

Factors considered by State OPD in evaluating city applications and determining grant recipients:

1. OPD will carefully consider applicant's compliance with the statutory requirements of Chapter 10.101 RCW.
2. OPD will consider applicant's commitment to providing a professional level of compensation for public defense attorneys and caseloads that meet Standards adopted by the Washington Supreme Court.
3. OPD will consider applicant's commitment to ensuring quality client representation.
4. OPD will consider the type and specificity of need identified in the grant application and how effective state funding will be in adequately addressing the need.
5. OPD will consider the type and specificity of the proposed use of grant funds as identified in the grant application and the manner in which the proposed use meets the identified need. Grant funds will only be awarded for uses that are consistent with OPD's Policy for County/City Use of Public Defense Funding.
6. OPD will consider applicant's level of commitment to improving public defense evidenced in the grant application. Evidence of applicant's commitment to improving public defense might be, for example, a stated intent to increase city funding to match state grant funds, or demonstrated coordination of resources/services with other jurisdictions.
7. OPD will consider whether an applicant has previously received grant funds, and if so, whether the applicant substantially complied with the terms of the previous grant agreement and achieved improvements in public defense.
8. OPD will consider demographic and geographic factors, including population, local poverty level, and location in attempting to distribute grant funds to cities throughout the state.