



# Budget Briefing: Attorney General

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# Briefing Topics

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# Department of Attorney General

The attorney general's powers are prescribed by the State Constitution and further delineated by statute and case law.

- The attorney general:
  - Serves as legal counsel for state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and their officers
  - Defends the state in court
  - Serves as the chief law enforcement officer of the state
  - Brings actions and intervenes in cases on the state's behalf
  - Issues legal opinions that have the force of law until reversed by legislative or judicial action

# Key Budget Terms

**Fiscal Year:** The state's fiscal year (FY) runs from October to September. FY 2024-25 is October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

**Appropriation:** Authority to expend funds. An appropriation is not a mandate to spend. Constitutionally, state funds cannot be expended without an appropriation by the legislature.

**Line Item:** Specific appropriation amount that establishes spending authorization for a particular program or function in a budget bill.

**Boilerplate:** Specific language sections in a budget bill that direct, limit, or restrict line item expenditures, express legislative intent, and/or require reports.

**Lapses:** Appropriated amounts that are unspent or unobligated at the end of a fiscal year. Appropriations are automatically terminated at the end of a fiscal year unless designated as a multi-year work project under a statutory process. Lapsed funds are available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

**Note:** Unless otherwise indicated, historical budget figures in this presentation have not been adjusted for inflation.

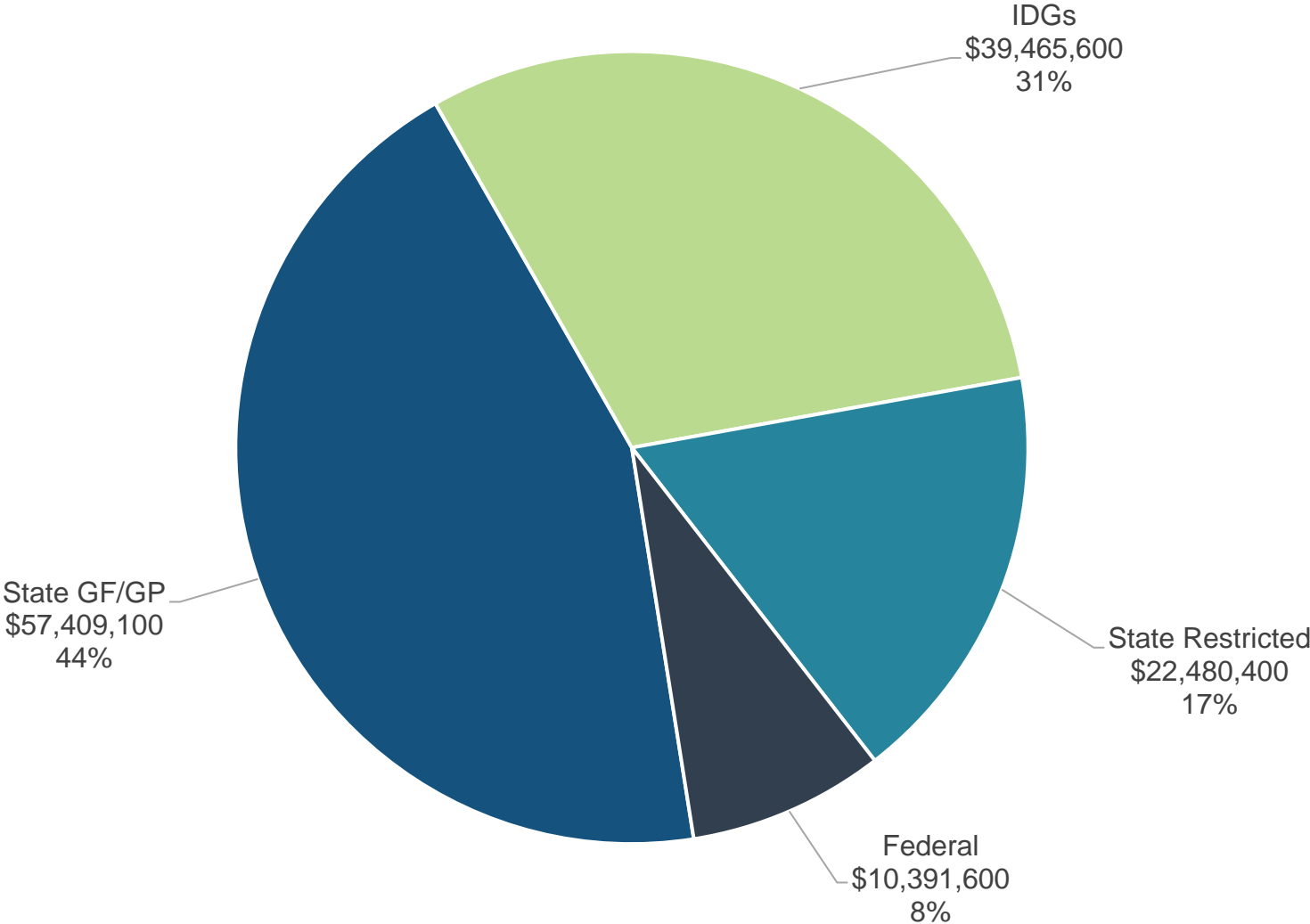
# Funding Sources

# FY 2024-25 Attorney General Budget

Fund Source	Funding	Description
Gross Appropriations	\$129,746,700	Total spending authority from all revenue sources
Interdepartmental Grants (IDG) Revenue	39,465,600	Funds received by one state department from another state department, usually for services provided
Adjusted Gross Appropriations	\$90,281,100	Gross appropriations excluding IDGs; avoids double counting when adding appropriation amounts across budget areas
Federal Revenue	10,391,600	Federal grant or matching revenue; generally dedicated to specific programs or purposes
Local Revenue	0	Revenue received from local units of government for state services
Private Revenue	0	Revenue from individuals and private entities, including payments for services, grants, and other contributions
State Restricted Revenue	22,480,400	State revenue restricted by the State Constitution, state statute, or outside restriction that is available only for specified purposes; includes most fee revenue
State General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) Revenue	\$57,409,100	Unrestricted revenue from taxes and other sources available to fund basic state programs and other purposes determined by the legislature

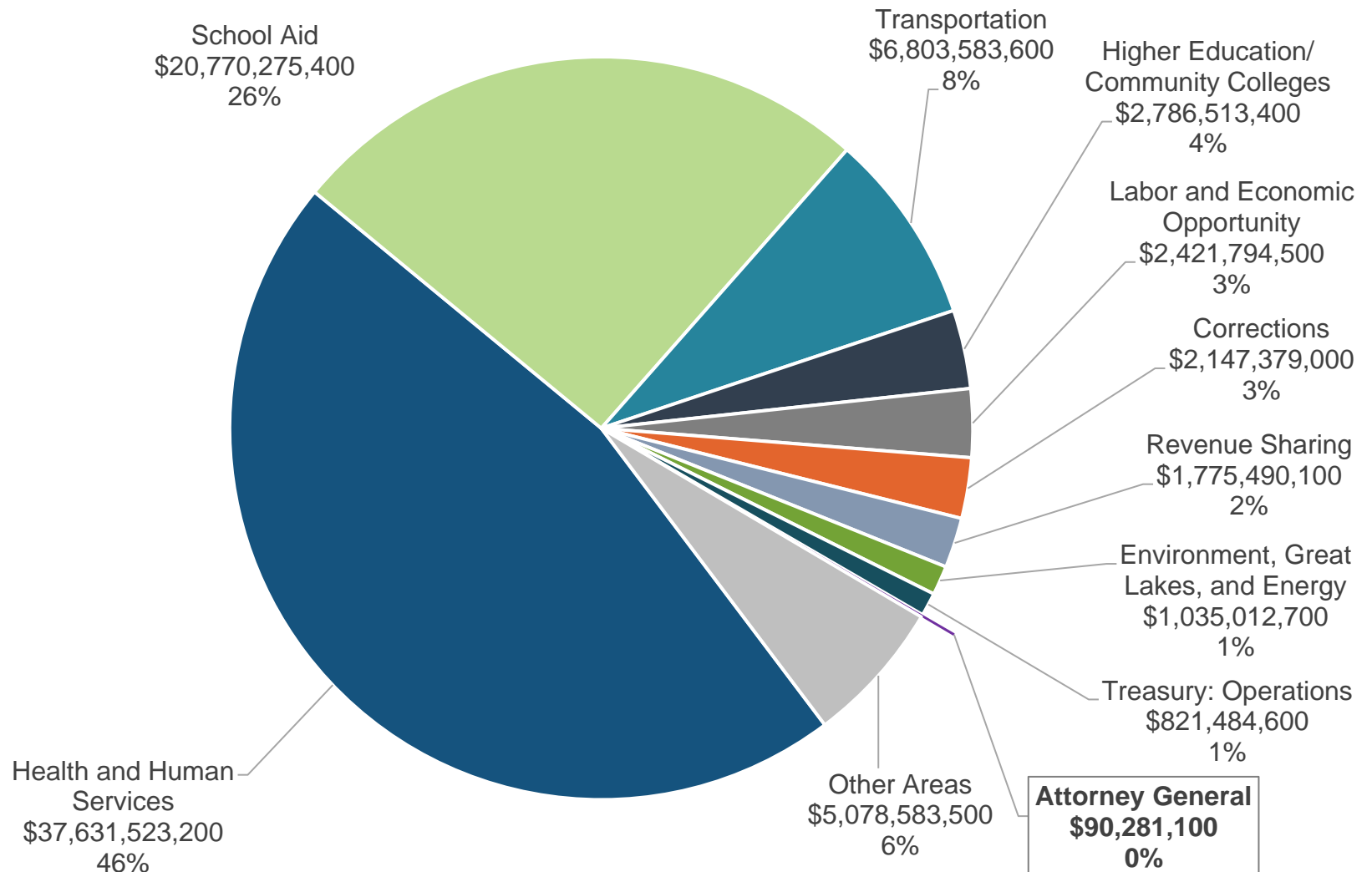
# FY 2024-25 Fund Sources

Of the **\$129.7 million** Attorney General budget, **44%** is funded by general fund/general purpose revenue. Nearly half of the budget comes from charges for legal services to departments through IDG funding and state restricted funding.



# Attorney General Share of Total State Budget

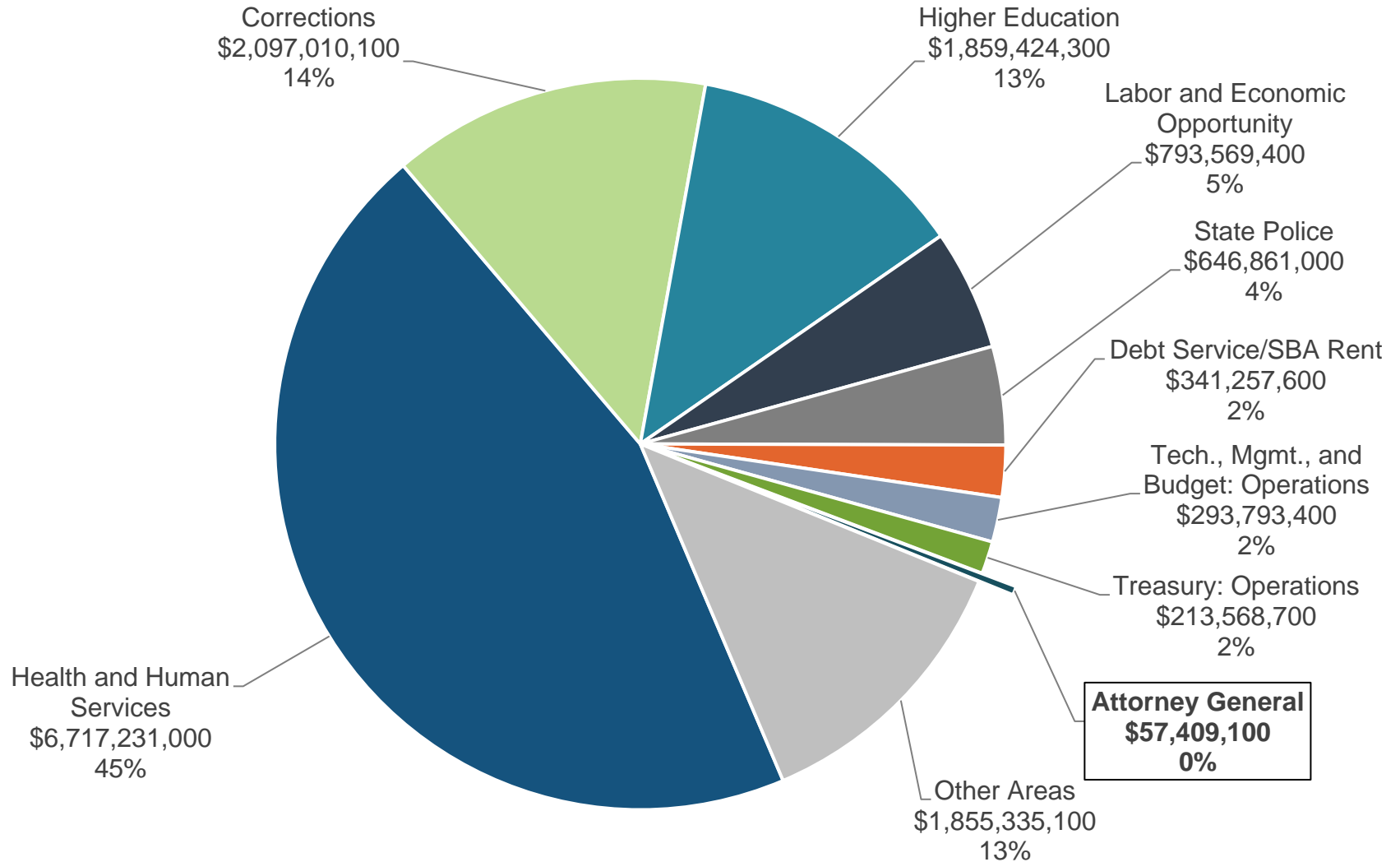
The Attorney General budget represents less than 1% of the **\$81.4 billion** state budget (adjusted gross) for FY 2024-25.





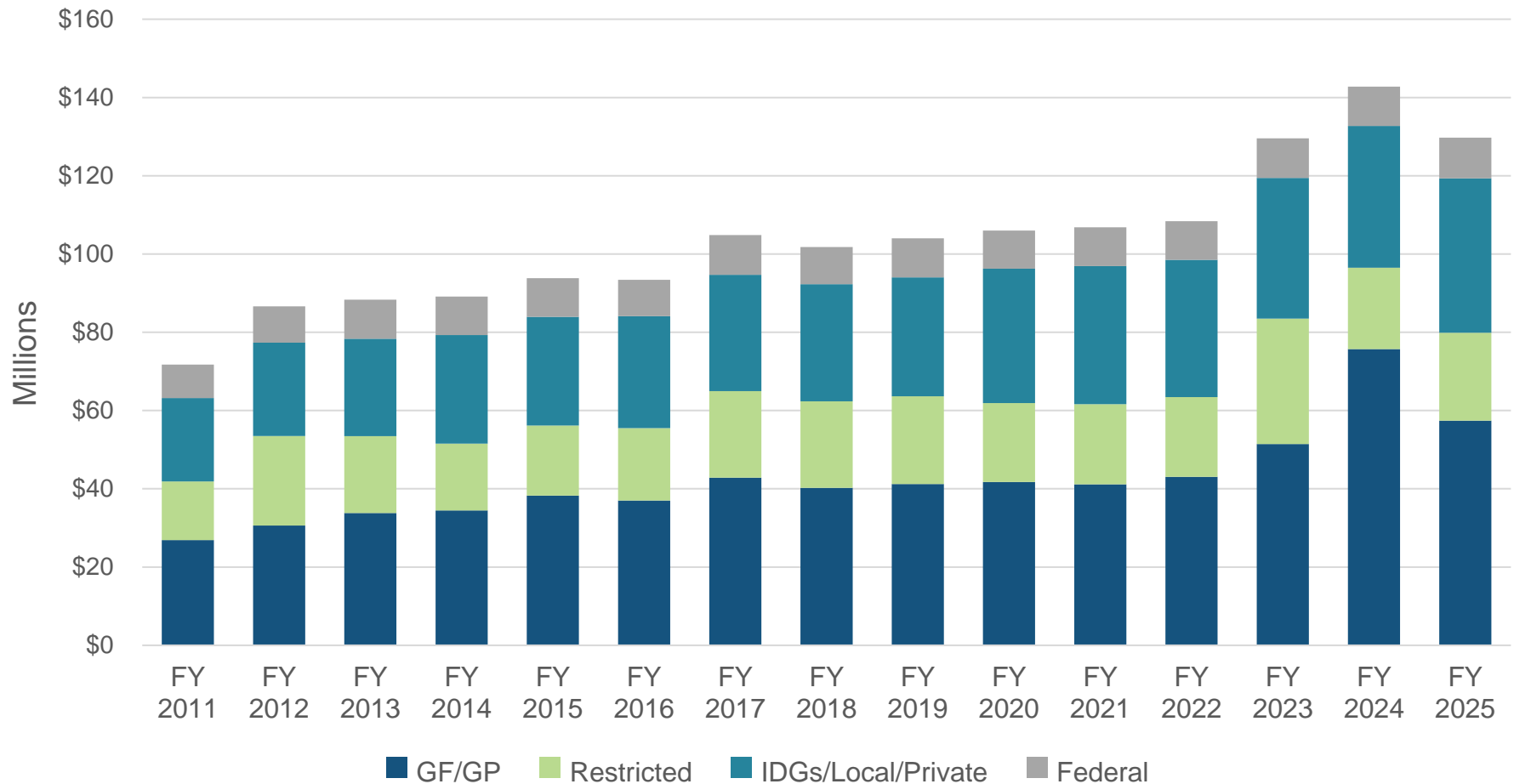
# Attorney General Share of Total GF/GP Budget

The Attorney General budget represents less than 1% of the state's \$14.9 billion GF/GP budget for FY 2024-25.



# Attorney General - Funding History

Total appropriations for the attorney general have increased by **80.8%** since FY 2010-11. Funding has increased since FY 2021-22 driven mainly by the appropriation of opioid settlement revenues, increased one-time appropriations, and expanded ongoing enforcement responsibilities and programs.



# Appropriation Areas

# Attorney General Appropriation Areas

**Department Operations:** Personnel and operational costs associated with executive administration and the provision of legal advice and representation to state departments. Operations include the department's ongoing special investigations, various initiatives, and enforcement activities.

**Child Support Division:** Personnel and operational costs associated with child support enforcement activities.

**Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council (PACC):** Autonomous agency responsible for ensuring a uniform system of conduct, duty, and procedure among prosecutors.

**Public Safety Initiative:** Prosecutorial assistance for selected high-crime areas.

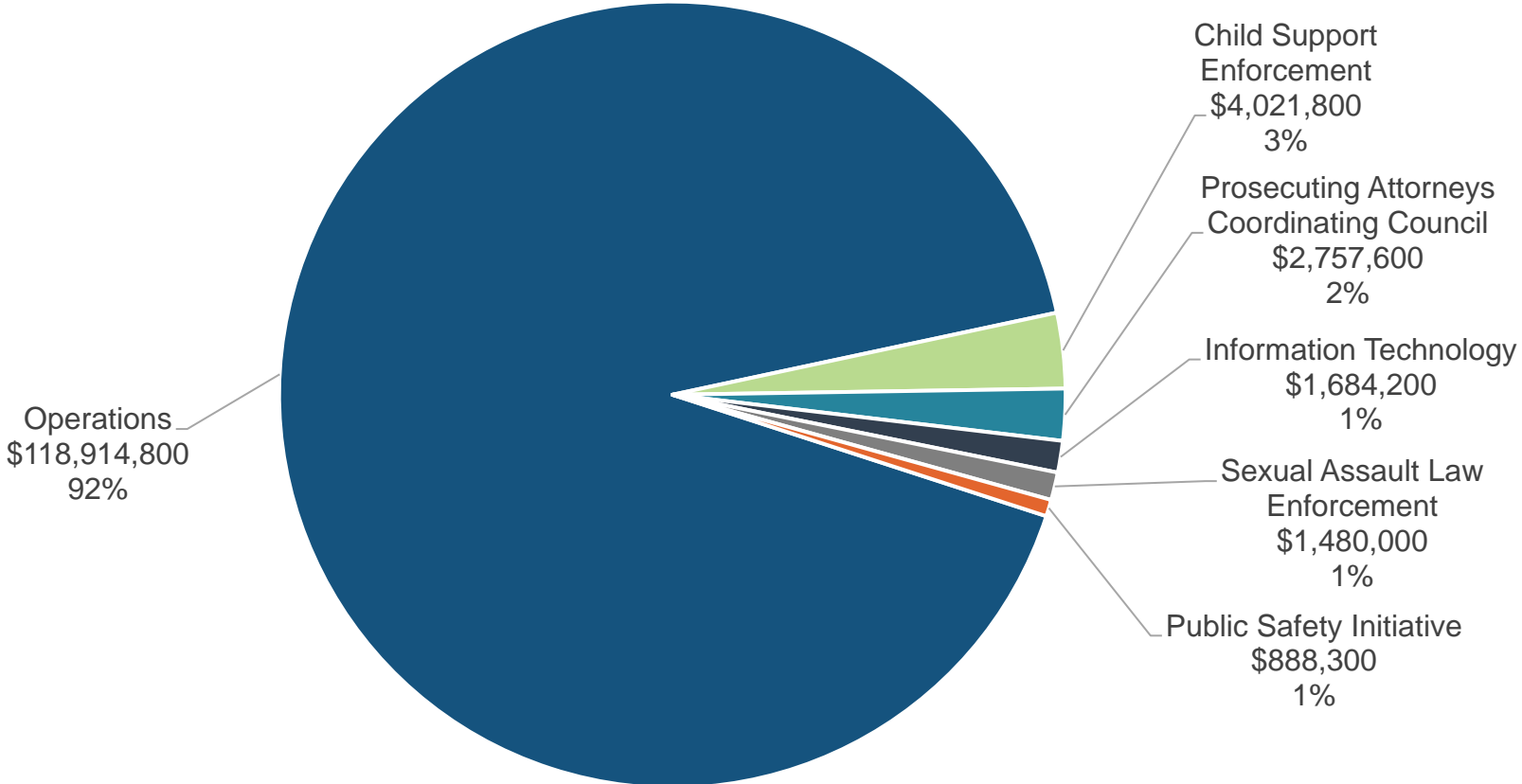
**Sexual Assault Law Enforcement:** Funding to reduce the backlog of sexual assault kits in communities statewide and to assist with investigations and prosecutions that may result.

**Information Technology:** IT-related services and projects that support department activities; administered by the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget.

**One-time Appropriations:** Includes one-time appropriations for Operation Survivor Justice, a program to assist local prosecutors with costs of extraditing offenders, and legal services for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

# FY 2024-25 Gross Appropriations

Of the **\$129.7 million** Attorney General budget, **92%** is appropriated for Operations, a large portion of which is funded through interdepartmental grants (IDGs) and restricted fund sources from departments and programs receiving services. One-time appropriations are included in the Operations category.

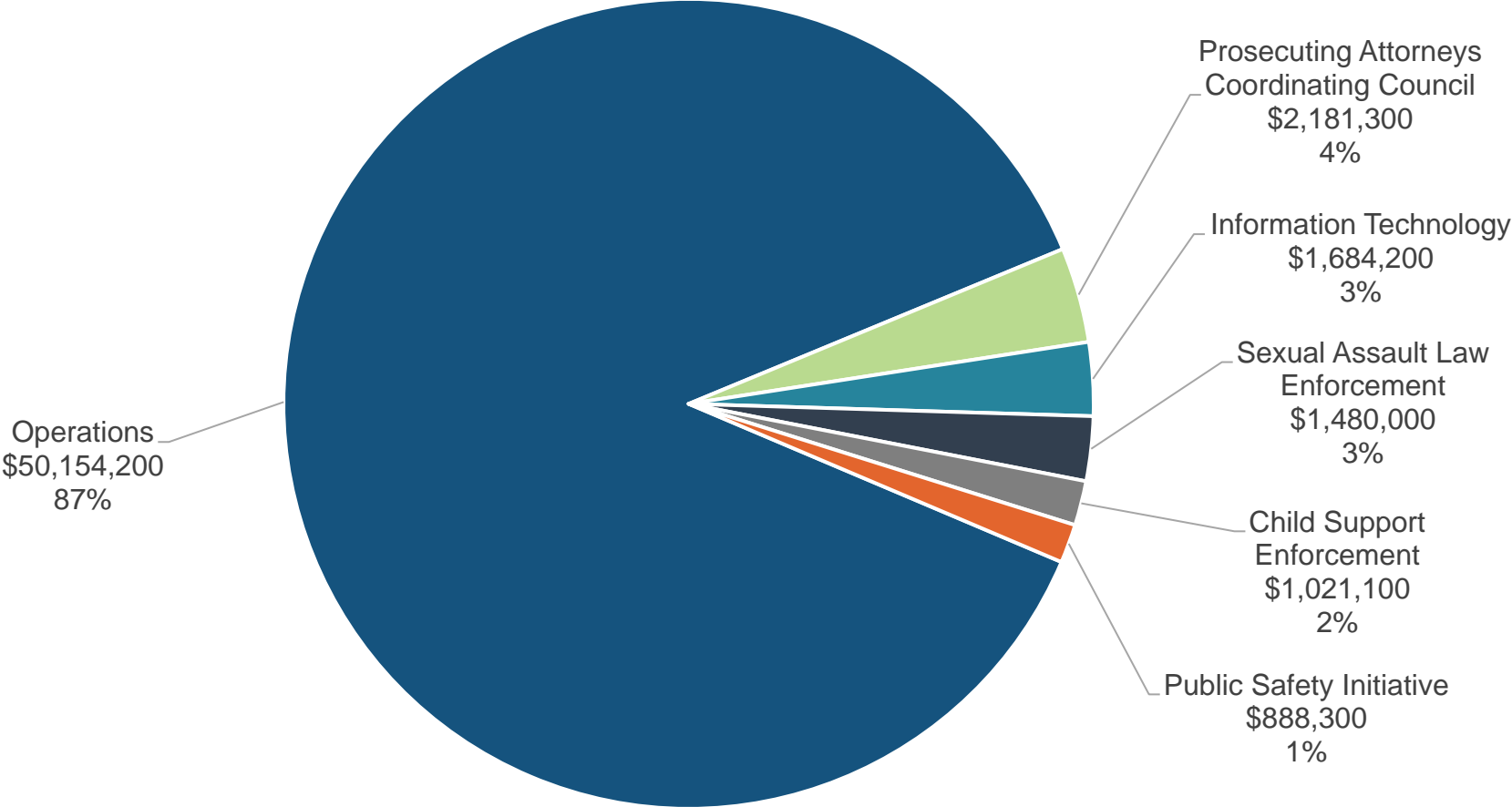


# FY 2024-25 Operations Line Item

- The Operations line item makes up **90%** of the department's ongoing funding.
- An additional **\$3.5 million** and **16.0 FTE positions** in ongoing appropriations is provided in FY 2024-25 for the following:
  - **Utility Consumer Representation Fund** – 1.0 FTE, \$900,000 for participation in administrative and judicial proceedings in various utility rate oversight cases.
  - **Cannabis Regulatory Agency** – 5.0 FTEs, \$780,500 to provide additional legal services in response to increased caseloads related to marijuana sales.
  - **MiLEAP Legal Services** – 4.0 FTEs, \$740,000 to provide legal services to the newly created Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential.
  - **Criminal Trials Services** – 5.0 FTEs, \$915,000 for additional staffing resources for various criminal law programs and units, including the address confidentiality program, special prosecutor assignments, unemployment benefits fraud, the hate crimes unit, child support enforcement, prisoner reimbursements, and cold case homicide investigations.
  - **Opioid Recovery Fund Administration** – 1.0 FTE, \$197,000 to support disbursements of opioid case settlement revenue to eligible local units of government.

# FY 2024-25 GF/GP Appropriations

GF/GP funds total \$57.4 million. Most smaller program line items consist entirely of GF/GP revenue.



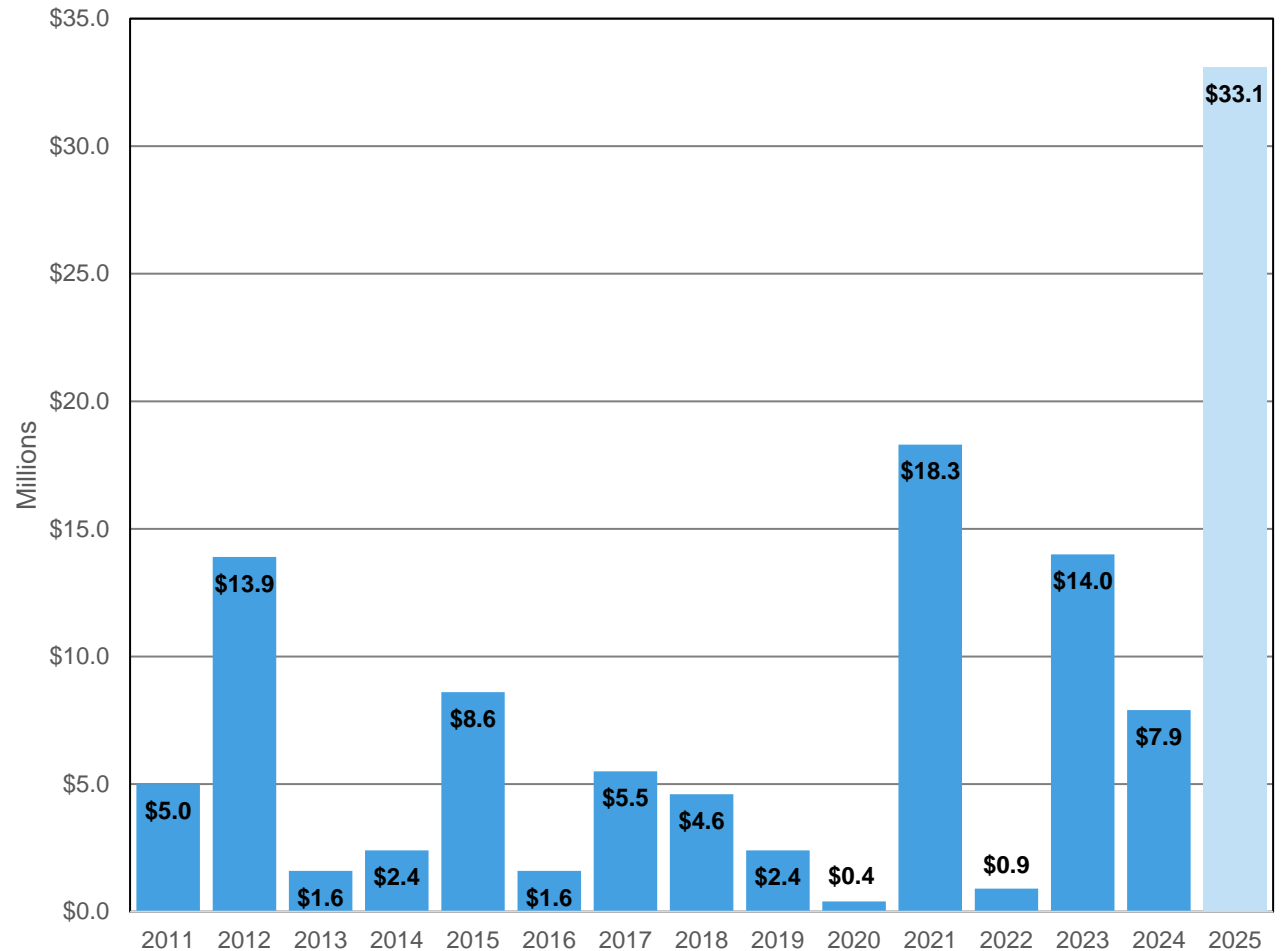
# Major Budget Topics



# Lawsuit Settlement Proceeds Fund

- Created in 1996 to require legislative appropriation for expenditure of lawsuit proceeds.
- Unless appropriated, revenue in the fund lapses to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.
- **\$2.7 million** has been appropriated annually from the fund to support the Flint water investigation.
- At least **\$33.1 million** in settlement revenue is expected to be deposited in FY 2024-25.

Lawsuit Settlement Proceeds Fund  
Annual Deposit Revenue



# Department Initiatives and Programs

In addition to the ongoing work of legal divisions supporting state agencies, the department also initiates limited-time programs and initiatives to address various state issues. Expenditures for units and programs created to address these issues come from the Operations line item and are noted below:

**Job Court (\$5.0 million)** – Prosecutorial diversion program that offers the option of dismissal of charges for selected pre-trial defendants charged with low-level, non-assaultive crimes who secure gainful employment and complete the one-year program. There are currently 3 participating courts in Wayne, Genesee, and Marquette Counties.

**Elder Abuse Task Force (\$329,500)** – Effort between AG, Michigan Supreme Court, legislature, and other organizations to prevent elder abuse and to support its victims. Created to implement systemic changes recommended by previous task forces and to assess current problems in the system and address them.

**Conviction Integrity Unit (\$116,700)** – Reviews eligible claims of innocence submitted by claimants arising from state-law convictions to determine whether the claimants are innocent of crime(s) for which they were convicted and sentenced. Conducts investigations and works with local officials and law enforcement.

**Opioid Litigation (\$62,000)** – Supplements local authorities and prosecutors in prosecuting drug enforcement cases.

# Department Initiatives and Programs

**PFAS Contamination (\$33,900)** – Provides legal support to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for investigation and enforcement regarding environmental contaminants, including perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

**Payroll Fraud Enforcement Unit (\$25,500)** – Investigates employers committing payroll fraud by failing to pay workers' full wages and benefits.

**Human Trafficking (\$9,500)** – Works with law enforcement task forces to identify and prosecute human traffickers. Also conducts trainings for law enforcement and prosecutors and works to raise awareness of human trafficking in Michigan.

**Robocall Enforcement (\$9,400)** – Partners with federal agencies, attorneys general, and other stakeholders to raise public awareness and education and track ongoing scams.

# Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council (PACC)

- Autonomous agency within the attorney general's office responsible for ensuring a uniform system of conduct, duty, and procedure among prosecutors
- Publishes legal documents, manuals, and other materials on criminal prosecution and practices
- Provides prosecutors with updates on legislation, court procedure changes, research assistance, and continuing professional education
- Administers grant-funded services
- Coordinates state prosecution activities and office automation

# For more information about the Attorney General budget:

## HFA Resources

<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/GeneralGovernment.asp>

## Contact Information

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