



Office for Access to Justice (ATJ)

FY 2023 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2022 President's Budget:	\$6.0 million (8 positions; 6 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$205,000
Program Changes:	+\$3.8 million
FY 2023 Budget Request:	\$10.0 million (42 positions; 18 attorneys)
Change From FY 2022 President's Budget:	+\$4.0 million (+66.7%) (+34 positions; +12 attorneys)

Mission:

The primary mission of the Office for Access to Justice (ATJ) is to help the justice system efficiently deliver outcomes that are fair and accessible to all, irrespective of wealth and status. The ATJ works within the Department of Justice, across Federal agencies, and with State, local, and tribal justice system stakeholders to increase access to counsel and legal assistance and to improve the justice delivery systems for all communities.

Organization:

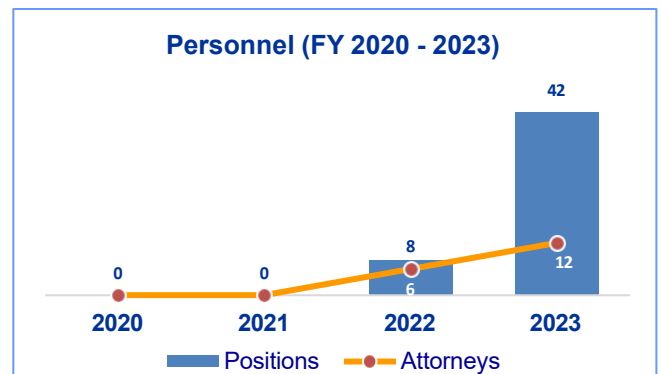
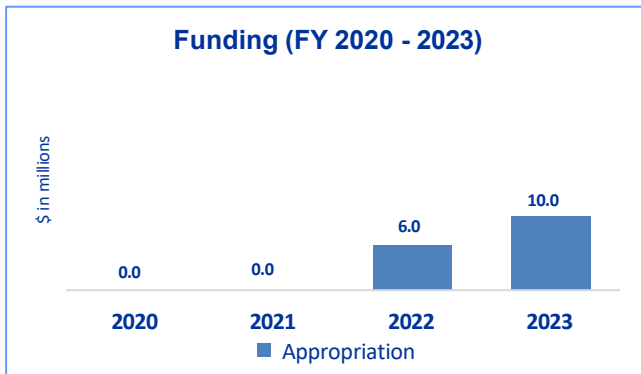
The ATJ serves as the Federal Government's central authority on access to justice matters, promotes inclusive and equal justice for all, and helps to solve limitations of legal representation throughout the criminal and civil legal systems. The ATJ leads Federal Government efforts in cross-agency, State, local and third-party collaborations protecting the rights for low- and middle- income and underserved communities within America's legal systems. The ATJ staffs the Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (Roundtable) and the ATJ Director, or their designee, serves as the Roundtable's Executive Director. The Roundtable fosters innovative interagency collaborations among Federal agencies and facilitates non-governmental partnerships to more effectively support underserved individuals and address access to justice issues throughout the Federal Government.

Resources:

The FY 2023 budget request for ATJ totals \$10.0 million, which is a 66.7 percent increase over the FY 2022 President's Budget and a 122.2 percent increase over the FY 2022 Enacted.

Personnel:

The ATJ's requested direct authorized positions for FY 2023 total 42 positions, including an increase of 34 positions over the FY 2022 President's Budget of eight direct authorized positions.



FY 2023 Strategy:

The ATJ aims to narrow inequality in the justice system and ensure all Americans have access to adequate legal representation regardless of social and economic factors. There are millions of people in the United States who cannot get legal assistance, a problem exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. With approximately 37.2 million people living in poverty per the 2020 census, the ATJ works to ensure that all communities are able to obtain both legal representation and fair, timely, and equitable justice in both the criminal and civil legal systems. The ATJ will achieve these goals through advancing new statutory, policy, and practice changes that support development of quality indigent defense and civil legal aid delivery systems at the State and Federal level; promotion of less lawyer-intensive and court-intensive solutions to legal problems; engagement with stakeholders across both governmental and non-governmental organizations; and expansion of innovative strategies to close the gap between the need for, and the availability of, quality legal assistance.

Further, the Roundtable is mandated to be staffed by ATJ employees and will leverage resources to strengthen Federal programs by employing access to justice efforts to help vulnerable and underserved communities. The Roundtable will also develop policy recommendations that improve access to justice in Federal, State, local, tribal, and international jurisdictions; facilitate strategic partnerships to achieve Federal enforcement and outreach objectives; advance evidence-based research, data collection, and analysis of civil legal aid and indigent defense; and publicize best practices.

By working with Federal agencies and State, local, and tribal stakeholders, the ATJ is able to increase access to legal assistance and improve the justice delivery systems that serve people nationwide.

FY 2023 Program Changes:

Access to Justice Programs: \$3.8 million and 16 positions (5 attorneys)

The Department of Justice is requesting \$3.8 million to enhance and expand ATJ core activities to broaden the scope of programs and activities that improve equal justice outcomes. This includes, but is not limited to, increasing pro bono services, improving language access coordination, expanding engagement and partnership building with stakeholder communities, and developing and implementing legal innovations to transform justice delivery systems. FY 2023 current services for this program are \$6.2 million and 26 positions (seven attorneys).

Office for Access to Justice
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office for Access to Justice		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2021 Appropriation	0	0	0
2022 Continuing Resolution	0	0	0
Expected Change from FY 2022 CR	8	8	6,000
2022 President's Budget^{1/}	8	8	6,000
2023 Request	42	34	10,015
Change 2023 from 2022 President's Budget	34	26	4,015
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	18	18	205
Total Base Adjustments	18	18	205
2023 Current Services	26	26	6,205
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Access to Justice Programs	16	8	3,810
Subtotal, Program Increases	16	8	3,810
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	16	8	3,810
2023 Request	42	34	10,015

^{1/} FY 2022 President's Budget includes a minimum of eight positions, eight FTE, currently estimated to include six attorneys and two support positions. The ATJ's FY 2022 program increase and final staffing, including distribution of resources between attorney and support positions, will be determined by the Attorney General in accordance with the President's May 18, 2021 Memorandum.

Office for Access to Justice

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2022 President's Budget ^{1/}			2023 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Access to Justice	8	8	6,000	26	26	6,205
Total	8	8	6,000	26	26	6,205

Comparison by activity and program	2023 Total Program Changes			2023 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Access to Justice	16	8	3,810	42	34	10,015
Total	16	8	3,810	42	34	10,015

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