
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Office of the Attorney General

Purpose and History

The Attorney General is an original constitutional office and is elected by popular vote every four years. The Attorney General is the head of the Department of Justice, composed of the Attorney General's Office, Prosecuting Attorney Training Coordinator, the Consumer Advocate's Office, and the Victim Assistance Program. The Office represents the State in all litigation, issues formal and informal opinions and advice to State agencies, prosecutes some criminal offenders and handles all criminal appeals, and administers the Farm Mediation Program and the Legal Services Poverty Grant.

Funding

The Office receives approximately 32.0% of its funding from the General Fund. The majority of its funding is from reimbursements from other agencies or internal funds. It receives reimbursements from other agencies and other funds for legal services provided.

The Office leverages other funds under its control to perform functions of the Department of Justice. Some of these internal funds are restricted accounts, where the fund is restricted either in regard to the sources of the revenue or the expenditure of the funds. The Office of the Attorney General has little discretion in spending the money; the Office must spend it for its required purpose.

The majority of restricted funds is created due to lawsuit settlements, and the receipts must be expended within the parameters set by court orders. Other restricted funds are created by statute, and the receipts must be expended as defined by the General Assembly. Restricted funds include: Victim Compensation Fund, Consumer Education Fund, Court-Ordered Environmental Crime Fines Fund, Consumer Credit Administration Fund, Elderly Victims Fraud Fund, Fine Paper Antitrust Fund, Consumer Fraud Refunds, Federal Forfeiture Asset Sharing Fund, and Forfeited Property.

Consumer Fraud Refunds is a holding account, with receipts to the Fund disbursed to consumers who have been defrauded.

National Perspective

The Office is a member of the National Association of Attorneys General. This professional organization provides a forum for state attorneys general to cooperate on issues of interstate interest or national issues.

More Information

United States Department of Justice: www.justice.gov

Federal Bureau of Investigation: www.fbi.gov

LSA Staff Contact: Laura Book (515.725.0509) laura.book@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [13](#), [13A](#), and [553](#)

Iowa Code section [714.16](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [61](#)

Budget Unit Number

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