

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE
711 South Capitol Way, Suite 106,
Olympia, Washington 98504-0957

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ23026
ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION FOR INDIGENT PARENTS
IN DEPENDENCY AND TERMINATION CASES
IN THE PARENT REPRESENTATION PROGRAM

About the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD)

We are an independent judicial branch agency mandated to implement the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense services funded by the state.

Mission: Upholding the rights of all people who are facing the loss of liberty or family by providing statewide leadership, administration, and support to the multidisciplinary public defense profession.

Vision: Public defense clients, everywhere in the state, receive truly equitable and client-centered representation from fully supported professionals.

Values: Justice ■ Service ■ Equity ■ Excellence

We administer a variety of programs, including systemic improvement programs and programs providing direct representation. To learn about OPD's programs click [here](#). We are dedicated to excellence in public law and indigent defense, and we seek talented candidates who share this commitment to client-centered service. We value employees who bring diverse backgrounds in education, employment, community activities, and life experiences to enhance our office.

Program Description

The Parents Representation Program is a nationally recognized and innovative multi-disciplinary program that administers contract attorney representation and independent social work support for indigent parents involved in child dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings in Washington juvenile courts. The Program utilizes standards and protocols that historically have resulted in significant improvements in child permanency and family reunification. The Program contracts with attorneys, social workers and social service providers in all 39 counties.

Program Purpose Statement:

Ensuring a fair and equitable child welfare system by leading, administering, and supporting the effective and efficient delivery of multidisciplinary right-to-counsel services for indigent parents facing state intervention in the parent-child relationship.

The approximate caseload and annual compensation for a full-time attorney is 80 cases and between \$150,000 to \$184,000. Part-time attorney position compensation is pro-rated based on a percentage of a full-time case load. Compensation includes all overhead such as support staff, rent, and other costs of doing business. Compensation is dependent on experience. If interested, follow the application procedures below.

In addition to compensation, OPD contract attorneys are well supported by OPD providing funding for expert services, technical assistance, Westlaw, trainings, and access to contracted OPD social workers or social services workers.

Yakima County: One or more contracts, up to 1.5 full-time caseloads (up to 120 open and active dependency & termination cases). Start date is July 1, 2023

Benton/Franklin Counties: One or more contracts, up to a .5 full-time caseload (up to 40 open and active dependency & termination cases). Start date is July 1, 2023.

Other Washington State Counties: Although OPD does not anticipate any immediate openings, OPD would welcome applications for all counties in order to identify interested parties if openings become available in the future. We are particularly interested in applicants that reflect the demographics of the county the prospective contractor will serve.

PRP Purpose Statement: Ensuring a fair and equitable child welfare system by leading, administering, and supporting the effective and efficient delivery of multidisciplinary right-to-counsel services for indigent parents facing state intervention in the parent-child relationship.

Qualifications

The following qualifications are required:

- Licensed member of good standing with the Washington State Bar
- Able to meet Washington State Supreme Court Standards for Indigent Defense
- A demonstrated commitment to parents' rights, indigent defense, or social justice issues
- Experience or interest in how race, gender, national origin, disability, and class intersect to create disparities for individuals and families experiencing state intervention in their lives and a willingness to challenge the state when it exists.
- Provide representation with energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to trauma-informed, anti-racist, intersectional, non-judgmental, and truly holistic advocacy throughout the case
- Be familiar with RCW 13.34 and court rules pertaining to dependency and termination cases
- Be responsive to and communicate clearly with clients who are often under great stress
- Develop collaborative working relationships with other parties and all child welfare stakeholders
- Experience in the court for which you are interested preferred, but not required

Application Procedure

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, email a letter of interest identifying your qualifications and a resume. Letters of interest should also describe applicant's current contracts for public defense or other representation as well as existing caseload, specifying the number of your current dependency and termination cases, if any.

Email Materials to:

Christopher Grande - Program Assistant

Christopher.Grande@opd.wa.gov

Please address any questions to Christopher Grande at the above email address.

OPD reserves the right to amend this Request for Qualifications and reserves the right to refrain from contracting with any and all applicants. This Request for Qualifications does not obligate the state of Washington or OPD to contract for the services specified here.

The Washington State Office of Public Defense vigorously pursues diversity in the work force. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons over 40 years of age, persons of disability, and disabled and Vietnam era veterans are encouraged to apply.