Indiana is a county-based, county-funded system with optional state support

State Resources
Indiana Public Defender Commission
Indiana Public Defender Council
Public Defender of Indiana

County Resources
Property taxes
Supplemental Public Defender Fund

State-level resources are split between three separate agencies

Funding Sources for Trial and Appellate Level Public Defense Services (2015)

Total: $76,449,852.00
Note: There may be reason to believe the true amount spent may be higher due to underreporting

County governments are NOT required to use any services provided by the Council or Commission unless they agree to participate.
County Public Defense Structure

**Typical Non-Commission County**
- County Council
  - Sets budget for courts
- Judge
  - Presents budget request
  - Hires public defenders
  - Judge has sole hire/fire authority over PD
- Public Defender

**Commission Counties**
- County Council
  - Sets budget for courts
- Public Defender Board
  - 2 judicial
  - 1 County Commissioner
  - Consults with judges
  - Source for hire/fire authority
  - Manages PD budget
  - Appears before County Council
- Public Defender

How a county joins the Commission

1. **Contact the Commission Staff**
2. **Commission performs caseload and financial analysis**
3. **County Commissioner’s Establish Public Defender Board** (I.C. 33-40-7)
4. **PD Board Develops Comprehensive Plan on Method of Indigent Defense the County will Implement**
5. **Commission Approves Comprehensive Plan**
6. **County Council Funds Comprehensive Plan**
7. **County Auditor & PD Board Submit Request for Reimbursement Each Quarter**

September 1, 2017