

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 Special Drug Prosecutor budget for FY2021-22 is \$207,048, an increase of \$27,819, or 15.5 percent compared to the prior fiscal year. The personnel component increased by \$25,252, or 14.3 percent and includes employee compensation and benefit rate increases.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUMMARY

Description	Annual Fiscal Plan			
	FY20 Actual	FY21 Original	FY22 Approved	Change 21 to 22
Personnel	\$ 178,601	\$ 176,338	\$ 201,590	14.3%
Operation	3,544	2,891	5,458	88.8%
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 182,145</u>	<u>\$ 179,229</u>	<u>\$ 207,048</u>	<u>15.5%</u>
Personnel Complement*	1	1	1	0

* Special Drug Prosecutor maintains the budget for two positions (1 comp II, and 1 comp III) but the comp III position is excluded from the Personnel Complement.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>Change 21 to 22</u>
Workload Measures				
Total Subpoenaes	1,776	1,800	1,825	25
Total Indictments	573	600	625	25
Total Defendants	198	225	250	25

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

The operating component was increased by \$2,567 compared to FY2020-21, restoring structure removed during 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. The budget includes General Fund support of \$66,308.

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

Fiscal Year	State Funding	County Funding	% County
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%
2021-22	140,740	66,308	32%

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Special Drug Prosecutor Program provides a vital public safety function for the county by 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.