

Monterey County District Attorney's Office

FY 2025-26 Budget
Presentation



Severe Personnel Cuts Due to Base Wage Study Salary Increases

Loss of nine (9) vacant Deputy District Attorney (DDA) positions—21% of our general fund attorney staff

We reluctantly accept not funding two (2) victim advocates (20%) and two (2) legal secretary positions (10%) and 4 DDA positions in FY 2025–

2026
Asking for additional funding for five (5) DDA positions which will result in a 10% cut in general fund attorney staff

Attorney Staffing Challenges



Monterey County General Fund Contribution

Only 53% of budget is county-funded (Net County Cost)




Contiguous counties:

San Benito 87%, Santa Cruz 66%, San Luis Obispo 62%



Grants and other external sources (47%) are not directed towards core functions

(e.g. welfare, healthcare, insurance and workers comp fraud; consumer and environmental crime, and prison prosecutions)



General fund cuts impact core prosecutions

(e.g., murder, sexual assault, domestic violence, robbery, gang, etc.)

County's
General
Fund
Investment in
DA
Highly
Leveraged

- If we can't file or prosecute cases, the tax dollars invested in police departments and their investigatory time are wasted
- Weakened public safety
- Unable to provide justice to victims of crime

Service Cut: Lifer Hearings

Can no longer
attend hearings to
assist victims and
assist parole
board to determine
if inmate is a
danger if released

813 lifers from
Monterey County
128 hearings held
in 2024

Service Cut: Filing DDA



15,000+ cases reviewed each year



Unfiled misdemeanors may be dismissed due to statute of limitations



Delays in filing cases are unfair to defendants and victims alike

Untenable Over Time: Early Resolution Court

Staffing
requires 2
experienced
DDAs; 1
currently
unfilled

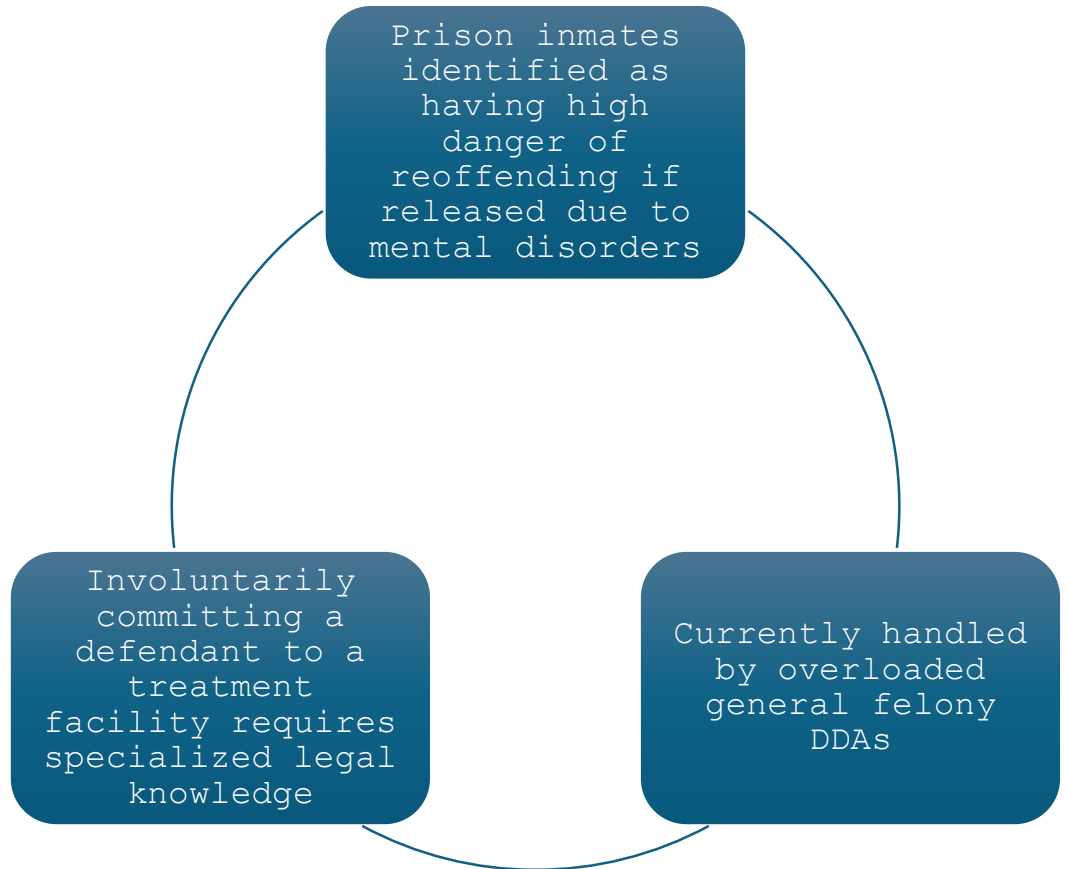
Inexperienced
DDAs rotate in,
causing impacts
elsewhere

Untenable Over Time : Elder Abuse Prosecution

Reduced support
for vulnerable
seniors; no
MDT/FAST
participation

Requires
specialized
knowledge to
effectively
prosecute these
unique cases

Untenable Over Time: Civil Commitments & Sexually Violent Predators




Untenable over Time: Collaborative Court

Court is dedicated to treatment, compliance and mentoring rather than litigation and provides support to veterans, the mentally ill, and those struggling with substance abuse

Due to staff shortages, position is currently staffed by an attorney manager, while inexperienced misdemeanor deputies go unsupervised until court is not in session

Untenable Over Time: Cold Case Unit

18 murders solved;
6 awaiting trial;
45+ unsolved cases active



ADA kept this assignment
after recent promotion.
Position needed to
properly prosecute these
cases and requires
expertise in cutting-edge
DNA technology

Cost Analysis



5 DDA IV Positions at
Step 7:

\$1,715,735 (\$343,147
each)



5 DDA I Positions at
Step 2:

\$666,190

Conclusion

We can't fully cover our court and other responsibilities now—No surplusage

Eliminating 5 positions means no path forward

Request funding for these 5 DDA positions

Request freezing—not elimination—of all open positions you determine not to fund