

Hennepin County

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# 2026 budget presentation

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Law, Safety & Justice

October 1, 2025





# Agenda

- Serving residents
- 2026 proposed budget
- Line of business priorities
- Discussion

# Leaders



**Chela Guzmán-Wiegert**  
Assistant County  
Administrator



**Jeanette Boerner**  
Adult Representation  
Services



**Mary Ellen Heng**  
Community Corrections and  
Rehabilitation



**Scott Busche**  
Law, Safety & Justice IT



**Dawanna Witt**  
Hennepin County Sheriff



**Mary Moriarty**  
Hennepin County Attorney



**Michael Berger**  
Chief Public Defender

# Serving residents

77%

ARS CLIENTS ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR

Systemic racial disparities remain

30%

INCREASE IN ARS CASELOADS

Significant drivers are immigration, housing and mental health commitment

38%

INCREASE IN PRETRIAL SERVICES

Connecting clients with resources improves long-term outcomes, supports client well-being and increases public safety

50%

DOCCR CLIENTS ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR

More than half of these clients are public defender eligible

# Budget Overview

# Operating budget

	2025 adjusted	2026 proposed	Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	\$16,276,304	\$16,106,158	-1.0%
County Attorney's Office	\$87,949,516	\$92,226,160	4.9%
Adult Representation Services	\$20,552,122	\$22,962,667	11.7%
Court functions	\$186,532	\$190,263	2.0%
Public Defender's Office	\$9,144,756	\$4,457,035	-51.3%
Sheriff's Office	\$169,245,647	\$182,451,997	7.8%
Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	\$144,646,429	\$150,419,227	4.0%
Radio Communications	\$4,234,016	\$4,813,721	13.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$452,235,322</b>	<b>\$473,627,228</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

# Property tax

	2025 adjusted	2026 proposed	Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	\$15,442,699	\$15,471,553	0.2%
County Attorney's Office	\$81,278,444	\$85,261,646	4.9%
Adult Representation Services	\$18,442,122	\$21,349,667	15.8%
Court functions	\$186,532	\$190,263	2.0%
Public Defender's Office	\$4,002,756	\$4,415,035	10.3%
Sheriff's Office	\$144,098,469	\$162,605,280	12.8%
Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	\$113,259,258	\$121,226,786	7.0%
Radio Communications	\$0	\$0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$376,710,280</b>	<b>\$410,520,230</b>	<b>9.0%</b>



# Full-time equivalents (FTEs)

	2025 adjusted	2026 proposed	Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	75.5	74.5	-1.3%
County Attorney's Office	521.6	521.6	0%
Adult Representation Services	108.0	115.0	6.5%
Court functions	0.0	0.0	0%
Public Defender's Office	17.8	17.3	-2.8%
Sheriff's Office	883.0	883.0	0%
Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	918.7	889.8	-3.1%
Radio Communications	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,524.6</b>	<b>2,501.2</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>

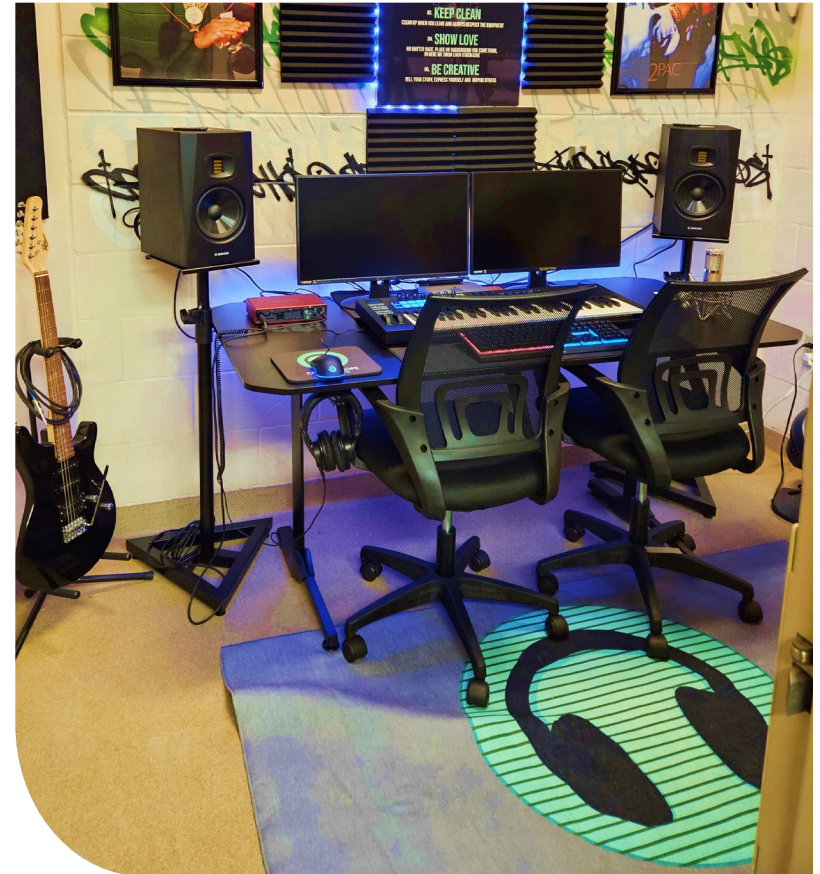


# Public Defender's Office budget summary

	2025 adjusted	2026 proposed	Percent change
Operating Budget	\$9,144,756	\$4,457,035	-51.3%
Property Taxes	\$4,002,756	\$4,415,035	10.3%
FTEs	17.8	17.3	-0.5

# Achieving countywide priorities

- Engage early
- Maximize internal resources
- Reduce barriers to stability and success





# 2026 LOB priorities

## Engage early

- 90% of youth referred to DOCCR's **pretrial services program** agreed to participate; 70% successfully completed
- ARS connected with 475 clients before first child protection hearings as part of its new **early representation** initiative
- The 5 embedded social workers at the ACF served 520 individuals this year, connecting them to services and assisting with **case planning before release**



# 2026 LOB priorities

## Maximize internal resources

- More than 150 DOCCR clients have been referred to Education Support Services, including **credit recovery** and **GED programming**
- In partnership with Hennepin County Library, DOCCR has distributed more than 470 LIT KITS and more than 1,800 books, providing **literacy tools** to DOCCR clients and their children
- ARS staff participated in more than 59 **community outreach** events—a 31% increase over the previous year





# 2026 LOB priorities

## Reduce barriers to stability and success

- ARS has seen a 66% increase in **prevention services** including supported decision making, Health Equity Legal Project (HELP), and immigration
- DOCCR has eliminated more than \$3.1 million in budgeted **fees and costs previously charged** to clients or ACF residents
- The Fourth District Public Defender's Office, which represents **financially eligible clients**, handles more than 31,000 cases per year



# Challenges and opportunities

## Challenge

Limited resources put pressure on clients, staff and services

## Opportunity

Reimagining programming and creatively utilizing existing resources to stabilize residents out of poverty

## Challenge

Residents facing increasingly complex needs requiring more time, attentive responses and increased expertise

## Opportunity

Continue to provide tailored supports; identify and streamline overlapping services

# Discussion

Thank you

