



Ronnie Lowenstein  
DIRECTOR

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE  
110 WILLIAM STREET, 14th Floor  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038  
(212) 442-0225 Fax (212) 442-0350  
Email: ronniel@ibo.nyc.ny.us

January 27, 2020

Council Member Steven Matteo  
250 Broadway Suite 1553  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Council Member Matteo:

I am writing in response to your request the Independent Budget Office update information previously provided to the Council in 2011 on city funding for the provision of legal services to New Yorkers.

The city's fiscal year 2020 adopted budget includes approximately \$504 million to provide legal services for New Yorkers. Over 60 percent (\$309 million) of the funding is allocated for indigent defense services in the city's Miscellaneous Budget. The remainder is funded through the city's Department of Social Services: \$110 million allocated for anti-eviction services, \$65 million for access to counsel services, and \$14 million for deportation defense funded through the city's Department of Social Services.

<b>Fiscal Year 2020 Adopted Budget for Legal Services Citywide</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous Budget</b>	
<b>Indigent Defense Services</b>	
Indigent Defense Services	\$167,803,743
Indigent Defense- Professional Services	130,082,599
Indigent Defense-Conflict Institute Provider	10,620,599
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$308,506,937</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Total</b>	<b>\$308,506,937</b>
<b>Department of Social Services Budget</b>	
<b>Legal Services</b>	
Access to Counsel	\$65,374,002
Anti-Eviction Services	110,178,047
Deportation Defense	13,728,066
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$189,280,115</b>
<b>Legal Services-Personal Services</b>	
Legal Services-Personal Services	\$3,222,067
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,222,067</b>
<b>Public Assistance-Other Than Personal Services</b>	
Anti-Eviction Services	\$3,124,564
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,124,564</b>
<b>Agency Total</b>	<b>\$195,626,746</b>
<b>Citywide Total</b>	<b>\$504,133,683</b>
NOTE: Personal Services refers to employee related costs; Other Than Personal Services, all costs not related to employee costs.	

New York City Independent Budget Office

**Indigent Defense Service Providers.** Currently the city contracts primarily with 10 providers for the provision of indigent defense services. As in previous years, the largest expenditure for a single provider of indigent defense services in fiscal year 2020 has gone to The Legal Aid Society, with over \$47.3 million paid as of November 2019. The remaining nine contracted providers and the amount paid so far this year include: Brooklyn Defender Services (\$18.3 million), The Bronx Defenders (\$14.3 million), New York County Defender Services (\$6.0 million), Queens Law Associates Not-For-Profit Corp. (\$5.2 million), Center for Family Representation (\$3.5 million), Neighborhood Defender Services Inc. (\$2.0 million), Center for Appellate Litigation (\$1.3 million), and First Department Assigned Counsel Corp. (\$0.3 million).

**Other Legal Service Providers.** In the current year over 50 different entities are under contract to provide legal services through the Department of Social Services. The largest expenditures so far in fiscal year 2020 have gone to Legal Services NYC (\$14.5 million), The Legal Aid Society (\$11.8 million), Urban Justice Center (\$9.3 million), New York Legal Assistance Group (\$3.8 million), and Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs (\$2.1 million).

**City Council Discretionary Allocations.** The 2020 adopted budget for the provision of legal services is approximately \$43 million greater than was proposed in the executive budget. Most of the increase is the result of an additional \$35.2 million allocated by the City Council. The largest components of these additional funds are:

- \$23.2 million for legal services for immigrants, including unaccompanied minors and families;
- \$8.8 million for legal services for low-income and working-poor New Yorkers; including \$3.2 million for anti-eviction and related housing legal services; and
- \$600,000 for legal services for veterans.

The Council's funds for legal services are allocated to 63 different service providers. Roughly a quarter of the additional Council funding, \$8.5 million, is allocated to The Legal Aid Society. Brooklyn Defender Services, with \$5.6 million allocated, and the Bronx Defenders, with \$5.5 million, each accounted for slightly under 16 percent of the additional fiscal year 2020 legal services funding provided by the Council.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions on this material, please call Jonathan Rosenberg, IBO's director of budget review; Jonathan can be reached at (212) 341-6043 or [JonathanR@ibo.nyc.ny.us](mailto:JonathanR@ibo.nyc.ny.us). And if there is anything else we can do for you, feel free to call me directly at (212) 442-0225.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Lowenstein