

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 ESTIMATE	FY 2027 BASELINE
OPERATING BUDGET			
<i>Full Time Equivalent Positions</i>	11.0	11.0	11.0
Personal Services	385,100	583,300	583,300
Employee Related Expenditures	139,900	229,400	229,400
Professional and Outside Services	370,200	330,000	330,000
Travel - In State	8,300	15,000	15,000
Travel - Out of State	8,300	34,000	34,000
Other Operating Expenditures	204,700	281,200	281,200
Equipment	600	0	0
OPERATING SUBTOTAL	1,117,100	1,472,900	1,472,900 ^{1/}
SPECIAL LINE ITEMS			
Law Enforcement Crime Victim Notification Fund Deposit	0	2,594,800	0
Major Incident Regional Law Enforcement Task Force	600,000	600,000	600,000
State Aid to County Attorneys	706,000	973,700	973,700
State Aid to Indigent Defense	700,000	700,000	700,000
State Aid for Juvenile Dependency Proceedings Fund Deposit	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Victim Compensation and Assistance	2,517,700	6,219,700	6,219,700
AGENCY TOTAL	7,640,800	14,561,100	11,966,300
FUND SOURCES			
General Fund	4,598,800	4,600,000	4,600,000
<u>Other Appropriated Funds</u>			
Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund	580,900	802,100	802,100
Drug and Gang Prevention Resource Center Fund	536,200	646,600	646,600
State Aid to County Attorneys Fund	706,000	973,700	973,700 ^{2/}
State Aid to Indigent Defense Fund	700,000	700,000	700,000
Victim Compensation and Assistance Fund	518,900	6,838,700	4,243,900 ^{3/}
SUBTOTAL - Other Appropriated Funds	3,042,000	9,961,100	7,366,300
SUBTOTAL - Appropriated Funds	7,640,800	14,561,100	11,966,300
<u>Other Non-Appropriated Funds</u>			
Other Non-Appropriated Funds	3,306,000	3,425,900	3,425,900
Federal Funds	18,254,000	22,883,400	22,883,400
TOTAL - ALL SOURCES	29,200,800	40,870,400	38,275,600

AGENCY DESCRIPTION — The commission was created to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of the criminal justice system in Arizona. The commission may identify needed revisions in the system and make reports. It receives 3.52% of Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (CJEF) monies.

FOOTNOTES

- ^{1/} General Appropriations Act funds are appropriated as an Operating Lump Sum with Special Line Items by Agency.
- ^{2/} All monies received by the Arizona criminal justice commission in excess of \$973,700 in fiscal year 2026-2027 from the state aid to county attorneys fund established by section 11-539, Arizona Revised Statutes, are appropriated to the state aid to county attorneys program. Before spending any state aid to county attorneys fund monies in excess of \$973,700 in fiscal year 2026-2027, the Arizona criminal justice commission shall report the intended use of the monies to the joint legislative budget committee. (General Appropriations Act footnote)
- ^{3/} All victim compensation and assistance fund monies received by the Arizona criminal justice commission in excess of \$4,243,900 in fiscal year 2026-2027 are appropriated to the crime victims program. Before spending any victim compensation and assistance fund monies in excess of \$4,243,900 in fiscal year 2026-2027, the Arizona criminal justice commission shall report the intended use of the monies to the joint legislative budget committee. (General Appropriations Act Footnote)

Operating Budget

The Baseline includes \$1,472,900 and 11 FTE Positions in FY 2027 for the operating budget. These amounts consist of:

	FY 2027
Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (CJEF)	\$802,100
Drug and Gang Prevention Resource Center Fund	646,600
Victim Compensation and Assistance Fund	24,200

These amounts are unchanged from FY 2026.

Law Enforcement Crime Victim Notification Fund Deposit

The Baseline includes no funding in FY 2027 for the Law Enforcement Crime Victim Notification Fund Deposit line item. Adjustments are as follows:

Remove One-Time Deposit

The Baseline includes a decrease of \$(2,594,800) from the Victim Compensation and Assistance Fund in FY 2027 to remove a one-time deposit to the Law Enforcement Crime Victim Notification Fund.

Statute requires ACJC to use monies in the Law Enforcement Crime Victim Notification Fund to pay for law enforcement agencies that choose to use an automated crime victim notification system that meets certain requirements, such as automatically notifying a crime victim of investigation updates, and interfacing with a law enforcement agency's records. *(For information on prior appropriations, please see the ACJC narrative in the FY 2026 Appropriations Report.)*

Major Incident Regional Law Enforcement Task Force

The Baseline includes \$600,000 from the General Fund in FY 2027 for the Major Incident Regional Law Enforcement Task Force. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

Monies in this line item are for distribution to regional law enforcement task forces to investigate instances of critical force incidents pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1762. The requirements under this section have a delayed effective date beginning on July 1, 2027. *(Please see the Department of Public Safety narrative for more details on the Major Incident Regional Law Enforcement Task Forces.)*

State Aid to County Attorneys

The Baseline includes \$973,700 from the State Aid to County Attorneys Fund in FY 2027 for State Aid to County Attorneys. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

This line item provides funding for the various offices of county attorneys throughout Arizona to improve the processing of criminal cases. The line item receives funds from a 15.44% allocation of a 7% penalty assessment on fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed by the courts for criminal and civil motor vehicle violations and a portion of the monies collected by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. ACJC is required to distribute the monies to each county based on a composite index formula using Superior Court felony filings and county population.

State Aid to Indigent Defense

The Baseline includes \$700,000 from the State Aid to Indigent Defense Fund in FY 2027 for State Aid to Indigent Defense. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

This line item provides funding to the various counties in Arizona for processing of criminal cases by the offices of the public defender, legal defender, and/or contract indigent defense counsel in each county.

The line item receives funding from a 14.66% allocation of a 7% penalty assessment on fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed by the courts for criminal and civil motor vehicle violations and a portion of the monies collected by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. ACJC is required to distribute the monies to each county based on a composite index formula using Superior Court felony filings and county population.

State Aid for Juvenile Dependency Proceedings Fund Deposit

The Baseline includes \$2,000,000 from the General Fund in FY 2027 for State Aid for Juvenile Dependency Proceedings Fund Deposit. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

The State Aid for Juvenile Dependency Proceedings Fund administered by ACJC consists of legislative appropriations to provide state aid to county public defenders, legal defenders, and contract indigent defense counsel for the processing of juvenile dependency cases. By September 1 of each fiscal year, ACJC is required to distribute monies in the fund to each eligible county based on each county's proportional share of juvenile dependency case filings in the most recent fiscal year for which case filing figures are available. Distributions to a

county may not exceed \$250,000. If a county distribution is projected to exceed the \$250,000, the formula requires ACJC to distribute monies in excess of \$250,000 to the remaining counties based on the proportional share of juvenile dependency case filings statewide for each county less the juvenile dependency case filings from the counties that have reached the maximum distribution in the fiscal year.

Prior to FY 2026, the distribution was based on the 3-year average of juvenile dependency case filings in the county Superior Court exceeds the 3-year average filings for FY 2013 - FY 2015.

Victim Compensation and Assistance

The Baseline includes \$6,219,700 in FY 2027 for Victim Compensation and Assistance. This amount consists of:

General Fund	2,000,000
Victim Compensation and Assistance Fund	4,219,700

These amounts are unchanged from FY 2026.

This line item provides funding for 2 crime victim grant programs: the Victim Compensation Program and the Victim Assistance Program. Victim compensation monies are distributed to county compensation boards that award cash compensation to crime victims for specified expenses resulting from their victimization. Revenues for victim compensation grant monies come from 3 sources: a \$9 penalty on criminal and civil violations, monies collected from a 10% assessment of a worker's gross compensation, and unclaimed victim restitution. Victim assistance monies are granted to local government and not-for-profit agencies on a competitive basis and are used for operating expenses related to their victim assistance programs. Revenues for victim assistance grants come from community supervision fees and interstate compact fees.

Other Issues

Rural County Diversion Programs

The FY 2023 budget appropriated \$10,000,000 from the General Fund for county attorney offices in counties with populations less than 900,000 according to the 2020 Decennial United States Census to establish and operate alternative prosecution and diversion programs based on evidence-based practices. The appropriation is exempt from lapsing.

Diversion is a pre-adjudication authority that county prosecutors can use to divert an individual from being charged with a crime through programs such as rehabilitation and counseling. Upon successful completion of a diversion program, charges are typically dismissed or not filed. Reentry programs differ in that they are for post-adjudication and include services for individuals who have already been charged and/or prosecuted of a crime. Services such as counseling and drug treatment provided through reentry programs are intended to aid an individual as they reenter society to not recidivate.

In the initial report required by a budget footnote, ACJC reported that, 12 of the 13 rural counties submitted applications totaling \$14.6 million. ACJC retained \$150,000 for administrative costs and awarded \$9,850,000 in grants as shown in *Table 1*. The 12 counties received a base amount of \$300,000, and ACJC allocated the remaining funding based on a review of the applications and proposed project costs.

As of fall 2025, ACJC reports expenditures of \$4,562,000, or 46.3%, of the \$9,850,000 awarded in rural county diversion grants. *Table 1* shows the final awards to the county attorney offices and expenditures.

County	Grant Awards	Reported Expenditures	Remaining Balance
Apache	\$ 574,200	\$ 537,100	\$ 37,100
Cochise	503,300	0	503,300
Coconino	2,100,000	336,000	1,764,000
Graham	346,800	106,200	240,600
Greenlee	356,800	243,600	113,200
La Paz	327,900	124,500	203,400
Mohave	725,000	422,000	303,000
Navajo	625,000	461,000	164,000
Pinal	1,800,000	756,300	1,043,700
Santa Cruz	651,500	325,200	326,300
Yavapai	1,300,000	1,219,600	80,400
Yuma	539,500	31,100	508,400
ACJC	<u>150,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$10,000,000	\$4,562,500	\$5,287,500

Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund

The Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund receives revenues from penalties on fines, violations, forfeitures and penalties imposed by the courts for criminal offenses and civil motor vehicle statute violations. CJEF monies are distributed on a percentage basis to various state entities.

Table 2 shows the FY 2025 amounts transferred, statutory distribution percentages, and the appropriation status of the funds and programs receiving CJEF monies. (See individual agency pages for detailed information on each recipient.)

Funds Transferred ^{1/}	FY 2025 Transfers ^{2/}	Statutory % of CJEF	Approp.
<u>Attorney General</u>			
AZ Prosecuting Attorneys Advisory Council (3)	\$ 1,316,900	5.18	no
County Attorneys (6)	3,147,400	12.37	no
<u>Arizona Criminal Justice Commission</u>			
Operation Costs (9)	894,900	3.52	yes
<u>Department of Public Safety</u>			
Forensics Fund (1,10)	6,394,000	25.13	yes
State/Local Grants (5)	2,544,900	10.00	^{3/}
<u>Department of Juvenile Corrections (2)</u>			
	907,600	3.57	yes
<u>State Treasurer</u>			
County Sheriffs (8)	3,847,400	15.12	no
<u>Supreme Court</u>			
Case Processing (7)	2,183,900	8.58	yes
Juvenile Crime (4)	3,147,400	12.37	yes
Community Punishment Program (11)	<u>1,057,600</u>	4.16	yes
Total Funds Distributed ^{3/}	\$ 25,442,200		

^{1/} The numbers following the recipient agencies represent the paragraph numbers from A.R.S. § 41-2401D.

^{2/} The FY 2025 figures reflect amounts as reported by individual agencies to ACJC and may not correspond directly with agencies' statutory allocation. Financial information provided by agencies reflect when revenues from CJEF were recognized by the agency, not when the Treasurer's Office indicated the revenues were available to those agencies.

^{3/} Monies retained by the Department of Public Safety for operating expenditures are appropriated. Monies passed through to state and local agencies are non-appropriated.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimate
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (JCA2985/U.S. P.L. 117-2)		Federal Funds
Source of Revenue: Federal monies appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2).		
Purpose of Fund: To provide emergency support to households, small businesses, nonprofits, workers performing essential work, and certain industries negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To extend government services that received a reduction in revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. To make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.		
Funds Expended	4,919,500	4,260,000
Year-End Fund Balance	0	0
Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (JCA2134/A.R.S. § 41-2401)		Appropriated
Source of Revenue: A 3.52% allocation of the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (CJEF) for operating costs. CJEF consists of a 42% penalty assessment on fines, violations, forfeitures and penalties imposed by the courts for criminal offenses and civil motor vehicle statute violations. Please see the Non-Appropriated portion of the fund for additional information.		
Purpose of Fund: For operating costs of ACJC.		
Funds Expended	580,900	802,100
Year-End Fund Balance	828,900	974,400

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimate
Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (JCA2134/A.R.S. § 41-2401)		Non-Appropriated
Source of Revenue: A 3.52% allocation of CJEF and a portion of "Fill the Gap" funds pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2124. CJEF consists of a 42% penalty assessment on fines, violations, forfeitures and penalties imposed by the courts for criminal offenses and civil motor vehicle statute violations. Please see the Appropriated portion of the fund for additional information.		
Purpose of Fund: For operating costs of ACJC.		
Funds Expended	540,000	540,000
Year-End Fund Balance	0	0
Drug and Gang Enforcement Fund (JCA2516/A.R.S. § 41-2402)		Non-Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Drug fees and fines (A.R.S. § 13-811), selected Superior Court fees (A.R.S. § 12-284), and local matching funds.		
Purpose of Fund: To make grants in amounts not to exceed the percentages shown to enhance efforts to prosecute (50%), adjudicate (30%), and punish (30%) drug offenders and members of criminal street gangs, as well as to enhance investigations and education programs relating to drug and gang activities (50%), and to improve criminal justice records integration (30%). The fund may also be used to fund the Statistical Analysis Center but not the Arizona Youth Survey.		
Funds Expended	2,748,200	2,865,400
Year-End Fund Balance	5,257,200	6,008,700
Drug and Gang Prevention Resource Center Fund (JCA2280/A.R.S. § 41-2402)		Appropriated
Source of Revenue: 1.31% of fee collections and filings in the Superior Court, 1.31% of notary bond fees, and public and private gifts or grants, excluding federal monies.		
Purpose of Fund: To fund the Statistical Analysis Center and Arizona Youth Survey, a statutorily required survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in schools across Arizona. The survey measures alcohol and drug use, gang affiliation, and weapons within schools.		
Funds Expended	536,200	646,600
Year-End Fund Balance	641,900	608,000
Employee Recognition Fund (JCA2449/A.R.S. § 41-709)		Non-Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Gifts and donations from public and private entities.		
Purpose of Fund: Employee recognition programs that recognize and award the performance, achievement, longevity or major life event of department employees.		
Funds Expended	300	0
Year-End Fund Balance	0	0
Federal Grants (JCA2000/A.R.S. § 35-142)		Federal Funds
Source of Revenue: Revenue from federal grants.		
Purpose of Fund: To improve the criminal justice records system in Arizona; to fund state and local correction and detention agencies' substance abuse programs for incarcerated offenders; and to provide support dealing with criminal justice issues.		
Funds Expended	13,334,500	18,623,400
Year-End Fund Balance	4,617,200	4,997,300
Fingerprint Clearance Card Fund (JCA2433/A.R.S. § 41-1758.06)		Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Fees charged to applicants or contract providers for a fingerprint clearance card.		
Purpose of Fund: To centralize fingerprinting services for state agencies. Revenues pay for the processing and issuance of fingerprint clearance cards.		
Funds Expended	0	0
Year-End Fund Balance	125,500	125,500

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimate
IGA and ISA Fund (JCA2500/A.R.S. § 35-142)		Non-Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Various intergovernmental and interagency service agreements.		
Purpose of Fund: Clearing account for monies expended under Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) and Intergovernmental Service Agreements (ISA).		
Funds Expended	17,500	20,500
Year-End Fund Balance	41,700	38,100
Law Enforcement Crime Victim Notification Fund (JCA3710/A.R.S. § 41-2414)		Non-Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Monies appropriated to the fund by the Legislature.		
Purpose of Fund: To be used by law enforcement agencies in the state to fund crime victim notification software. Expenditures from this fund are not displayed to avoid double counting appropriated expenditures.		
Funds Expended	0	0
Year-End Fund Balance	6,834,900	310,800
State Aid for Juvenile Dependency Proceedings Fund (JCA2040/A.R.S. § 41-2410)		Non-Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Monies appropriated to the fund by the Legislature.		
Purpose of Fund: To provide state aid to county public defenders, legal defenders and contract indigent defense counsel for the processing of juvenile dependency cases. ACJC administers the fund and distributes the monies to each eligible county. ACJC distributes the monies to each county based on the proportional share of juvenile dependency filings in the most recent fiscal year for which case filing figures are available. Additionally, distributions from the fund to a County may not exceed \$250,000 in any fiscal year. Prior to FY 2026, the distribution was to each eligible county in which the 3-year average of the total juvenile dependency case filings in the county exceeded the county's 3-year average juvenile dependency case filings for Fiscal Years 2013, 2014 and 2015 based on the proportional share of the increase in petitions for each county. Expenditures from this fund are not displayed to avoid double counting General Fund monies.		
Funds Expended	0	0
Year-End Fund Balance	0	0
State Aid to County Attorneys Fund (JCA2443/A.R.S. § 11-539)		Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Legislative appropriations, a 15.44% allocation of a 7% penalty assessment on fines, penalties and forfeitures imposed by the courts for criminal and civil motor vehicle violations, and a 21.61% allocation of a 5% portion of fines and fees collected by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.		
Purpose of Fund: To provide state aid to county attorneys to improve the processing of criminal cases in the Superior and Justice Courts. ACJC administers the fund and distributes the monies to each county based on a composite index formula using felony filings and population.		
Funds Expended	706,000	973,700
Year-End Fund Balance	(5,800)	(279,400)
State Aid to Indigent Defense Fund (JCA2445/A.R.S. § 11-588)		Appropriated
Source of Revenue: Legislative appropriations, a 14.66% allocation of a 7% penalty assessment on fines, penalties and forfeitures imposed by the courts for criminal and civil motor vehicle violations, and a 20.53% allocation of a 5% portion of fines and fees collected by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.		
Purpose of Fund: To provide state aid to county public defenders, legal defenders for the processing of criminal cases.		
Funds Expended	700,000	700,000
Year-End Fund Balance	47,000	14,900
Victim Compensation and Assistance Fund (JCA2198/A.R.S. § 41-2407)		Appropriated
Source of Revenue: The fund consists of 2 subaccounts. The Victim Compensation subaccount receives revenue from a \$9 penalty on criminal and civil violations, monies collected from a 10% assessment of a working prisoner's gross compensation, and unclaimed restitution. The Victim Assistance subaccount receives revenue derived from community supervision fees and interstate compact fees.		
Purpose of Fund: To establish, maintain and support programs that compensate and assist victims of crime.		
Funds Expended	518,900	6,838,700
Year-End Fund Balance	14,480,800	13,948,600

