



April 14, 2021

STATE GENERAL FUND REQUEST

Funding for 5 Deputy State's Attorneys:

The State's Attorneys' offices have several vacancies in our Deputy State's Attorneys' positions. With average caseloads of 350+, and the backlog created by the pandemic, and the Judiciary's request for funding for utilizing retired judges to clear the backlog, our staff will be inundated by the workload in the upcoming months. We are requesting STATE GENERAL FUND to our budget base, to fill our existing 4 vacancies. Note: We do not need new position numbers – we have existing SAS position numbers we can utilize.

Request: State General Fund Base Build to our Personnel Line of \$480,000

Conversion of SAS Criminal Case Management integrate with the Judiciary's new system.

The House-passed budget includes the Governor's Recommended IT Project List. SAS is on the Governor's List for \$1.7M

Request: If the Senate supports the Governor's IT list, SAS will have the necessary funds to transition our case management to be compatible with the Judiciary.

ARP FUNDS REQUEST – RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC

Assistance to SA Office: Case/Data Entry of SA cases into Judiciary's new IT system.

The Judiciary's implementation of Odyssey and E-filing has created a tremendous increase in our administrative staff members' daily work. Moving to a system that provides integration with the Courts will certainly help alleviate some of this problem; however, until such time as the State's Attorneys and Judiciary's systems are integrated with a new system for SAS, we are seeking approval and funding for 14 Limited Service employees for two and one-half years (until December 2024) to assist with data entry, document scanning, file conversions, audio/bodycam video processing, etc.

\$2,397,500

Assistance in Victim Advocate Program

The work of the Victim Advocates in serving crime victims and families is an important part of the justice system. Since our VA program is funded by CCVS, we are not able to independently increase staffing or services absent additional funds from CCVS. The pandemic has increased the cases of domestic violence, and neglect and abuse of children. In response, we would like to provide increased support for victims. We are requesting 14 Limited Service VA positions for two and one-half years (until December 2024).

\$2,968,000

IT Program Support and Assistance

The Judiciary's installation and utilization of remote / videoconferencing equipment for remote court proceedings has resulted in our need to additional IT help and assistance in the field. (See above). We are requesting the funding for 2 Limited Service IT support employees to work with our 14 offices, for two and one-half year (until December 2024).

IT Assistance: \$900,000

Expert Witness Increases – Vermont DOC COVID related issues

The current, and anticipated ongoing requests, by defense counsel to release convicted individuals from Vermont prisons is resulting in an increase in our expert witness costs. We anticipate a need for a short-term increase for each county's SA Office.

Expert Witness Costs: \$70,000

7. New Issue: Data Collection

Substantial data collection is required of state agencies relating to collection and analysis of criminal justice data in order to identify and address racial, gender or sexual orientation bias in the criminal justice system. We have no collection system or staff to conduct this work. We are requesting the funding for 1 Limited Service employee for two and one-half years (until December 2024).

Data Collection staff person: \$206,250