

**IDAHO STATE PUBLIC
DEFENSE COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN**
FY 2023 through September 30, 2024

MISSION

The Idaho State Public Defense Commission is committed to improving the delivery of trial-level indigent defense services by serving the counties and indigent defense providers of Idaho. We strive to ensure that the safeguards for the accused guaranteed by the 6th Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sect. 13 of the Idaho Constitution are fulfilled by collecting data, supporting compliance with standards, providing training and administering grants to stakeholders.

VISION

Ensuring constitutionally guaranteed fair and just representation for indigent persons in Idaho.

GOALS

FIRST GOAL: Assist in the Transition to a New Public Defense System.

- Objective:** Assist in the transition from the current county-based public defense systems to a new state system which, pursuant to [HO735a](#), the Legislature will adopt in 2023.
- Performance Measures:** Provide the Governor and the 2023 Idaho Legislature with data regarding Idaho’s current county-based public defense systems along with research about other state’s systems.
- Benchmark/
Target**
- October 1, 2022 – FY 2023 Financial Assistance Data
 - December 31, 2022 – FY 2022 Defending Attorney Data
 - January 31, 2023 – FY 2022 County Indigent Defense Expenditure Data
 - April 30, 2023 – FY 2022 County Annual Review Data
 - Ongoing – Other Systems Data

SECOND GOAL: Promote excellence by providing interactive and accessible training to defending attorneys and professional staff.

Objective 1: Understand the training needs of defending attorneys and their staff and develop innovative and accessible training.

Performance Measures: Survey PDC training participants about their needs and feedback and collaborate with partners to design effective in-person and virtual trainings.

Assess stated needs and plan trainings each quarter for the following quarter.

Benchmark/Target Each registered CLE participant for a CLE will be sent a survey after the CLE about their needs and ideas for future trainings.

The Management Assistant and Executive Director will meet monthly and incorporate surveyed needs into training during the next available quarter.

Objective 2: Provide live interactive and recorded webinars to defending attorneys.

Performance Measures: Produce and present monthly live webinars featuring Idaho and/or national presenters at no charge to PDC roster members.

Record webinars to be available to PDC roster members at no charge through the Idaho PDC learning management system.

Benchmark/Target Continue Montroy Series each month, and more frequently as training needs and trainers are identified.

Continue monthly First Friday webinars.

Objective 3: Provide the annual public defense college emphasizing trial skills, holistic defense and mentoring.

Performance Measures: Produce and present the third annual public defense trial college at no charge for PDC roster members and University of Idaho College of Law students.

Secure accommodations or platforms by September 2022.

Recruit attorneys from Idaho and across the nation to teach and prepare training materials by May 2023.

Benchmark/Target September 30, 2022 – College Director Selected.

October 15, 2022 – College Announcement.

May 1, 2023 – Case/Reading Materials Completed.

May 15, 2023 – Agenda Completed.

Increase law student enrollment by 50%.

Retain 2 faculty to 5 participant ratio.

THIRD GOAL: Develop a “pipeline” to encourage students to enter the public defense profession in Idaho.

Objective: Collaborate with education partners to build a “pipeline” making it easier and more attractive for students to enter the public defense profession in Idaho.

Performance Measures: Partner with the University of Idaho College of Law and other education institutions to include additional students in the annual trial college and in other legal education courses.

Continue to present to students in classes and encourage faculty to present CLEs for the PDC and include students and PDC roster members.

Benchmark/Target Increase law student enrollment in annual public defense trial college by 50%.
Staff members will be available to present in classes as requested.

Law Professor will present in the Montroy Series with invitations extended to University of Idaho law students.

FOURTH GOAL: Collect accurate indigent defense services data and make recommendations to the Idaho legislature.

Objective: Collaborate with partners to identify and collect accurate case, workload and indigent defense expenditure data.

Performance Measures: Collaborate with stakeholders, Administrative Office of the Courts, policy experts and other partners to identify relevant data and improve forms and develop other methods of data collection by the end of 2023.

During each fiscal year, work with counties and defending attorneys to obtain and analyze specific case and indigent defense expenditure data reported from the prior fiscal year.

Benchmark/Target August 7, 2022 – December 9, 2022 – Accounting auditors complete FY2023 form review and recommendations.

June 30, 2023 – Data Management Platform options and recommendations available.

August 31, 2023 – Accounting auditors complete FY2024 form review and recommendations.

Continue collaboration with ITS and Adobe to improve functionality of forms.
Continue Open House series to assist stakeholders to provide relevant data in reporting forms.

FIFTH GOAL: Provide clear, concise and updated external and internal policies.

Objective: Draft clear and concise external and internal policies.

Performance Measures: Based on the outdated, unclear, inconsistent, redundant or absent policies identified by the PDC, continue to draft clear and concise policies linking to state policy where appropriate.

Continue to present completed internal and external policies to the Commission for review and approval by the second quarter of 2023.

Benchmark/Target June 30, 2023 – Present policies for review to the PDC - Appointment in Capital Cases When Capital Roster Members are Not Immediately Available; Ethics and Standards of Conduct; Incoming Communications; General Administration (Public Records Custodian/Location; Central Workplace; Business Hours); Compensation; Travel; Leave; Domestic Violence; Respectful Workplace; and PDC Forms; Roster Appeals.

June 30, 2023 – Present policies identified for elimination to the PDC - Review of Indigent Defense Systems; Review of Indigent Defense Providers and Defending Attorneys

SIXTH GOAL: Provide clear and comprehensive financial assistance parameters and guidance for a more effective and efficient process.

Objective: Identify and draft necessary parameters and guidance for financial assistance applications, awards and accountability consistent with relevant statutes and rules.

Performance Measures: Continue to draft parameters and guidance for stakeholders, staff and the Commission for applications, Commission review and award process and expenditure reporting.

Provide specific changes to the financial assistance program to stakeholders in quarterly meetings, open houses, calls, financial assistance instructions on the website and by correspondence prior to May 15, 2023.

Benchmark/Target September 15, 2022 – Accounting auditors complete form review and recommendations.

February 28, 2023 – Changes to the financial assistance application will be finalized and included in the five-point outreach from February 28 through May 15, 2023.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

In part, the goals of the strategic plan are dependent on legislative action in 2023 to develop a public defense system pursuant to [HO735a](#). Given the likely transition to a new system on October 1, 2024, it is not feasible to plan past that date until the Legislature takes further action. The Commission will revisit the strategic plan as necessary to ensure an effective and efficient transition.
