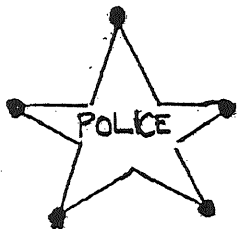


Legal Aid Builds Stronger, Safer Communities and Saves the State Money

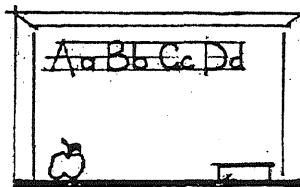
IN 2001

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| \$7,734,000 | STATE INVESTMENT IN LEGAL AID | ➔ | \$18,000,000⁺ | SAVINGS |
| 178 legal aid attorneys | MEANT REDUCED CLIENT RELIANCE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE | ➔ | \$4,000,000 | IN NEW CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS SECURED |
| | MEANT DISABLED MINNESOTANS LEAVE STATE PROGRAMS LIKE GA AND GAMC | ➔ | \$5,000,000 | IN NEW FEDERAL DISABILITY BENEFITS |
| | MEANT 2,650 FAMILIES SAVED FROM HOMELESSNESS | ➔ | \$3,960,000 | IN SHELTER SUBSIDY COSTS SAVED |
| | MEANT OVER 3,000 CASES KEPT OUT OF COURT | ➔ | \$5,100,000 | IN STATE COURT TIME SAVED |

AS WELL AS



Reducing Domestic Violence
saves lives and prevents injuries



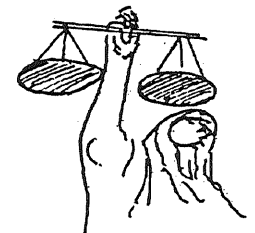
Keeping Kids in School
reduces truancy and helps students learn



Securing Safer and Better Housing
stabilizes families and keeps them healthier



Achieving Economic Self-Sufficiency
moves families from Welfare to work

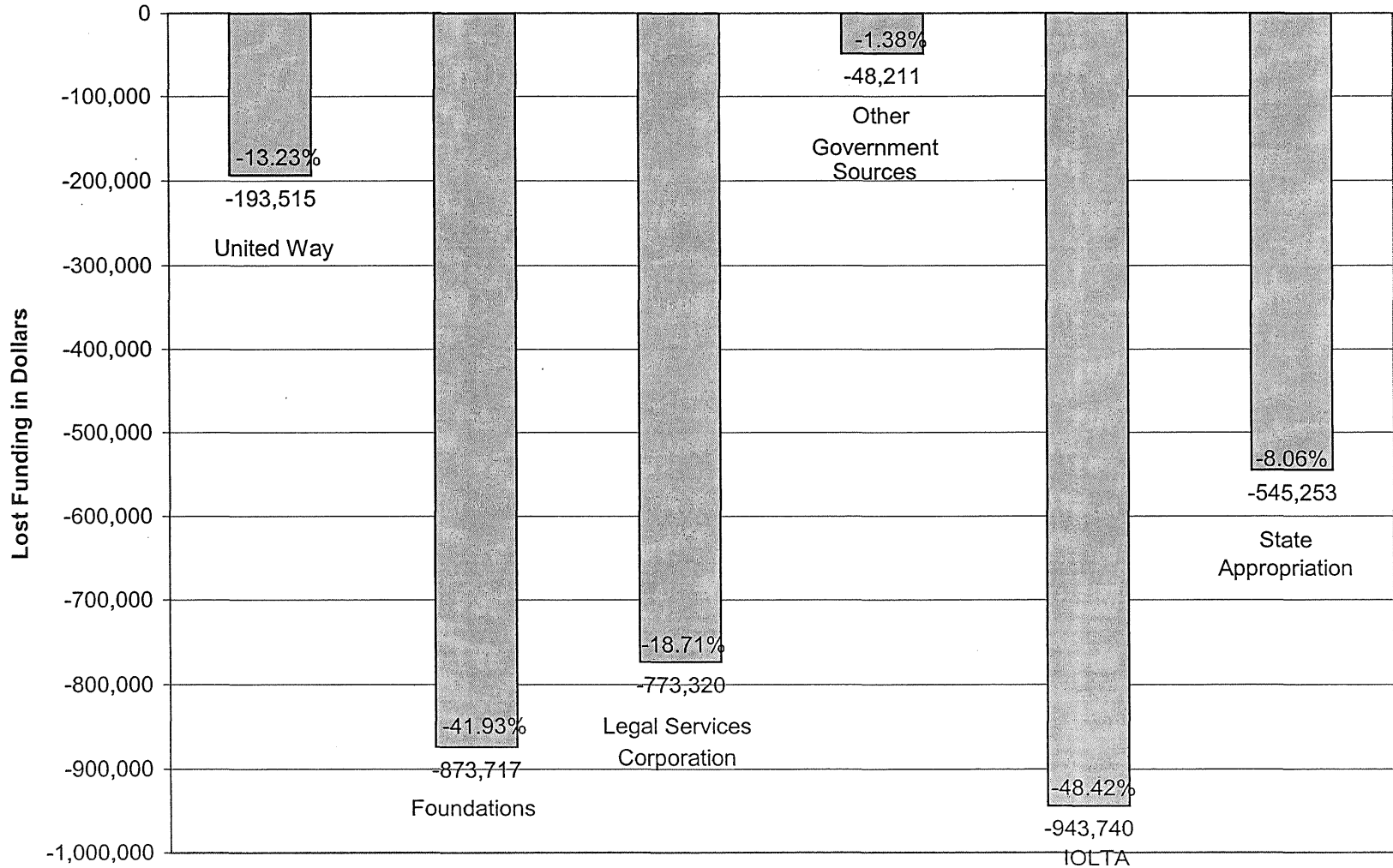


Providing Community Legal Education
helps prevent legal problems

Legal aid is a core government service and an essential part of the justice system

"WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"

Major Actual and Projected Minnesota Legal Aid Funding Losses from 2002 to 2006



Total dollar losses reflected above = \$3,377,756
Inflation loss of purchasing power over the same period = \$2,273,155
Total impact of losses and inflation = \$5,650,911

Legal Aid is an Essential Long Term Investment for Minnesota Taxpayers

FACT: Cutting Legal Aid Will Hurt the Courts

- Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz notes, "It is my experience that the legal aid delivery system helps the judicial system be more cost-effective by providing preventive educational materials, successfully resolving most matters through informal or formal negotiations, and advising persons against bringing non-meritorious cases."
- Legal Aid saves at least \$5.1 million in court time annually. In 2003, 3,072 Legal Aid cases were settled without further litigation or screened out for lack of merit. Only 10.5% of Legal Aid's cases went to full hearing last year.
- In the words of Congressman Jim Ramstad, "Legal Services has been entrusted with the vital mission of providing free legal assistance to low income individuals in civil cases. I support this mission."

FACT: Legal Aid Programs Save the State Money

- Legal Aid secures over \$9 million each year in child support orders and Federal disability benefits;
- Legal Aid leverages over \$10 million each year in Federal, United Way, and foundation funding, and private attorney financial support.
- Legal aid saved government about \$3.96 million in shelter subsidy costs by preventing homelessness in an estimated 2,650 cases in 2003.

FACT: Legal Aid Reduces Domestic Violence

- Economists analyzing DOJ statistics on declines in domestic abuse in the 1990s concluded "Legal services are the only service that decreases the likelihood women will be battered. Since legal services help women achieve economic power and self-sufficiency, they are a good place to spend public money."
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that the direct health-related cost of domestic violence in the U.S. is \$4.1 billion per year. Reducing this cost saves Minnesota taxpayers money.

FACT: Legal Aid benefits the broader community

- Legal Aid helps families break the cycle of abuse and instability which domestic violence generates;
- Legal Aid assists low-income farm families to remain on their homestead or make the adjustment away from farming;
- Legal Aid stabilizes families in crisis, including preventing homelessness and helping to repair substandard housing; and
- Legal Aid assists adults to move from welfare to work by overcoming legal obstacles.

FACT: Legal Aid, despite its cost-effectiveness, has had to reduce staff and services by over 20 positions since 2002.

- Starting Legal Aid salaries are now about \$9,000 less than judicial law clerk salaries; Legal Aid salaries generally are about 60% of other public lawyers.
- Cuts to Legal Aid since 2001 have resulted in an annualized \$3.37 million loss per year in federal, foundation, Interest on Lawyer Trust Account (IOLTA) and other funding.
- Without an increased state appropriation, more positions will be lost over the next year, leading to a loss of 20% of Legal Aid's ability to serve clients. Legal Aid will have to turn away at least 7,000 additional eligible clients with critical civil legal needs in the coming year, thus turning away over 27,000 people.

CONTACT: Bruce Beneke (651-228-9823), Jeremy Lane (612-746-3701) or Peg Larsen (651-324-3462) for further information.

Minnesota Legal Services Coalition
Projected Positions With \$3.5 million Increase to Base¹
Restore some lost positions; maintain other positions

| Location | FTE | Position Maintained or Restored | Case Areas |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Alexandria | 1.00 | Maintain | Family, housing, income maintenance |
| Bemidji | 1.00 | Maintain | Family, housing, income maintenance |
| Moorhead | 1.00 | Maintain | Family, housing, income maintenance |
| Alexandria/Moorhead | 1.00 | Restore | Family, housing, income maintenance |
| Anoka | 1.00 | Restore Judicare | Housing, family |
| Anoka | .90 | Restore Judicare | Family, housing |
| Cass Lake (White Earth) | 1.00 | Maintain | Indian law, domestic abuse/family |
| Duluth | 1.00 | Restore | Housing, family |
| Duluth | 1.00 | Restore | Housing, family |
| Minneapolis | 1.00 | Maintain | Income maintenance |
| Minneapolis | 1.00 | Maintain | Family |
| Minneapolis | 1.00 | Maintain | Consumer |
| Minneapolis | .50 | Maintain | Seniors |
| Minneapolis | 1.00 | Restore | Income Maintenance |
| Minneapolis | 1.00 | Restore | Housing |
| Minneapolis | 1.00 | Restore | Immigration |
| Minneapolis | .50 | Restore | Community legal education |
| St. Cloud | 1.00 | Maintain | Family |
| St. Cloud | 1.00 | Restore | Family |
| Pine City | 1.00 | Restore | Family, housing, income maintenance, consumer |
| Willmar | .50 | Maintain | Housing |
| Willmar | .50 | Restore | Income maintenance |
| Mankato | 1.00 | Restore | Family, immigration |
| Southwestern MN Worthington, Mankato | 1.00 | Restore | Farm law, family/domestic abuse |
| Rice, Steele, Watonwan, Waseca Counties | 1.00 | Restore | Domestic abuse/family, housing |
| Dodge, Winona, Olmstead, Mower, Freeborn Counties | 1.00 | Restore | Family/domestic abuse, housing |
| Rochester/St. Paul | 1.00 | Restore | Fair housing |
| St. Paul | 1.00 | Maintain | Remedy substandard housing |
| St. Paul | 1.00 | Maintain | Housing, homelessness |
| St. Paul | 1.00 | Maintain | Family/domestic abuse |
| Ramsey, Dakota, Washington Counties | 1.00 | Restore | Predatory lending, consumer, volunteer attorney |
| Ramsey, Dakota, Washington Counties | .50 | Maintain | Seniors and income maintenance |
| 33 Counties of SMRLS Area | 2.5 | Restore/Maintain | Senior professionals in education, housing, income maintenance, finance |
| TOTAL | 31.90 | | |

As of 2001 the Coalition programs employed 178.1 attorneys. By 2004, the number of attorneys was 157.95. If there is no increase in state funding, legal aid attorney positions will go down to 144.45, a 19% decrease from 2001. In addition, there would be no funding for interpreters or increased health care costs. A \$3.5 million increase will enable restoring and maintaining positions for a total of 176.35.

¹ 15% of funds are distributed on a discretionary basis by the Legal Services Advisory Board of the Minnesota Supreme Court



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

FY 06-07 BUDGET REQUEST

Senate Public Safety Budget Division
February 23, 2005

1



MN Judicial Branch

Judicial Branch Mission

To provide justice through a system that assures
equal access for the fair and timely
resolution of cases and controversies.

Article I, Bill of Rights

Section 8. Redress of Injuries or Wrongs

Every person is entitled to a certain remedy in
the laws for all injuries or wrongs ...and to obtain
justice freely and without purchase, completely and
without denial, **promptly and without delay**,
conformable to the laws.

2



FY 04-05 Budget

\$17.0 million Cut

\$ 9.5 million Employee salary/insur. incs.

\$26.5 million Effective cut

3



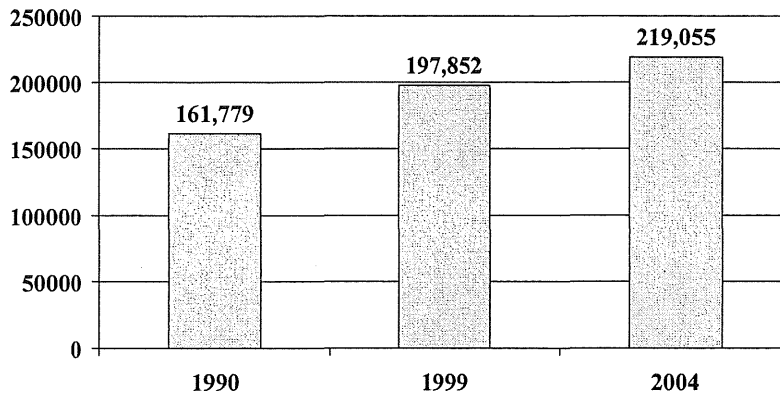
IMPACT

- ✓ Hiring Freeze since December 2003 – 200 vacancies
- ✓ Cut middle management – 32% of counties have shared court administrators
- ✓ Closed or reduced services in 5 satellite courthouses
- ✓ Cut juror per diem
- ✓ Eliminated mandatory transcripts
- ✓ Imposed 45 day delay in filling judgeship vacancies
- ✓ Banned out of state travel
- ✓ Cut mandated services budgets
- ✓ Cut operating budgets
- ✓ Eliminated Ramsey Housing and Conciliation Court mediation Program
- ✓ And, more...

4



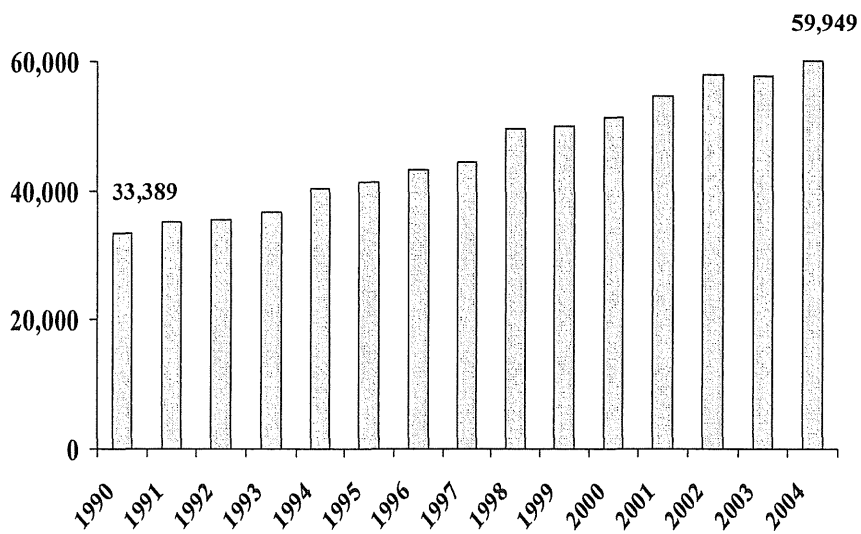
Major Case Filings



5



Major Criminal Case Filings

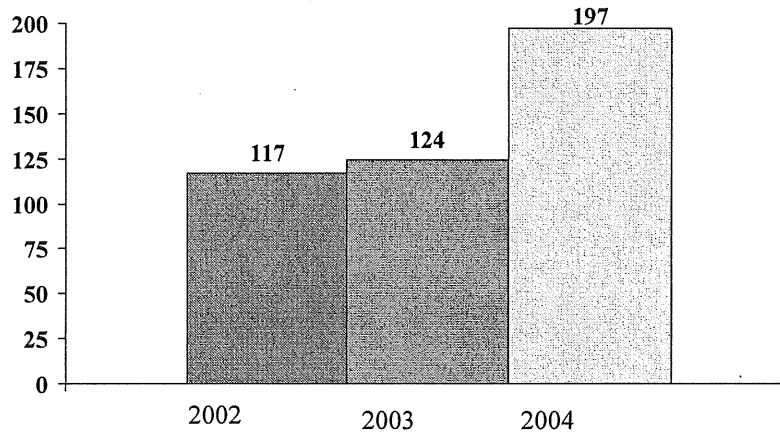


6



Major Criminal Cases Average Time to Disposition

(In days)



7



FY 06-07 Change Request

- **Address Growth in Mandated Services Demands**
 - Court Interpreters
 - Psychological Services
- **Address Growth in Use of Expedited Child Support Process**
- **Provide Funding for COA Retired Judge Usage**
- **Maintain Core Justice Operations**

8



Court Interpreters

Page 9 T Ct Request

- Change Level Request

FY 06

\$300,000

FY 07

\$600,000

9



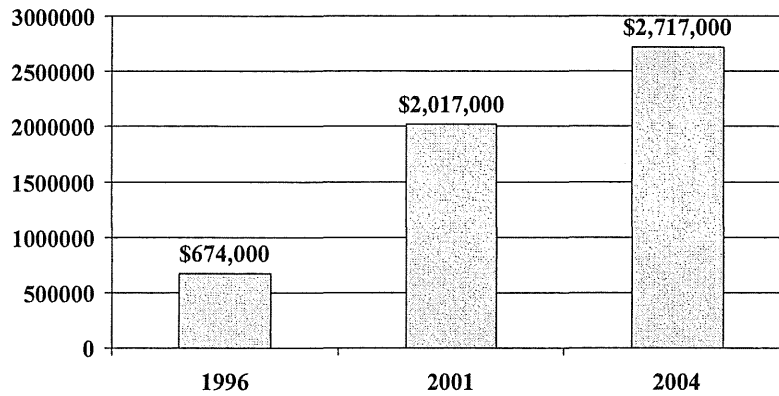
Court Interpreters (cont.)

- Mandated by State Constitution and federal and state law
 - Must provide interpreter services for individuals who are “handicapped in communication” (M.S. 611.30)
 - Understanding court proceedings is fundamental to justice

10



Court Interpreter Costs



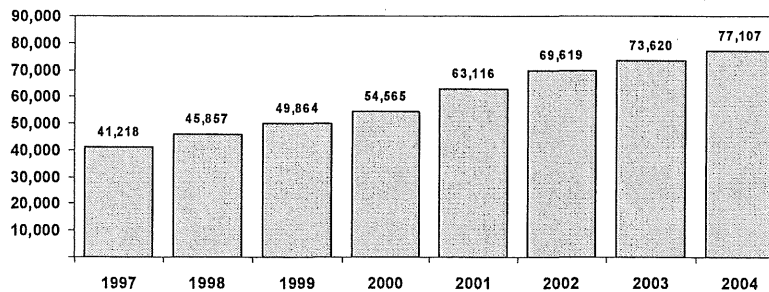
11



Court Interpreters (cont.)

The Growing Rate of Non-English Speaking Students in Minnesota

source: The Minnesota Department of Education



12



Court Interpreters (cont.)

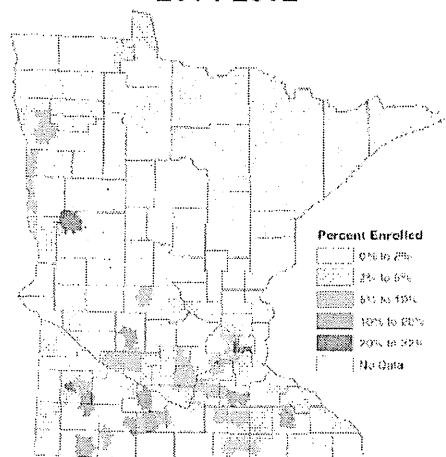
- 2,500 Hmong immigrants settled in Twin Cities in 2004 and 2,500 are expected in near future (International Institute of MN)
- Minneapolis has largest Somali population in US; Rochester is 4th; St. Paul is fifth (US Census Bureau)
- Last year Hennepin County had requests for interpreters in 49 languages.
- This week Ramsey County using interpreters in twelve languages.

13



Court Interpreter (cont.)

Limited English Proficiency 2001-2002



Source: Minnesota Department of Education

14



Court Interpreters (cont.)

Top 20 Languages Used in Courts

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Spanish | Arabic | Anuak |
| Somali | Oromo | French |
| Hmong | Khmer | Korean |
| Sign Language | Amharic | Tigrinya |
| Vietnamese | Bosnian | Swahili |
| Russian | Nuer | Tibetan |
| Lao | Mandarin | |

15



Psychological Services

Page 11 T Ct Request

■ Change Level Request

FY 06

\$376,000

FY 07

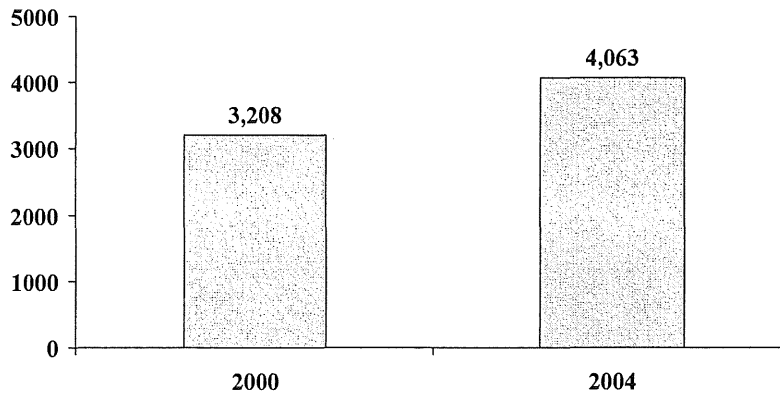
\$500,000

16



Psychological Services (cont.)

Civil Commitment Filings

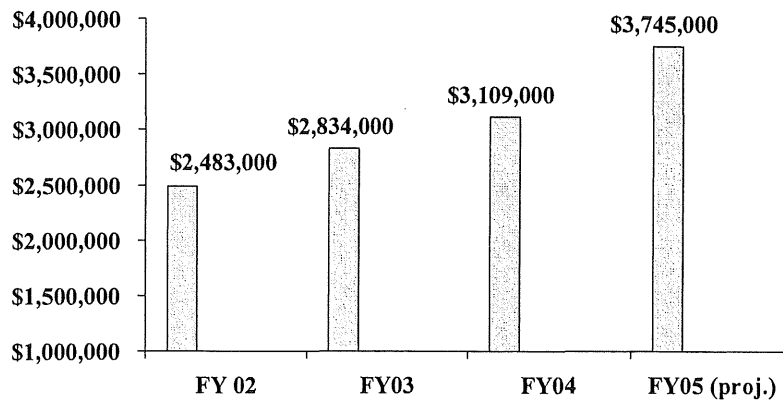


17



Psychological Services (cont.)

50% Increase



18



Expedited Child Support Process

Page 9 S Ct Request

■ Change Level Request

FY 06

\$190,000

FY 07

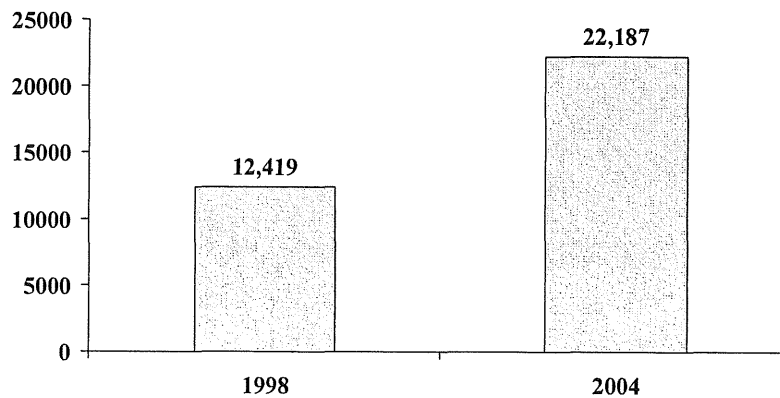
\$280,000

19



Expedited Child Support Process Hrgs.

78% Increase



1998 OAH data.

20



Expedited Child Support Process

Continual Review and Modification

- Lost a job
- Got a job
- Disability
- Military Service
- Medical Costs...

Until children reach 18 years of age

21



Expedited Child Support Process

System Efficiencies

- Cut magistrate travel time
- Increased ITV usage
- Combined/reduced number of calendars

22



Funding For COA Retired Judge Usage

Page 8, COA Request

■ Change Level Request

| <u>FY 06</u> | <u>FY 07</u> |
|--------------|--------------|
| \$ 88,000 | \$ 88,000 |

23



Maintain Core Justice Operations

(In Thousands)

| | <u>FY06</u> | <u>FY07</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sup. Ct. (Page 8) | \$812 | \$1,791 |
| COA (Page 7) | \$303 | \$681 |
| Trial Ct. (Page 8) | \$8,167* | \$16,987* |

*Revised Request

24



Maintain Core Justice Operations

Inability to Keep Pace with Increasing Demand

- Long waits for help from ct staff.
- Increase in processing time for motions
- Unanswered phone calls in ct offices
- Delays in collection of fines and assessments
- Increased errors in important documents
- Delays in opening cases and entering judgments
- Delays in reporting convictions
- Increased time to enter dissolution decrees, delaying child support collection
- Inability to file documents with court files in time for court hearings
- Increased time between filing complaint and hearing in conciliation court