragen Hatcher
Lake County
Appointed by the Speaker of the House
Term Expires: 06.30.2025



David Hensel
Marion County
Appointed by the Governor
Term Expires: 06.30.2027



Sen. Eric Koch
Lawrence County
Appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate
Term Expires: 06.30.2025



Rep. Ryan Lauer
Bartholomew County
Appointed by the Speaker of the House
Term Expires: 06.30.2025



James Abbs
Noble County
Appointed by the Chief Justice
Term Expires: 06.30.2025



Sen. Greg Taylor
Marion County
Appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate
Term Expires: 06.30.2025

Commission Staff



Derrick Mason
Executive Director
Derrick.Mason@ccaa.in.gov



Andrew Cullen
Director of Public Policy & Communications
Andrew.Cullen@ccaa.in.gov



Andrew Falk
Staff Attorney
Andrew.Falk@ccaa.in.gov



Emily Hughey
Program Support Specialist
Emily.Hughey@ccaa.in.gov



Linda Hunter
Operations Administrator
Linda.Hunter@ccaa.in.gov



Torrin Liddell
Director of Research & Data Analytics
Torrin.Liddell@ccaa.in.gov

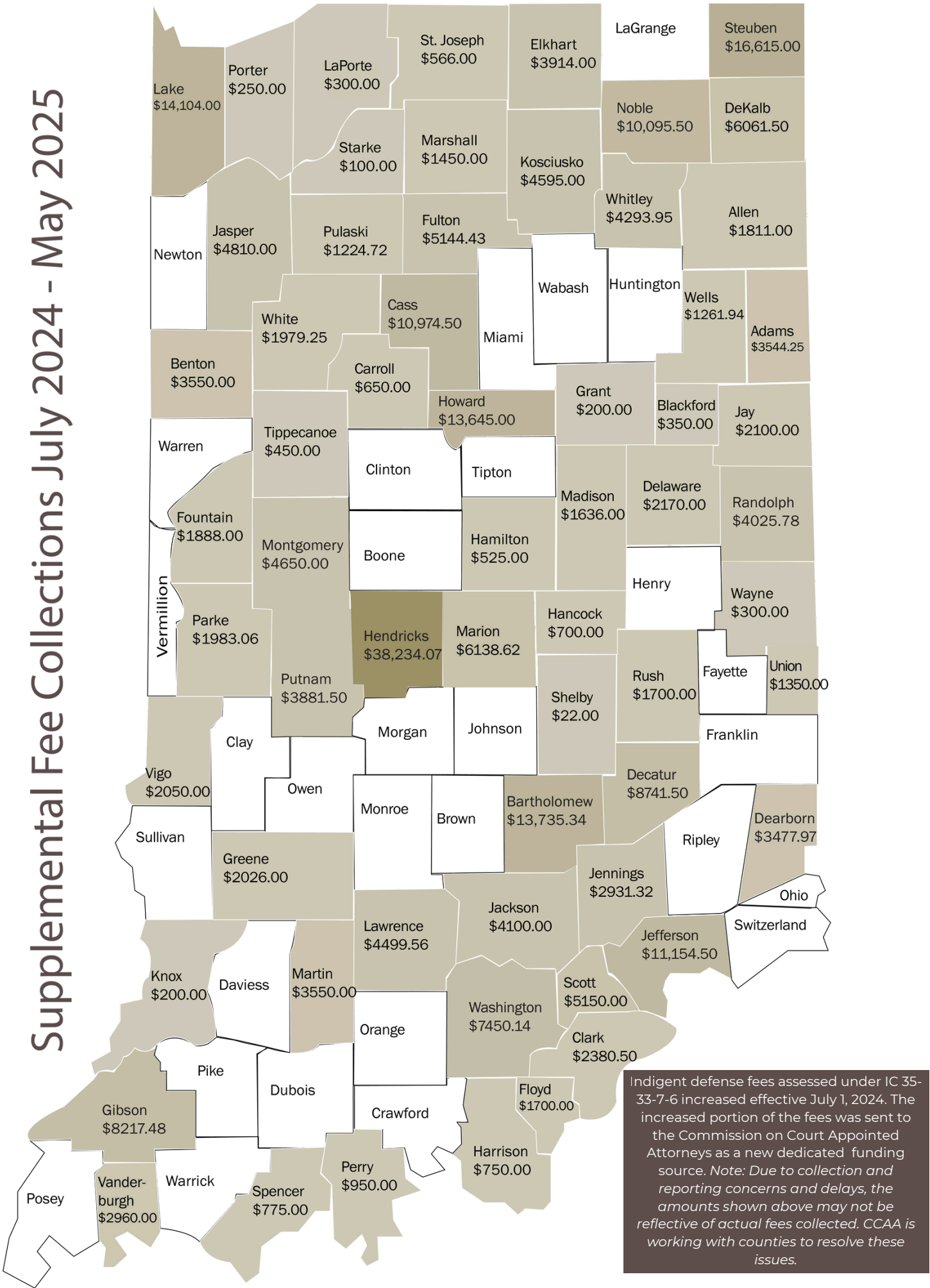


Jennifer Pinkston
Director of Operations
Jennifer.Pinkston@ccaa.in.gov



Tristan Snell
Program Support Specialist
Tristan.Snell@ccaa.in.gov

Indigent Defense Fee Increase Takes Effect



Counties Selected for Public Defense Misdemeanor Reimbursement Pilot

Program Size Reduced Due to State Budget Cut

The Commission has selected nine (9) Indiana counties to participate in a pilot program that will provide partial state reimbursement for county misdemeanor public defense expenses.

Beginning July 1, 2025, Clark, Dekalb, Floyd, Lawrence, Perry, Pulaski, Steuben, Vigo, and Wabash counties will be eligible for an 18-month, 40% reimbursement of county misdemeanor expenses in exchange for abiding by CCAA standards. Counties selected must agree to attorney caseload limits and fair compensation.

The CCAA received authorization to conduct this pilot program in 2024 under a provision in Senate Enrolled Act 179. The statute permits the CCAA to select up to twelve (12) counties with geographic and population diversity for a 4-year pilot. However, the CCAA opted to reduce the size of the pilot and approved participation in the pilot for shorter terms due to the budget cuts that most state agencies, including the CCAA, received in the 2025 legislative session. Renewal of each county's participation after the initial 18- month term will be reviewed toward the end of the term and decisions will be based upon the CCAA's budget and the county's success with the pilot thus far.

Pulaski

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as the county begins receiving misdemeanor reimbursement. The county will also serve as one of the few counties without a public defender office to offer a comparison group to other pilot counties that have pay and caseload problems.

Wabash

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as the county begins receiving misdemeanor reimbursement. The county will also serve as a comparison group to other pilot counties that have pay and caseload problems.

Vigo

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as pay is increased to meet CCAA standards and staffing is gradually increased to lower the very high misdemeanor attorneys' caseloads until compliance with CCAA standards is achieved.

Lawrence

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as the county begins receiving misdemeanor reimbursement. The county will also serve as a comparison group to other pilot counties that have pay and caseload problems.

Perry

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as the county begins receiving misdemeanor reimbursement. The county will also serve as one of the few counties without a public defender office to offer a comparison group to other pilot counties that have pay and caseload problems.

Floyd

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as the county begins receiving misdemeanor reimbursement. The county recently made changes in their misdemeanor representation and will serve as a comparison group to other pilot counties that have pay and caseload problems.

Steuben

The pilot is being offered due to the county's commitment to launch a public defender office with the funds generated. It will allow the study of the creation of a new office and will generate valuable data on changes to misdemeanor representation both before and after such changes are made.

DeKalb

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as pay is increased to meet CCAA standards.

Clark

The pilot will evaluate misdemeanor case length and case outcomes as pay is increased to meet CCAA standards and staffing is gradually increased to lower the very high misdemeanor attorneys' caseloads until compliance with CCAA standards is achieved.



State and Federal Reimbursement History

County	Capital	Non-Capital	Federal Title IV -E	Total Reimbursement	Non-Capital Participation
ADAMS	\$24,094	\$2,492,428	\$20,840	\$2,537,362	2000-Present
ALLEN	\$392,176	\$30,153,868	\$166,890	\$30,712,934	2000-Present
BENTON	\$0	\$575,055	\$0	\$575,055	1998-Present
BLACKFORD	\$0	\$1,219,242	\$8,300	\$1,227,542	2000-Present
BOONE	\$458,377	\$0	\$0	\$458,377	
BROWN	\$0	\$708,608	\$6,404	\$715,011	2012-2017, 2019-Present
CARROLL	\$43,091	\$1,621,244	\$18,020	\$1,682,355	2001-Present
CASS	\$0	\$2,630,139	\$22,180	\$2,652,319	2013-Present
CLARK	\$539,030	\$8,416,712	\$34,925	\$8,990,667	1995-Present
CLINTON	\$295,386	\$836,392	\$5,818	\$1,137,596	2018-Present
CRAWFORD	\$0	\$232,050	\$4,630	\$236,680	2021-Present
DAVIESS	\$6,150	\$0	\$0	\$6,150	
DEARBORN	\$0	\$0	\$50,083	\$50,083	
DECATUR	\$0	\$1,819,040	\$6,022	\$1,825,062	1999-Present
DEKALB	\$0	\$2,656,202	\$20,263	\$2,676,465	2016-Present
DELAWARE	\$307,403	\$7,979,016	\$72,932	\$8,359,352	2011-Present
DUBOIS	\$0	\$0	\$2,326	\$2,326	
ELKHART	\$99,832	\$6,318,215	\$65,760	\$6,483,807	2020-Present
FAYETTE	\$0	\$2,817,550	\$10,929	\$2,828,479	1999-Present
FLOYD	\$404,055	\$6,648,645	\$53,017	\$7,105,718	1997-Present
FOUNTAIN* (SEE ALSO WCIPDO)	\$59,553	\$763,120	\$1,101	\$823,774	1999-Present
FULTON	\$167,002	\$1,813,211	\$12,098	\$1,992,311	1998-Present
GIBSON	\$40,865	\$1,300,480	\$29,785	\$1,371,130	2020-Present
GRANT	\$0	\$7,418,283	\$29,384	\$7,447,667	2003-Present
GREENE	\$28,436	\$3,442,003	\$21,927	\$3,492,366	2000-Present
HAMILTON	\$230,965	\$0	\$6,083	\$237,049	
HANCOCK	\$2,064	\$4,609,825	\$41,504	\$4,653,393	1999-Present
HARRISON	\$823,472	\$1,099,844	\$17,387	\$1,940,703	
HENDRICKS	\$33,926	\$4,982,318	\$24,589	\$5,040,833	2017-Present
HENRY	\$76,312	\$773,998	\$0	\$850,310	1999-2008
HOWARD	\$0	\$10,665,021	\$59,179	\$10,724,200	2004-Present
JACKSON	\$0	\$3,104,878	\$40,324	\$3,145,202	2015-Present
JASPER	\$47,241	\$1,993,132	\$12,164	\$2,052,537	1999-Present
JAY	\$0	\$2,668,061	\$31,833	\$2,699,894	2000-Present
JEFFERSON	\$87,054	\$2,122,423	\$21,477	\$2,230,955	2017-Present
JENNINGS	\$0	\$2,251,330	\$22,551	\$2,273,882	1999-Present
JOHNSON	\$217,557	\$0	\$0	\$217,557	
KNOX	\$54,276	\$5,185,085	\$33,988	\$5,273,349	1999-Present
KOSCIUSKO	\$0	\$4,565,624	\$18,616	\$4,584,240	2000-Present
LaGRANGE	\$0	\$1,291,169	\$10,139	\$1,301,308	2010-Present
LAKE	\$2,142,553	\$38,541,845	\$0	\$40,684,398	1999-Present
LaPORTE	\$59,311	\$6,631,121	\$29,909	\$6,720,341	1995-Present
LAWRENCE	\$0	\$4,384,611	\$47,531	\$4,432,142	2011-Present

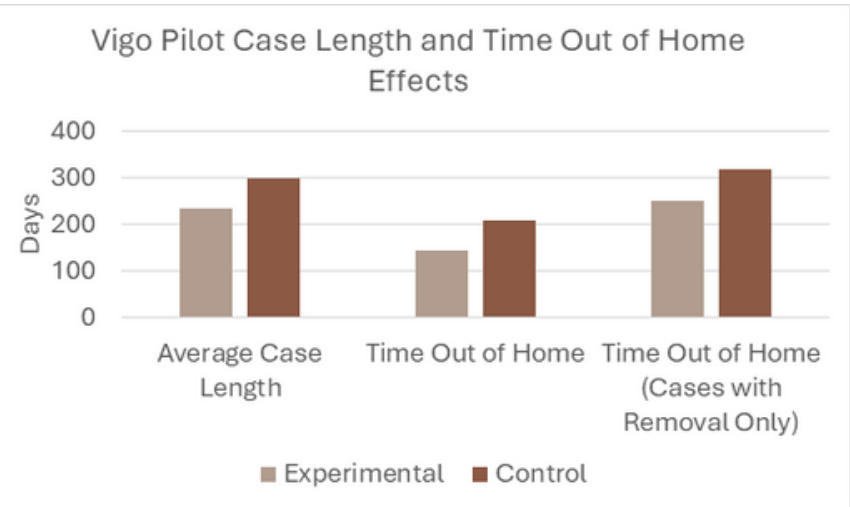
The Federal Title IV-E reimbursement began in 2022, with most counties receiving reimbursement by 2024. No Commission reimbursements to: Bartholomew, Clay, Franklin, Huntington, Newton, Tipton and Wells Counties.

*In 2022, Fountain, Parke and Vermillion Counties formed the West Central Indiana Public Defender Office. Reimbursements paid to these three counties are now reported through WCIPDO.

County	Capital	Non-Capital	Federal Title IV -E	Total Reimbursement	Non-Capital Participation
MADISON	\$754,492	\$16,536,172	\$105,415	\$17,396,079	1998-Present
MARION	\$4,223,681	\$150,897,084	\$913,289	\$156,034,054	1995-Present
Marshall	\$0	\$0	\$2,198	\$2,198	
MARTIN	\$0	\$1,214,713	\$8,599	\$1,223,313	1999-Present
MIAMI	\$17,919	\$2,514,346	\$18,622	\$2,550,887	1995-2007,2018-Present
MONROE	\$0	\$14,149,691	\$86,943	\$14,236,634	2000-Present
MONTGOMERY	\$0	\$1,080,445	\$13,763	\$1,094,208	1995-2013
MORGAN	\$511,283	\$0	\$46,491	\$557,774	
NOBLE	\$0	\$4,857,202	\$15,689	\$4,872,891	2001-Present
OHIO	\$0	\$679,877	\$3,236	\$683,114	1999-Present
ORANGE	\$0	\$2,473,851	\$16,728	\$2,490,579	1995-Present
OWEN	\$0	\$1,099,798	\$15,882	\$1,115,680	2015-Present
PARKE * (SEE ALSO WCIPDO)	\$405,588	\$967,650	\$587	\$1,373,825	1996-Present
PERRY	\$0	\$1,834,514	\$16,479	\$1,850,993	2004-Present
PIKE	\$16,891	\$1,507,942	\$12,042	\$1,536,874	2001-Present
PORTER	\$83,654	\$0	\$0	\$83,654	
POSEY	\$75,447	\$0	\$0	\$75,447	
PULASKI	\$0	\$1,825,031	\$12,609	\$1,837,641	1999-Present
PUTNAM	\$128,306	\$0	\$17,105	\$145,411	
RANDOLPH	\$25,309	\$0	\$0	\$25,309	
RIPLEY	\$0	\$906,301	\$9,745	\$916,046	2014-Present
RUSH	\$0	\$2,181,011	\$12,134	\$2,193,146	2001-Present
ST. JOSEPH	\$85,692	\$14,963,845	\$100,670	\$15,150,207	2007-Present
SCOTT	\$0	\$1,927,236	\$27,500	\$1,954,736	2000-2009,2018-Present
SHELBY	\$40,348	\$3,906,149	\$13,828	\$3,960,324	1999-Present
SPENCER	\$348,321	\$1,803,425	\$30,031	\$2,181,777	1999-Present
STARKE	\$0	\$0	\$1,897	\$1,897	
STEUBEN	\$117,936	\$2,472,429	\$14,078	\$2,604,443	2001-Present
SULLIVAN	\$70,576	\$1,328,591	\$15,484	\$1,414,651	1999-Present
SWITZERLAND	\$0	\$1,371,604	\$9,121	\$1,380,725	1999-Present
TIPPECANOE	\$85,663	\$18,129,159	\$98,695	\$18,313,517	2004-Present
UNION	\$0	\$517,673	\$1,227	\$518,900	1999-Present
VANDEBURGH	\$852,202	\$21,418,952	\$128,661	\$22,399,815	2000-Present
VERMILLION * (SEE ALSO WCIPDO)	\$0	\$1,152,356	\$2,105	\$1,154,460	1997-Present
VIGO	\$153,768	\$16,503,361	\$114,672	\$16,771,801	1999-Present
WABASH	\$0	\$2,063,100	\$17,197	\$2,080,297	2007-Present
WARREN	\$0	\$363,861	\$978	\$364,839	1996-Present
WARRICK	\$481,597	\$1,099,493	\$22,097	\$1,603,187	
WASHINGTON	\$3,878	\$3,777,708	\$14,989	\$3,796,575	2000-Present
Wayne	\$241,134	\$0	\$0	\$241,134	
WCIPDO - FOUNTAIN, PARKE, VERMILLION*	\$0	\$645,432	\$14,512	\$659,945	2022-Present
WHITE	\$0	\$155,023	\$20,976	\$175,999	2001-2002, 2024-Present
WHITLEY	\$0	\$213,244	\$18,685	\$231,929	1999-2008
TOTAL	\$15,363,864	\$485,270,058	\$3,075,876	\$503,709,798	

At Risk Youth and Family Project Results

In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, \$2M was appropriated each year for At Risk Youth and Family projects. Continued funding of these projects was rolled into the general appropriation in fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The Commission has partnered with five counties and Child Advocates to implement pilot projects for a total of seven projects. Two projects have completed data collection and analysis, two projects have completed data collection and are currently being analyzed, and three projects are currently ongoing.



System Navigators Pilots

Goal: Help parents in CHINS and TPR cases navigate and understand the complex DCS system.

Services: Provide social workers, case workers, or other DCS system experts to parents and their public defenders in CHINS and TPR cases.

Timeline: Monroe and Vigo began around the same time in early 2022, and have been extended for continued data collection; both programs are now partially county funded through 2025. Washington started in 2023 with a 2-year grant, and expanded system navigators to juvenile cases. Gibson started in in 2025 with a 2 year grant.

Results: Vigo data analysis has concluded, with Monroe and Washington currently being analyzed having recently concluded data collection. Gibson County data collection is ongoing. Vigo County results show decreases in case length and time spent with a child out of the home (see chart, above) and a 14% relative increase in reunification.

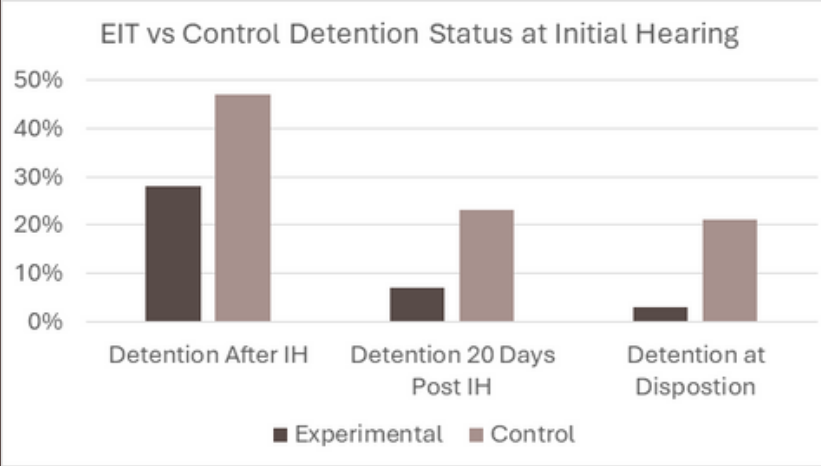
Marion County Early Intervention Team

Goal: Reduce the number of juveniles in secure detention and the number of juvenile delinquencies approved for filing.

Services: Provides a multidisciplinary team to clients in juvenile delinquency cases as early as possible, before the initial hearing.

Timeline: Began in March 2022, and was partially extended for a third year.

Results: The EIT group had greatly reduced levels of detention (see chart right) as well as a 12% relative increase in positive case outcomes when compared with control.



Child Advocates: Medical/Legal Partnership

Goal: Provide multi-disciplinary support to parents that are at risk of DCS involvement in order to prevent any future involvement.

Services: Provides a social worker-attorney team to referred at-risk parents. Referrals are made by an embedded social worker at Riley Children's hospital. Problems addressed include guardianship, custody orders, social security, benefits applications, eviction and other housing issues, and more.

Timeline: Pilot started in early 2024, lasting 2 years

Interim Results: 47 referrals accepted in first year of operation.

Child Advocates: Mediation

Goal: Use mediations and facilitations to provide efficient, collaborative resolution to cases that can often take years to resolve.

Services: Provides mediators in CHINS and Termination of Parental Rights cases.

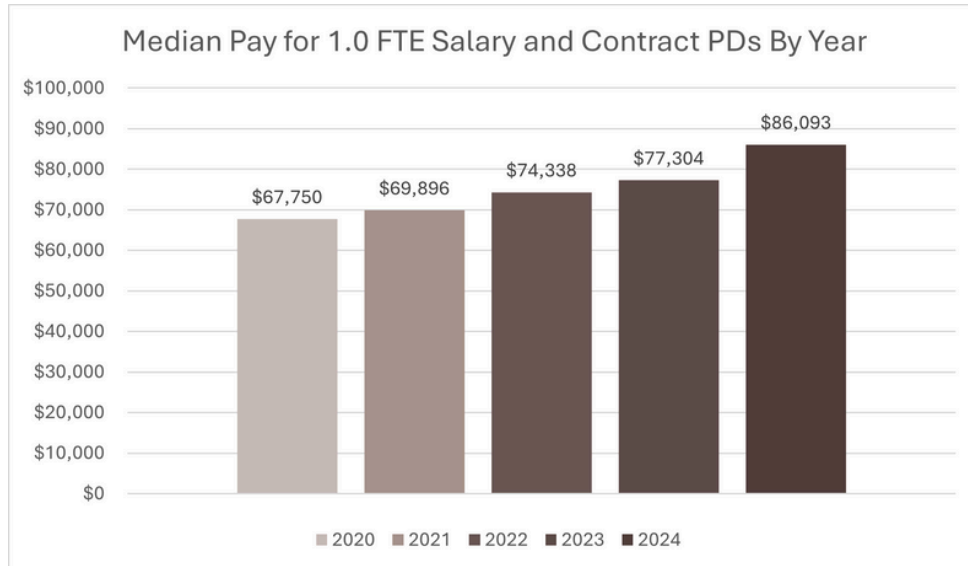
Timeline: Pilot started in late 2023, lasting 2 years.

Interim results:

- Total Mediations/Facilitations so far: 764
- Total Settlements: 475
- Partial Settlements: 148

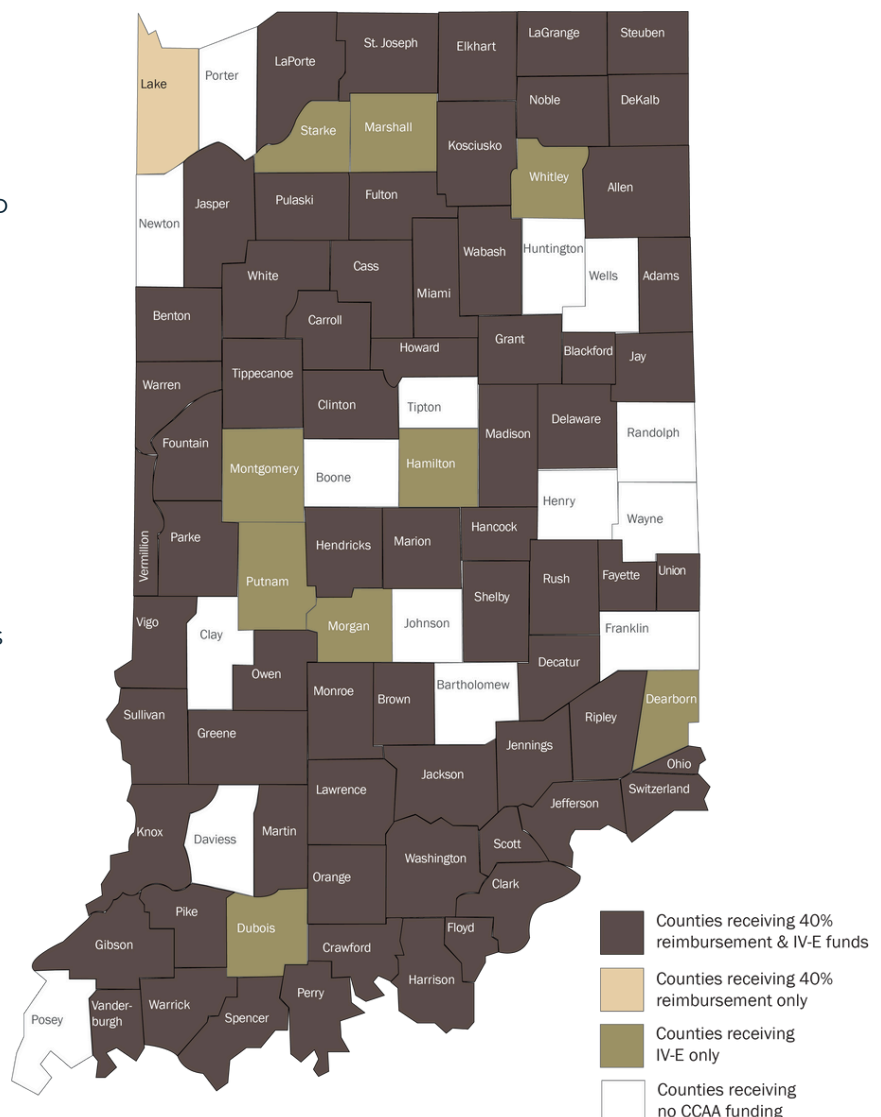
Contract and Salary Public Defender Pay Continues to Increase

As of the end of 2024, Commission staff found that median pay for public defenders in Commission Counties continues to rise. This data includes all contract and salary attorneys in Commission Counties, normalized to full-time status. The median pay for fourth quarter was \$86,093, an almost \$9,000 increase over the similar number for 2023. The ongoing attorney shortage will likely cause this to increase again in 2025.



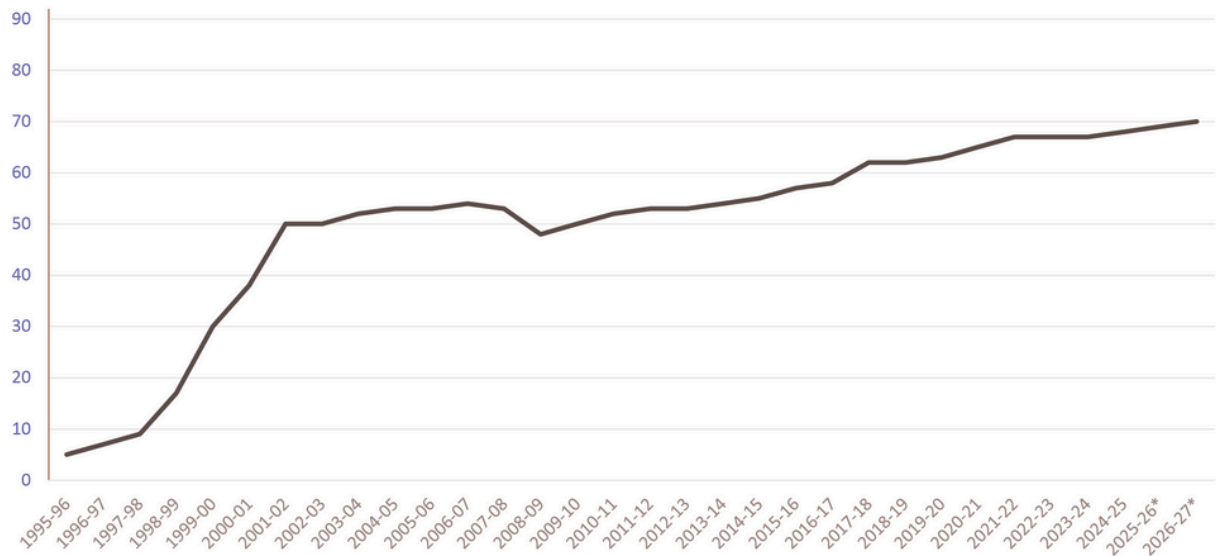
Federal Title IV-E Reimbursements Continue

The Commission continues to leverage Federal Title IV-E Funds for reimbursement of county costs of legal representation for parents in child welfare cases. The funds also cover expenses associated with overhead, support staff, paralegals, investigators, peer partners, and social workers that support attorneys providing representation. The Commission continues to provide Title IV-E reimbursement directly to counties for DCS-related public defense expenses, regardless of whether the county receives other Commission reimbursement. On the map to the right, the counties in brown receive a 40% reimbursement of eligible expenses, partially offset by Title IV-E dollars and additional Title IV-E dollars for the portion of eligible public defense expenses not reimbursed. The counties in olive green receive only Title IV-E reimbursement for eligible expenses. The county in tan only receives a 40% reimbursement of eligible expenses. Since reimbursements began in fiscal year 2022, the Commission has returned over \$3 million to counties.



County Participation History 1996-2027*

Participating Counties

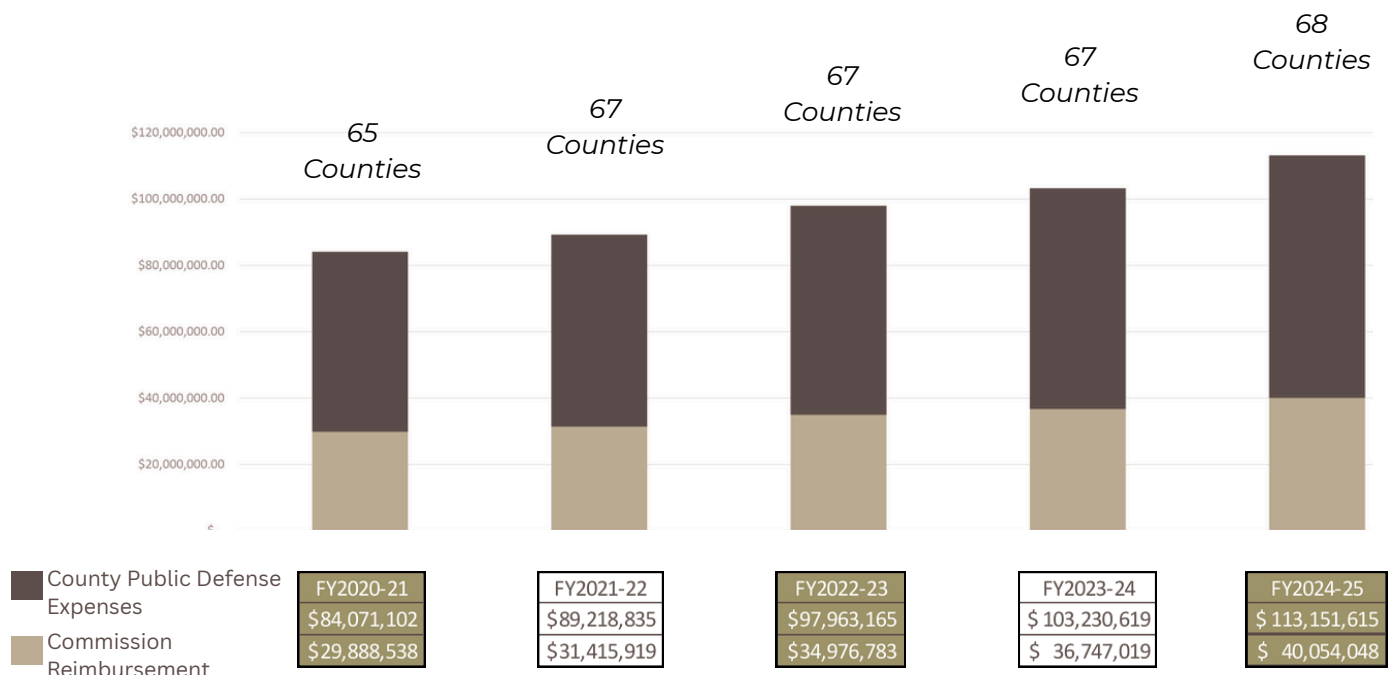


*Projected non-capital reimbursement program participation based on current onboarding processes and expressed interest.

Since the non-capital reimbursement program began, the Commission has seen steady growth in participation, with the exclusion of the period when reimbursements were prorated due to insufficient funds in the Commission's budget. It is anticipated at least two counties will join the program over the next biennium, with additional counties expressing interest or exploring implementation options.

Participating County Public Defense Expenses

Note: The graph below represents 65-68 participating counties between 2020 and 2025.



Largely due to the ongoing attorney shortage in Indiana, the expenses for public defense at the county level are increasing. The chart above illustrates the costs incurred by participating counties along with the reimbursements received over the past five years. From FY2021-22 to FY2023-24, while Commission membership held steady at 67, expenses increased by over \$14 million.

Capital and Non-Capital Reimbursement History

Fiscal Year	# of Counties Eligible for Reimbursement	Reimbursement Paid in Capital Cases	Reimbursement Paid in Non-Capital Cases	Total Reimbursement Paid
1989-90				\$ -
1990-91		\$ 58,550		\$ 58,550
1991-92		\$ 286,805		\$ 286,805
1992-93		\$ 484,501		\$ 484,501
1993-94		\$ 337,139		\$ 337,139
1994-95		\$ 288,465		\$ 288,465
1995-96	5	\$ 528,640	\$ 668,747	\$ 1,197,387
1996-97	7	\$ 371,048	\$ 628,841	\$ 999,889
1997-98	9	\$ 799,450	\$ 1,022,104	\$ 1,821,554
1998-99	17	\$ 526,513	\$ 2,188,701	\$ 2,715,214
1999-00	30	\$ 378,210	\$ 2,990,954	\$ 3,369,164
2000-01	38	\$ 712,056	\$ 3,669,319	\$ 4,381,375
2001-02	50	\$ 473,317	\$ 4,869,313	\$ 5,342,630
2002-03	50	\$ 413,806	\$ 5,371,364	\$ 5,785,170
2003-04	52	\$ 478,223	\$ 4,553,537	\$ 5,031,760
2004-05	53	\$ 672,381	\$ 11,026,803	\$ 11,699,184
2005-06	53	\$ 386,288	\$ 5,824,921	\$ 6,211,209
2006-07	54	\$ 844,769	\$ 12,147,454	\$ 12,992,223
2007-08	53	\$ 753,772	\$ 14,162,897	\$ 14,916,669
2008-09	48	\$ 742,251	\$ 14,325,105	\$ 15,067,356
2009-10	50	\$ 618,252	\$ 15,373,384	\$ 15,991,636
2010-11	52	\$ 370,709	\$ 15,996,714	\$ 16,367,423
2011-12	53	\$ 532,706	\$ 16,685,482	\$ 17,218,188
2012-13	53	\$ 381,459	\$ 17,546,818	\$ 17,928,277
2013-14	54	\$ 421,935	\$ 18,693,834	\$ 19,115,769
2014-15	55	\$ 268,182	\$ 19,923,237	\$ 20,191,419
2015-16	57	\$ 590,939	\$ 20,695,801	\$ 21,286,740
2016-17	58	\$ 896,287	\$ 22,435,660	\$ 23,331,946
2017-18	62	\$ 256,896	\$ 25,006,493	\$ 25,263,389
2018-19	62	\$ 481,104	\$ 27,502,636	\$ 27,983,740
2019-20	63	\$ 188,155	\$ 28,877,630	\$ 29,065,785
2020-21	65	\$ 6,138	\$ 29,888,538	\$ 29,894,676
2021-22	67	\$ 71,547	\$ 31,415,919	\$ 31,487,466
2022-23	67	\$ 196,765	\$ 34,976,783	\$ 35,173,548
2023-24	67	\$ 312,512	\$ 36,747,019	\$ 37,059,531
2024-25	68	\$ 231,827	\$ 40,054,048	\$ 40,285,874
TOTALS		\$ 15,361,596	\$ 485,270,058	\$ 500,631,653

2025 Capital Case Reimbursements

COUNTY	DEFENDANT	TOTAL
Hendricks	Rodgers	\$33,926.14
Madison	Boards	\$125,295.88
Marion	Mitchell	\$6,695.80
Wayne	Lee	\$65,908.69
TOTAL		\$231,826.51

2024-2025 Non-Capital Reimbursements

