

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Special Drug Prosecutor

DESCRIPTION

The General Assembly of Virginia passed legislation in 1983 establishing the Special Drug Prosecutor Program and creating multi-jurisdiction grand juries (MJGJs). A MJGJ, in contrast to a regular grand jury, is an investigative body with the statutory authority to issue statewide subpoenas for documents and other evidence, and to call for sworn testimony of persons with information related to specific criminal offenses. Henrico's Drug Prosecutor program was implemented in May of 1984. The goal is to investigate criminal violations of Virginia drug laws as well as other illegal activities, including homicide, abduction, perjury, embezzlement, computer crimes, Medicaid fraud, and trademark infringement.

OBJECTIVES

- Investigate and prosecute those involved in the illegal use or distribution of drugs, and drug paraphernalia.
- Provide assistance in any other provision of law when such condition is discovered in the course of an investigation, which a multi-jurisdiction drug prosecutor is otherwise authorized to undertake and to investigate any condition, which involves or tends to promote any attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to violate laws.
- Administer use of the grand jury by prosecutors from each of the member jurisdictions Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The use of the Special Drug Prosecutor Program provides a vital public safety function for the County of Henrico. The Program's budget for FY2020-21 is \$179,229 and reflects a \$3,549 or 2.0 percent increase when compared to the prior fiscal year.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY19	FY20	FY21	Change
	Actual	Original	Approved	20 to 21
Personnel	\$ 171,825	\$ 169,722	\$ 176,338	3.9%
Operation	6,516	5,958	2,891	(51.5%)
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 178,341</u>	<u>\$ 175,680</u>	<u>\$ 179,229</u>	<u>2.0%</u>
Personnel Complement*	1	1	1	0

* Special Drug Prosecutor includes funding for two positions including 1 complement II and one complement III position. The complement III position is excluded from the Personnel Complement listed above.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>Change 20 to 21</u>
Workload Measures				
Total Subpoenaes	1,493	1,800	1,600	(200)
Total Indictments	952	1,150	1,100	(50)
Total Defendants	289	350	300	(50)

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

The Program’s budget includes General Fund support of \$58,276. The operating component was reduced by \$3,067 compared to FY2019-20 due to the impact on County revenues of the pandemic.

The State Compensation Board and the County both contribute to the salaries and associated personnel costs for the two positions funded through the program. Personnel costs will increase \$6,616 or 3.9 percent because of benefit increases.

The Special Drug Prosecutor’s responsibilities include working with a multi-jurisdictional investigative grand jury comprised of the Counties of Henrico, Hanover and Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond. The Special Drug Prosecutor coordinates witnesses and subpoenas for tangible evidence ordered by the grand jury and handles a full caseload of criminal matters. The multi-jurisdictional grand jury plays an essential role in the investigation of drug and homicide cases in the Richmond metropolitan area.

The table below presents a historical depiction of the State/County split of the budget for this program.

Fiscal Year	State Funding	Approved County Funding	% County
2011-12	119,400	69,563	37%
2012-13	119,400	66,715	36%
2013-14	121,533	66,715	35%
2014-15	129,773	61,185	32%
2015-16	131,998	52,569	28%
2016-17	131,998	61,862	32%
2017-18	104,207	60,843	37%
2018-19	108,936	61,343	37%
2019-20	114,337	61,343	36%
2020-21	120,953	58,276	33%