



# **Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice**

FY 27 Budget Presentation

# Overview

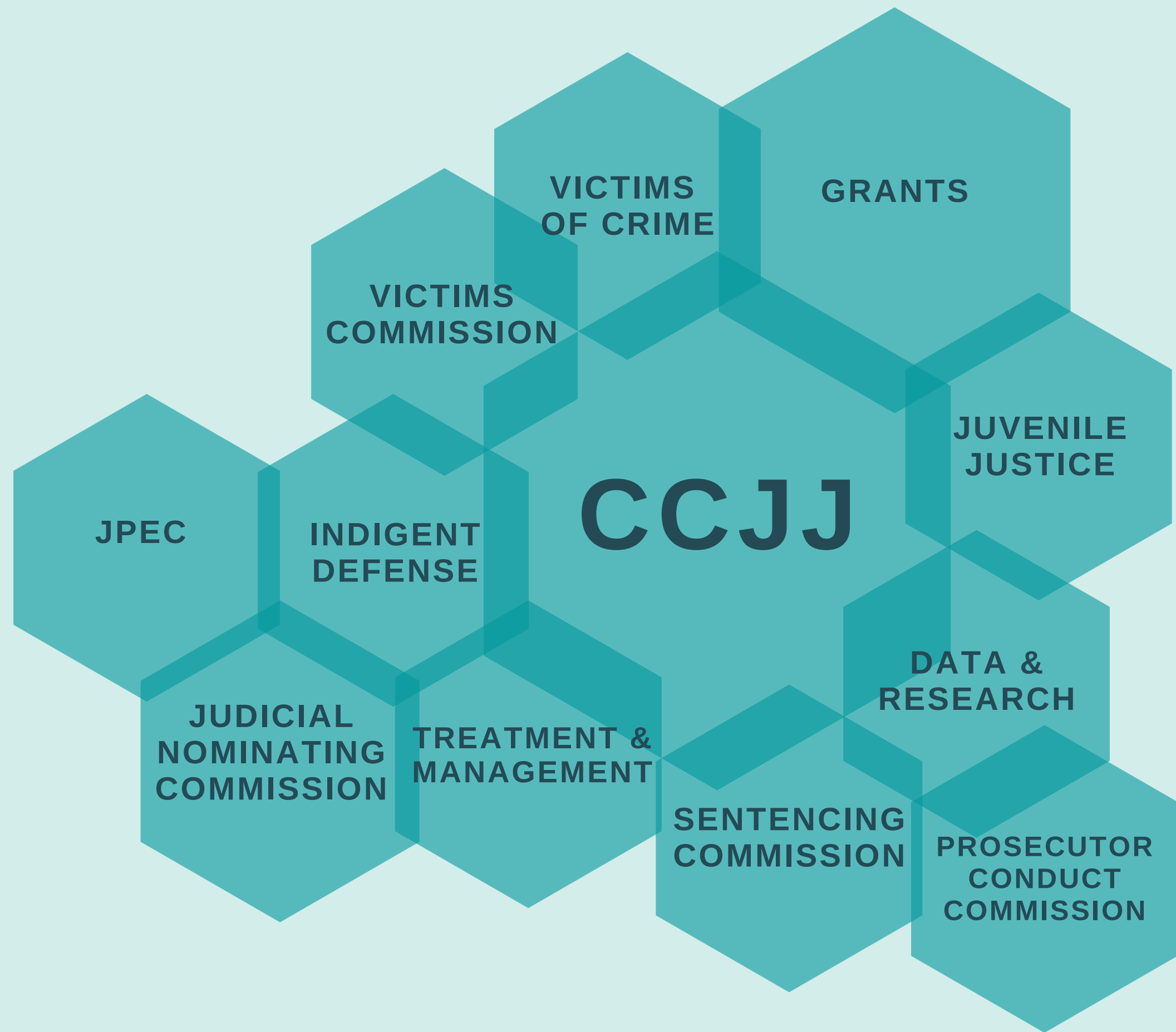
- Agency at a Glance
- FY 25 Highlighted Works
- FY 27 Budget Requests
  - Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice
  - Utah Office for Victims of Crime
  - Indigent Defense Commission
  - Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

# Agency at a Glance

Created in 1983, the Utah Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) is the coordinating body for criminal and juvenile justice policy. We deliver a broad research and grant agenda to advance criminal and juvenile justice programming in Utah. We are staffed by various experts in their respective fields who assist the Commission in fulfilling its statutory duties and obligations set forth by the governor and legislature.

# Divisions & Teams

We are an office with diverse experience working together to create a better criminal and juvenile justice for all.





# FY 25 Highlighted Works

## CCJJ Annual Report

Published 2025 annual report:

- Advanced research on prison capacity and spatial analysis of juvenile justice referral rates across Utah
  - Governor's Executive Order on the Criminal Justice Strategy Taskforce
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## Grant Administration

\$37.86 million awarded statewide

- \$22.78 million in victim-related services
- \$7.38 million in indigent defense
- Additionally, Federal and State Grants served the following areas:
  - Crime Prevention
  - Law Enforcement & Corrections
  - System Diversion
  - SUD/MH Treatment



# **FY 25 Highlighted Works**

## **Judicial Nominating Commissions**

- Judicial nominating commissions help select candidates for judicial vacancies. There is a nominating commission for each judicial district, including the appellate courts. CCJJ staffs and manages the work of these independent commissions
  - Facilitated 12 judgeship nominations including a supreme court justice
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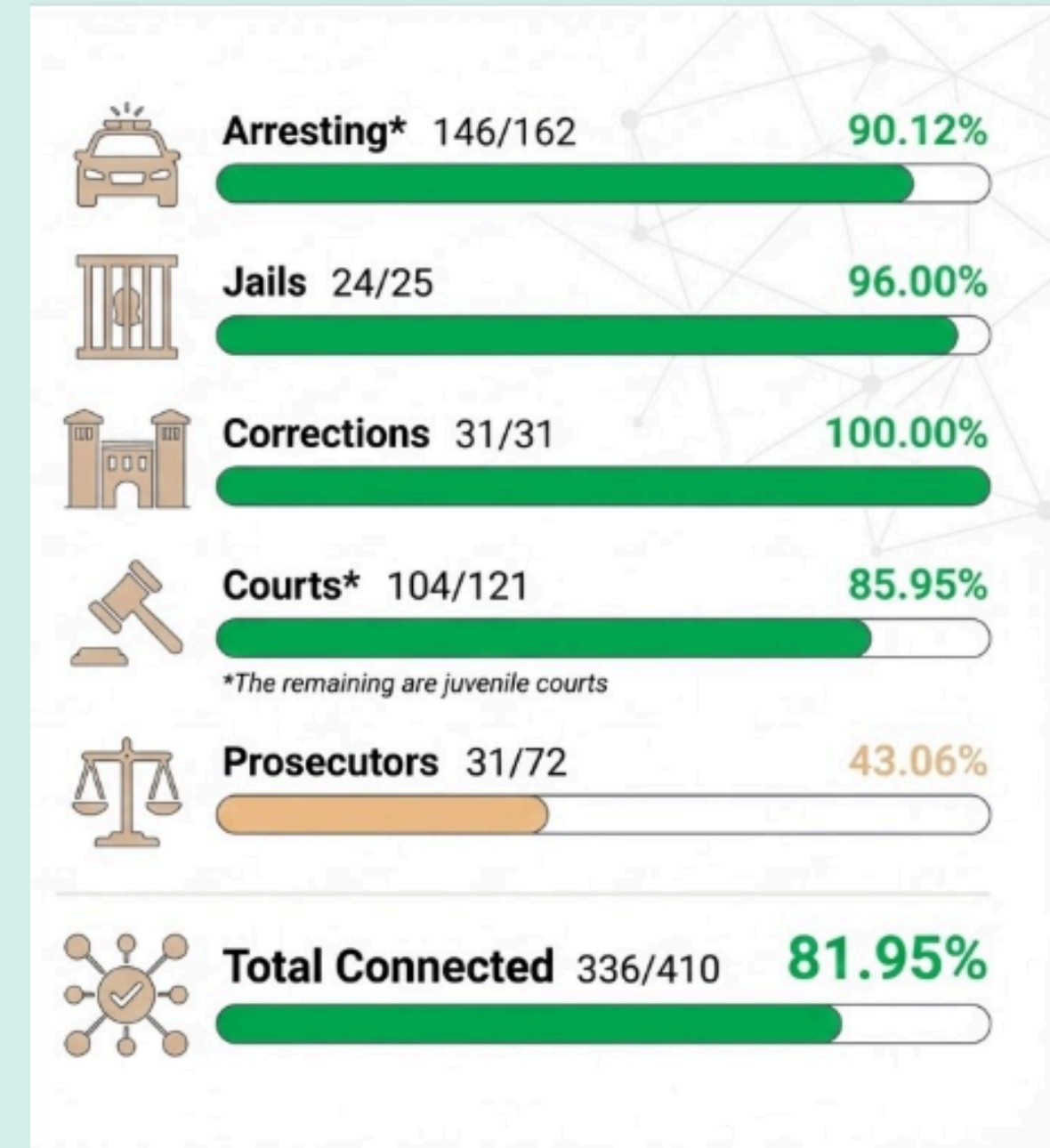
## **Criminal Justice Crash Course & 2025 Legislative Session**

- Facilitated second educational course for the legislature in collaboration with state criminal and juvenile justice agencies
- Out of the 959 bills that were introduced in the 2025 General Legislative Session, CCJJ tracked 504 bills, which includes substituted bills, across all of the various groups. There were 265 unique bills which represents 27% of all publicly numbered bills

# FY 25 Highlighted Works

## Public Safety Portal (PSP) is LIVE!

- House Bill 403 (2022) established the high-level and operational framework for the PSP project. Under this statute, CCJJ was directed to oversee the creation and management of the PSP, while DTS was designated to assist with its development, implementation, and ongoing support
- The PSP currently houses over 3.4 billion rows of data, representing an unprecedented cooperative endeavor that empowers Utah with significant reporting capabilities and the ability to identify critical trends for informed policy formulation and enhanced outcomes



# FY 26-27 Budget Requests



Jail Reimbursement



UOVC Victim  
Services Grants

Sexual Assault  
Funding



IDC Grant  
Program

Indigent Appellate  
Defense Division



# Jail Reimbursement

- Utah Code requires the state to pay local jails for their housing of COP (condition of probation) felony offenders who are sentenced to jail as a condition of their probation
- For the past three years ongoing funding was fixed while a subcommittee convened to discuss long standing issues, and to determine the final formula for how to determine reimbursements
- This budget cycle marks the first year post subcommittee where funding is:
  - no longer fixed and
  - reflective of the actual number of days reported by the jails, multiplied by 50% of the state daily rate published by Corrections
- Total Jail Reimbursement Calculation for FY26=\$19,062,350
- Current base budget=\$11,779,000

**\$7,282,350 FY26 Supplemental GF**



# CCJJ Leadership Team



Tom Ross,  
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# Utah Office for Victims of Crime

# Brief Overview

## Grants, Compensation, Expertise

### Grants to Victim Service Providers

- **Federal Grants:** VOCA, VAWA, SASP, VOCX = **\$18.1 million** awarded in July 2025
- **State Grants:** Victim Services and Sexual Assault Services = **\$7.2 million** awarded in FY 25

### Compensation to and on behalf of Individual Victims

**\$7 million in FY 25**

- Medical
- Mental Health
- Relocation
- Funeral
- Security
- Loss of Wages
- Emergency Assistance: Food and Rent

**Expertise:** Three staff appointed to three different national boards

**Improved grant process:** Increased transparency, fairness, efficiency, and applicant ease

**Eliminated** three month backlog on emails and victim compensation applications

# UOVC Victim Services Grants

\$543,000  
FY26 Supplemental  
(Fund 1413)



## Summary:

- UOVC was not given nonlapsing authority for this original appropriation in GS 2023
- UOVC awarded out all appropriated money
- Timing between the appropriation and program readiness created a gap
- Programs required time to build capacity, causing delays in spending
- The lapsed money is currently in the Victim Services Restricted account, but cannot be accessed until the funding is re-appropriated



# Sexual Assault Funding

\$2,114,000  
FY27 One-time  
(Fund 1413)



## Summary:

- The three-year one-time funding is ending on June 30, 2026
- Asking for a one-time continuation while the Victim Services Commission study is being completed

# Impact

## Without Continued One-time Sexual Assault Funding



- **Agency & Community Impact:** Approx. 8 agencies would lose funding, and other programs would face cuts, creating service gaps
- **Victims Affected:** An estimated 3,700 victims would not receive services
- **Services Lost:** About 30,000 victim services would go unprovided
- **System-Wide Effects:** Reduced funding for SANE programs and coalitions which will weaken long-term statewide response capacity



## **UOVC Contact**

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# Indigent Defense Commission

# 6th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

- Guarantees Right to Counsel in Criminal Cases
- U.S. Supreme Court Held in Gideon that if someone cannot afford to hire an attorney, the state must provide one
- Utah has expanded that right to include:
  - All individuals under 18
  - Individuals facing termination of their parental rights

# Indigent Defense in Utah

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- **Prior to 2016, there was no state investment or oversight**
- **IDC created by legislature to address ongoing disparities between counties**
- **“To protect constitutionally guaranteed liberties through ongoing support for effective indigent defense services throughout the state of Utah”**

# Oversight

**Established a network of Managing Defenders:**

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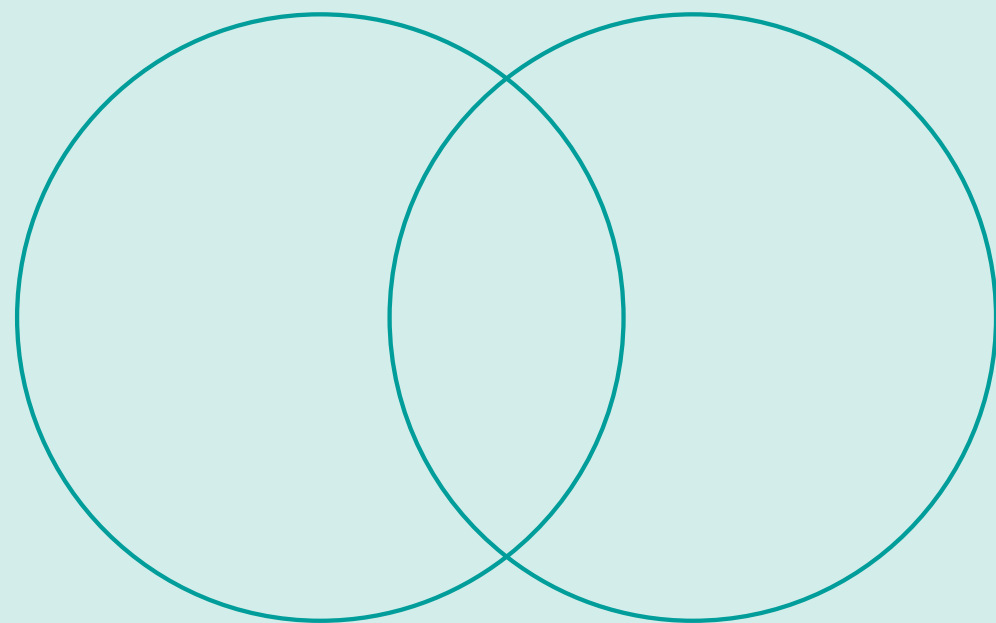
**01** Recruit and Hire  
defenders and staff

**02** Supervise  
attorneys

**03** Address Client  
complaints

**04** Work with local  
elected officials  
and community  
partners

# Standards and Training

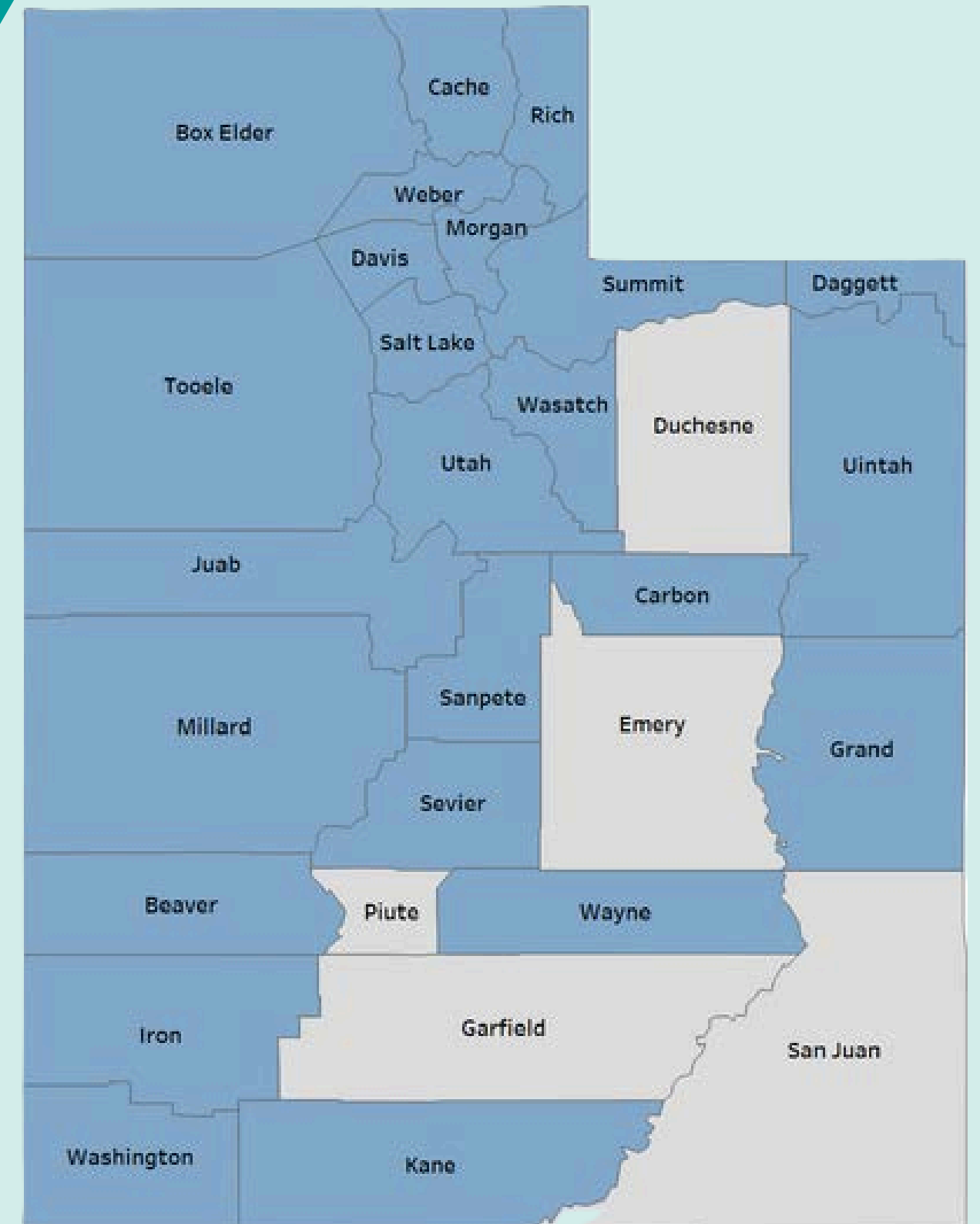


- Continuing Legal Education for public defenders
- Specialized for each area of defense
- Webinars to reach rural practitioners
- 23 in 2025 with over 1300 attendees
- Developed checklists to ensure quality representation



# Support Local Systems

- Prior to IDC, no state funding of indigent defense
- In FY25, IDC granted 7.4 M to counties and cities
- Attorneys, social workers, and investigators
- No increase since FY24
- Utah ranks 42 in per capita spending



# IDC Grant Program

\$700,000  
FY27 Ongoing  
(Fund 1411)

## Summary:

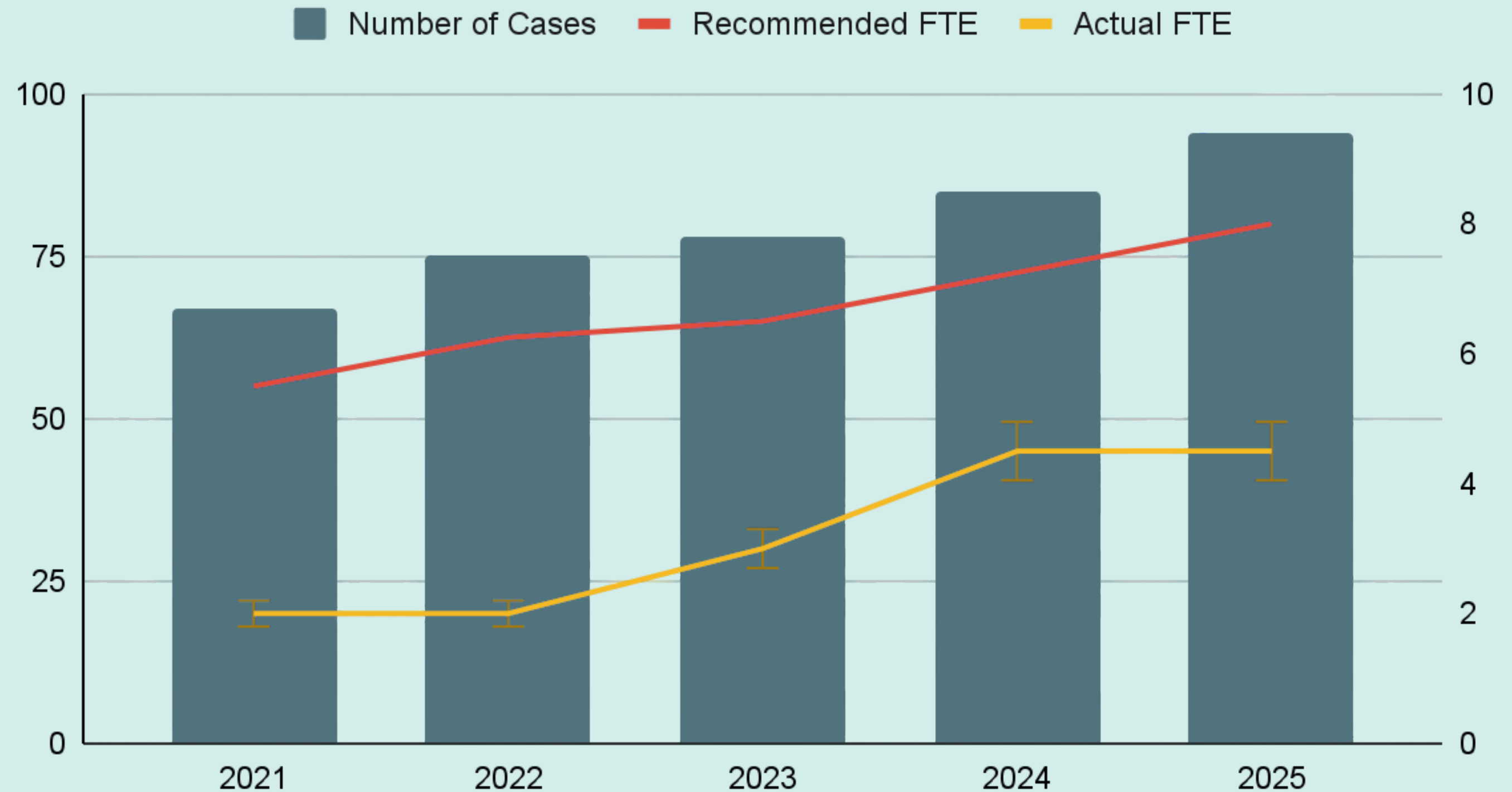
- Funded since FY24 with one-time, non-lapsing
- Funding continues positions in place since FY24
- Supports 13 attorney positions, 2 social workers
- Majority of positions in rural counties



# Indigent Appellate Defense Division

Created by the Legislature in 2020 to address criminal appeals from rural counties. Mandate enlarged to include child welfare appeals and post-conviction cases.

## Criminal Appeals Staffing





# Indigent Appellate Defense Division

\$233,500 FY26 GF  
\$1,101,000 FY27 Ongoing  
(Fund 1411)

## Summary:

- Continues \$400,000 one-time from FY26, used to fund conflict cases and a post-conviction attorney position
- Remaining would be used to address staffing deficiency





## **IDC Contact**



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# Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

# JPEC SURVEY OVERVIEW

## 2026 Evaluations:

- **139** Total Judges (**109** full evaluations)
  - **58** retention evaluations (**46** full evaluations)
  - **81** midterm evaluations (**65** full evaluations)



## Survey response rates:

- **42%** attorney,
- **57%** court staff,
- **51%** jurors

Surveys sent: **23,874**

Survey Responses: **10,760**

Overall response rate: **45%**

# CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AT JPEC

## Targeted Improvements

Build Public Trust



Partner with the Elections Office to strengthen voter trust and understanding.

Reflect Modern  
Judicial Roles



Update criteria to reflect evolving judicial responsibilities.

Use Evidence-Based  
Practices to Generate  
Reliable Data



Expand respondent pools and pilot new tools to improve data reliability.

Increase Transparency  
and Access



Improve data presentation to ensure information is clear and understandable to the public, and implement an enhanced judge portal.

# Expanding Judicial Evaluations to Include More Voices

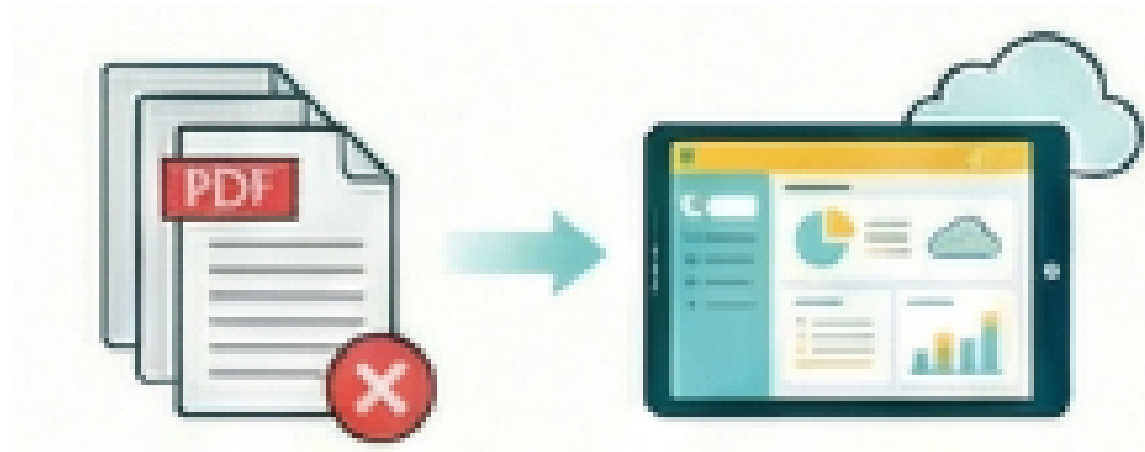
JPEC has traditionally surveyed attorneys, jurors, and court staff.

This year, JPEC expanded its survey pool by testing new perspectives, including **self-represented litigants** and **trial court judges**.

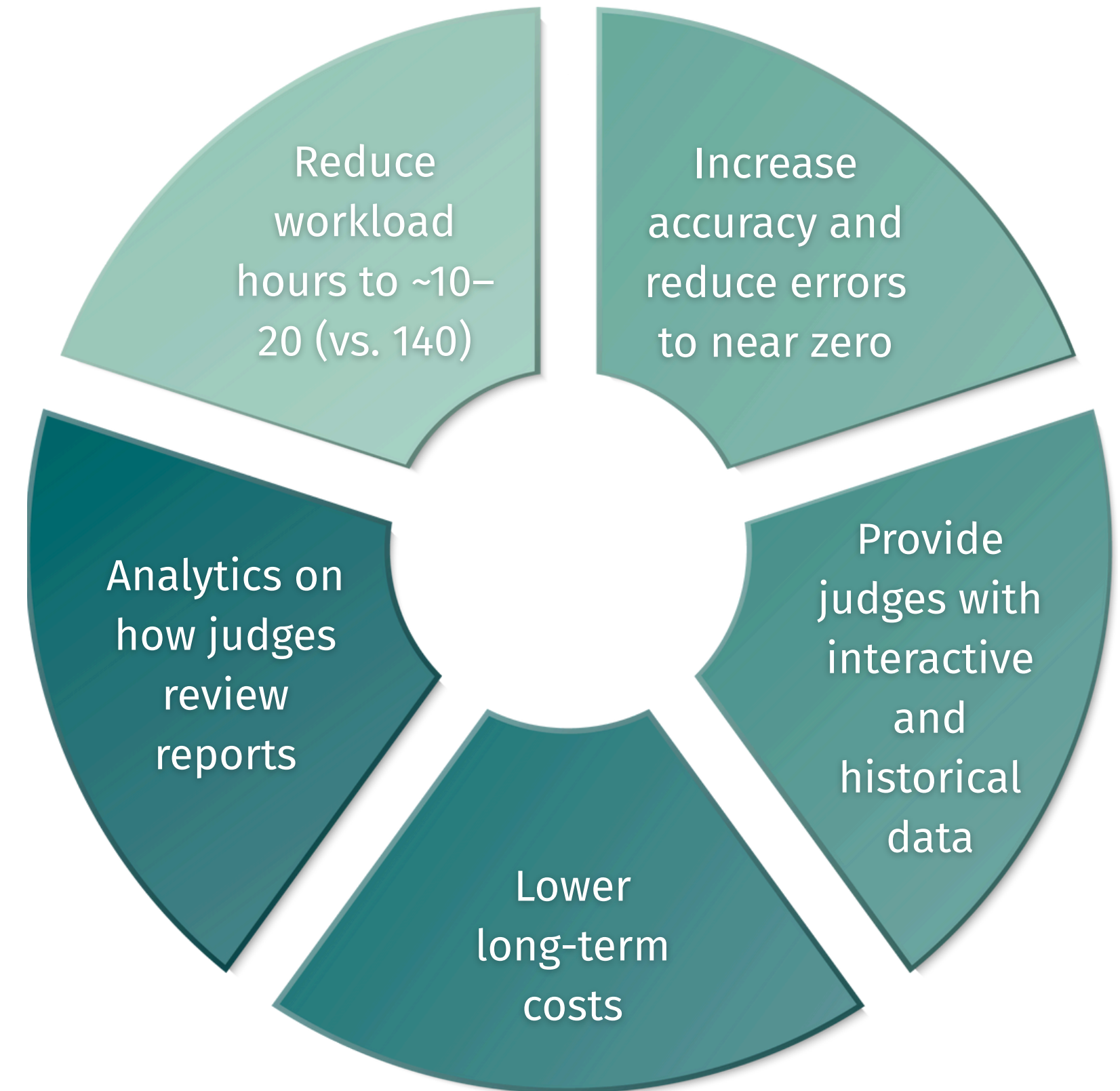
These additions, currently being evaluated for effectiveness, aim to provide a more complete and balanced review of Utah's judges.



# Technology and Transparency: Enhancing Judicial Evaluations



**Vision:**  
Modern, accurate, interactive  
evaluation reports.





## **JPEC Contact and to learn more:**

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