

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	Attorney General's Office		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	E200	<b>SECTION:</b>	59



**Fiscal Year 2025-26  
Agency Budget Plan**

**FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY**

<b>OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)</b>	<b>For FY 2025-26, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.
<b>NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)</b>	<b>For FY 2025-26, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
<b>CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)</b>	<b>For FY 2025-26, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
<b>PROVISOS (FORM D)</b>	<b>For FY 2025-26, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>	Kimberly Buckley	(803) 734-3771	kbuckley@scag.gov
<b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	Matt Gates	(803) 734-2764	mgates@scag.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2024-25 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
	Alan Wilson 9/25/24	
<b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>	Alan Wilson, Attorney General	

*This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.*

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office
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Section:	59

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	C - Capital	Dennis Building Renovation	20,000,000	0	0	0	20,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Crime Victim Services (Address Confidentiality) – Program Coordinator I & Program Coordinator II	215,900	0	0	0	215,900	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) – Program Assistant and Investigator IV	215,180	0	0	0	215,180	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Civil Division – Attorney II	120,820	0	0	0	120,820	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
5	B1 - Recurring	State Grand Jury Division – Program Coordinator I	102,230	0	0	0	102,230	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Retention and Merit Funding	700,000	0	0	0	700,000	1.00	0.00	-1.00	0.00	0.00
7	B1 - Recurring	Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Division – Education Prevention Education Coordinator) Program Coordinator I	0	0	0	0	0	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
8	B2 - Non-Recurring	Crime Victim Assistance SAVS Program – Supplemental Allocation	15,000,000	0	0	0	15,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	B2 - Non-Recurring	Legal Fees	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			37,354,130	0	0	0	37,354,130	8.00	0.00	-1.00	0.00	7.00

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	2
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Crime Victim Services (Address Confidentiality) – Program Coordinator I &amp; Program Coordinator II</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$215,900</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$215,900</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	2.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>The agency is requesting 1 program coordinator I and 1 program coordinator II for Crime Victim Services Division.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>The agency is requesting 2 new FTEs for our Crime Victim Services Division.</p>
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**FUNDS**

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

**Crime Victim Services – Address Confidentiality**

Bill S.147 amended the SC Code of Laws by adding section 16-25-130 to establish an address confidentiality program whereby victims of domestic violence, dating violence, human trafficking, stalking, harassment or sexual offenses may use a designated address rather than their residential address to conceal their location from an assailant or probable assailant. The Division of Crime Victim Services will be responsible for administering this program but did not receive the requested FTEs to successfully fulfill the requirement. Most states have already established address confidentiality programs with two or more staff members exclusively assigned to the program. The Office is requesting a Program Coordinator I and a Program Coordinator II. The Program Coordinator II would serve as the lead staff who will coordinate the services, provide community services and outreach throughout the state, and train service providers. The Program Coordinator, I will help develop the program, process applications, manage the database, and provide backup support for training. Without state funding, the Office will have to use VOCA funds from the Department of Crime Victim Compensation, which will affect the services Compensation is able to provide to victims of crimes, such as reimbursement for lost wages, medical costs, and funeral assistance.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	3
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) – Program Assistant and Investigator IV</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$215,180</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$215,180</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	2.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	The agency is requesting 1 program assistant and 1 investigator IV for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Division.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	The agency is requesting 2 new FTEs for the ICAC division.
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**FUNDS**

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

**Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) – Program Assistant & Investigator IV**

With the increase in CyberTips and the Office’s continued effort to remain proactive, the Internet Crimes Against Children Section will need another investigator and analyst to handle the workload. In Fiscal Year 2023, CyberTips increased by 172%.

Additionally, with the increase of unworked cases around the state, the SCAG ICAC Taskforce has had to step in to assist with the increasing demand. For example, in fiscal year 2023, ICAC saw a 143% increase in pending cases brought to the Attorney General’s Office. Despite closing 88% more cases than in previous years, the amount of pending cases continues to rise.

If the administrative subpoena power bill is enacted this upcoming year, ICAC will need an additional analyst to handle the increased volume of requests from internet and electronic service providers. Even if not, the dramatic rise in CyberTips has made the need for these additional positions critical.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	4
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Civil Division – Attorney II
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$120,820</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$120,820</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	1.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	The agency is requesting 1 attorney II for the Civil section.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	The agency is requesting 1 new FTEs for the Civil section.
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**FUNDS**

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

Civil Division – Attorney II

The Civil Section is seeing a consistent increase in FOIA and SC811 cases that is unsustainable with current staff. FOIA requests increased from 145 in 2017 to 193 in 2023, peaking in 2022 at 205. This represents a 33% increase from 2017 to 2023, and a 41% increase from 2017 to 2022.

The Civil Section also handles sex offender registry removal. Based on the 2021 SC Supreme Court opinion in Powell v. Keel, the lifetime registration under the SC Sex Offender Registry Act is unconstitutional unless there is an opportunity for judicial review to assess the risk of re-offending. The Office is legislatively mandated to handle petitions for removal for cases it previously prosecuted and for individuals with out-of-state convictions. Despite closing 107% more cases since 2017, the number of pending cases continues to increase. In the last five years, the Office experienced a 71% increase in sex offender registry cases open as of July 1<sup>st</sup> (up from 21 in 2017 to 36 in 2023). The Office anticipates that these numbers will continue to increase.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*



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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	5
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>State Grand Jury Division – Program Coordinator I</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$102,230</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$102,230</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	1.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	The agency is requesting 1 program coordinator I for the State Grand Jury division.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	The agency is requesting 1 new FTEs for the State Grand Jury division.
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**FUNDS**

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

State Grand Jury – Program Coordinator I

The State Grand Jury Section is requesting a Program Coordinator I position. Since its formation, the State Grand Jury Section has tripled its output and has been central to the investigation and prosecution of many high-profile cases. These partnerships include reducing criminal activity in prisons, prosecuting fentanyl trafficking, and prosecuting public corruption cases. As a result, requests for service from various state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies have increased. Pending charges have increased from 851 in 2018 to 2,3447 in 2023, which is a 176% increase. Open charges increased from 465 in 2018 to 2.455 in 2023, which is a 428% increase. Subpoenas issued have increased from 114 in 2017 to 330 in 2023. As the SGJ continues to increase the pace and amount of cases it investigates, indicts, and prosecutes, the need remains for additional staff to assist in managing information of its increased dual task of investigating and prosecuting complex crimes. This position will also assist attorneys and law enforcement in reviewing and analyzing extensive subpoenaed records and evidence. This position would help with paralegal and forensic analyst duties.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>6</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Retention and Merit Funding</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$700,000</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$700,000</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	The agency is requesting \$700,000 in retention and merit funding for the entire agency.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	All divisions in the agency is requesting \$700,000 for reoccurring funding.
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**FUNDS**

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

**Retention and Merit Funding**

The Attorney General’s Office is requesting recurring funding for targeted personnel salary adjustments in the amount of \$700,000 to retain critical talent and acknowledge performance achievements. This request is calculated slightly above 5% of the office’s personnel expenses. A review of state averages indicates that the Attorney General’s Office still falls slightly behind other agencies in the Attorney III and Attorney IV categories. While comparable monetarily at the Attorney V and Attorney VI classification, our agency attorneys have significantly more state service. The Office has also identified hiring salaries at a couple of local and state agencies that exceed our current starting salary of \$64,417. These include a posting for an Attorney I Kershaw County Public Defender advertised at \$68,917 and an Attorney II Community Services position at DSS at \$66,488. SC Attorney General positions carry statewide responsibilities and collaboration. Dissimilar to our local prosecution counterparts who are responsible for the many varieties of cases within their counties and regions, SC AG positions are required to travel and handle cases that may be anywhere within the State of SC which creates an added layer of complexity and dedication.

The Office aims to be the premier law firm in the state and must be able to compensate staff accordingly.

The Finance Department is requesting reoccurring funding for a Fiscal Analyst to assist with the large increase in payables and other financial operations that have been incurred over the last five years. Since 2018, the agency has experienced a 30% increase in FTEs. Due to the increase in FTEs, the agency’s payables have significantly increased, placing a hardship on the agency’s single payables analyst. An additional FTE is critical to ensure the agency complies with all state and federal regulations.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	7
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Division – Education Prevention Education Coordinator) Program Coordinator I</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$0</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$0</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	1.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	The agency is requesting 1 Program Coordinator I.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	The agency is requesting 1 new FTE for our VAWA division.
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**FUNDS**

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Division – Education Prevention Education Coordinator (Program Coordinator I)

The VAWA Program was established in the AG’s office in 1996 to implement a statewide program dedicated to prosecuting offenders, advocating for victims, training professionals, and preventing VAWA crimes through outreach and awareness efforts. While the VAWA Program has developed and implemented programming and training for professionals, additional focus is required to prevent and respond to VAWA crimes (domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, teen dating violence, and human trafficking) to target youth and communities. Since the inception of the VAWA Program 28 years ago, the project has not received state funds to expand its programmatic efforts to increase its focus on prevention.

This position will support prevention efforts across the state by supporting the development of the state’s first comprehensible prevention education initiative and curricula dedicated to all the VAWA crimes. With its development, outreach and prevention efforts will be provided to schools throughout South Carolina. Age-appropriate educational materials will be vetted by the state and will increase the ability of schools to access a sustainable prevention education initiative that will meet all the requirements of the state’s Erin Law legislation.

The Education Coordinator (EC) will manage the prevention education initiative for the VAWA Program. The EC will identify and/or develop a trauma-informed, evidence-based, and age-appropriate curricula to discuss all the VAWA crimes and equip them with the tools to build healthy relationships. The EC will facilitate the curricula to schools across the state for various age groups and school settings. The EC will also manage a Train-the-Trainer Program to prepare educators and other appropriate school personnel to facilitate the information in their classrooms. Additionally, the EC will organize awareness and outreach events to reach SC’s diverse youth population.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

## **FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	8
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Crime Victim Assistance SAVS Program – Supplemental Allocation
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$15,000,000
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	This agency's request seeks \$15 million in state legislative funds to help offset ongoing federal cuts to victim services programs. This would bolster the SAVS program for one funding cycle and allow current subrecipient organizations to maintain their current levels of funding.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	This agency's request seeks \$15 million in state legislative funds to help offset ongoing federal cuts to victim services programs. This would bolster the SAVS program for one funding cycle and allow current subrecipient organizations to maintain their current levels of funding.
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*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

**Crime Victim Assistance – Supplemental Allocation for Victim Services (SAVS):**

Victims of crime in South Carolina are relying on advocates, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other services more than ever. The single greatest source of support for victims of crime programs are Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subgrants, which cover all 46 counties. These federal funds have been seen a cumulative reduction of 75% nationwide since FY18. As a result, victim services provided by county, municipal, and non-profit agencies in South Carolina are being sharply reduced. This includes advocates who work one-on-one with crime victims as they recover.

In July 2021, Congress passed the VOCA Fix Act, which aims to increase the federal Crime Victims Trust Fund and hopefully result in restored allocations to the states in the future. Until that time, the foundational victim services supported by the VOCA program will continue to diminish unless supplemented by state legislative funds. This request seeks funding to support the VOCA program for one year by supplementing federal grant funds that pass through the SC Office of the Attorney General to organizations providing direct services to victims.

In 2022, our Office was fortunate enough to receive \$10 million in one-time funding from the state legislature. This funding allowed our office to create a new grant funding program, Supplemental Allocation for Victims Services (SAVS). SAVS mirrors the VOCA program almost identically and enabled our office to avoid any cuts to subrecipient organizations in FY2023. In FY24, VOCA funding was cut by 41% from 2023 levels. The legislature allocated an additional \$5 million to SAVS to help fill some of this gap; however, the balance of SAVS was not enough to offset this loss of VOCA funding and agencies were forced to take individual cuts of, on average, 21%.

Unfortunately, without a further influx of funding from the legislature in 2025, we would have to rely solely on federal allocations from VOCA, which would mean even further reductions to individual agencies. This would cause substantial disruptions to victim's service agencies throughout the state.

This request seeks \$15 million in state legislative funds to help offset ongoing federal cuts to victims' services and restore support to agencies. This request would bolster the SAVS program for one funding cycle and allow current subrecipient organizations to maintain their current levels of funding.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*



Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

## **FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	9
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Legal Fees
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$1,000,000
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	This agency's request seeks \$1 million in state legislative funds to help cover the cost of legal expenses associated with the defense of H. 4624.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	This agency's request seeks \$1 million in state legislative funds to help cover the cost of legal expenses associated with the defense of H. 4624.
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*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

The South Carolina Attorney General's Office is seeking \$1 million to offset the legal expenses associated with defending H. 4624, which generally restricts the availability of certain types of gender-affirming healthcare in the state. This bill received widespread support among members of the General Assembly, including legislative leadership. In August 2024, a group of private plaintiffs sued the AG, PEBA, SCDHHS, and MUSC in federal court, challenging the legality of H. 4624.

Our offices anticipate that the case will require significant amounts of discovery and extensive work with expert witnesses. We also anticipate that this litigation will take several years to complete with multiple appeals possible.

The AG's office and the other state defendants (PEBA, SCDHHS, and MUSC) have collectively decided to retain outside counsel to assist in our defense of the law. It was necessary to retain outside counsel in this case given the nature of the claims brought by the plaintiffs and the nature of the discovery associated with the case. The decision to retain outside counsel in this case is consistent with the practices of other states, who have been sued over similar laws. Counsel retained in this case has extensive experience defending similar laws across the country on behalf of other states.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

## **FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	1
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Dennis Building Renovation
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$20,000,000
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*How much is requested for this project in FY FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>CPIP PRIORITY</b>	This building is owned by DOA and DOA has the CPIP documentation.
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*Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.*

<b>OTHER APPROVALS</b>	Please refer to DOA for approvals.
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*What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	No funds from the SCAGO have been invested in this project this far. The Dennis building is owned by DOA and DOA would be able to provide any information relating to prior investment in this building and continued long term planning and sustainability.
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*What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<p>The Dennis Building, originally constructed in 1952 for the South Carolina Highway Department and expanded in the 1970s, has served various state functions over the decades. With the Department of Natural Resources scheduled to vacate the building in late to early December or early January 2025, this a unique opportunity to undertake a comprehensive renovation and modernization project to enhance the building's functionality, safety, and efficiency. Currently, \$15 million allocated for the renovation of the first, second, and third floors. However, based on the architect's assessment and further construction cost review, the cost to fully renovate and modernize each floor is projected at approximately \$11 million per floor. To meet the projected renovation costs and achieve the desired modernization of the Dennis Building, we are requesting an additional \$20 million in funding. This request is critical to ensure that the project can be completed without comprising the quality, building code required upgrades, abatement (fire suppression systems), safety and modernization.</p> <p>The building's current infrastructure, including electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and safety systems, is significantly outdated. These systems no longer meet modern standards for</p>
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## SUMMARY

energy efficiency, occupant comfort, or safety and many are at or beyond their expected lifespan. Renovating these systems is not only essential for compliance with building codes but also for reducing long-term operational costs. A major renovation will introduce modern layouts that optimize space utilization, improve workflow, and support contemporary workplace needs. The renovation will incorporate energy-efficient designs, improved lighting, and better climate control, which are crucial for enhancing productivity and reducing environmental impact.

The architect and construction cost projections have been vetted and are based on current market conditions, material costs, and labor rates. With the Department of Natural Resources vacating the building we have a strategic window to carry out these renovations. Seizing this opportunity will allow for a smoother transition to a modernized workspace and will allow for a more comprehensive approach to renovations, resulting in a better end product. The additional \$20 million in funding is essential to fully realize the renovation and modernization of the Dennis Building. This investment will address critical infrastructure deficiencies, enhance energy efficiency, and create a state-of-the-art environment that supports the operational needs of the AG's staff. Without additional funding, the project cannot proceed timely and the opportunity to upgrade this key staple asset on the complex may be lesser or be delayed significantly.

*Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.*

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

## **FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN**

<b>TITLE</b>	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan – 3% Cost Reductions
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<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$0
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*What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*

<b>ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS</b>	All temporary personnel.
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*How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*

<b>PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT</b>	All temporary personnel may be impacted.
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*What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	Reducing temporary personnel could impact time for case review, trial preparations, and other administrative operations.
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*Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.*

**AGENCY COST  
SAVINGS PLANS**

A 3% reduction to the general fund appropriate would negatively impact current non-FTE, temporary, and contract positions. These positions include staff attorneys and support personnel. Reducing these positions could potentially impact time required for case review, trial preparation, and other administrative operations.

*What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?*

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

## **FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS**

<b>TITLE</b>	Revisions to the State Medicaid Fraud Control Regulations
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS</b>	Please see summary section.
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*What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Repeal or revision of regulations.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

<b>METHOD OF CALCULATION</b>	Review and analysis of the current Medicaid Fraud statutes in the State of SC and other State Medicaid Fraud Units.
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*Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.*

<b>REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES</b>	n/a
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*Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?*

<b>REDUCTION OF REGULATION</b>	SC Code § 43-7-90 , SC Code § 43-35-10 , SC Code § 43-7-60
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*Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>Proposed amendments to §43-7-60 would include a clarification to the definition of a provider to include services provided through Managed Care Organizations and penalties to reflect the amounts of fraudulent claims, similar to property crime statutes.</p> <p>-There is great interest by our taxpayers in combating fraud in the Medicaid program, and this updated statute would allow us to more effectively combat fraud. The current statute requires us to charge one count for each false claim, which is not in the best interest of judicial economy. A statute where we can aggregate the false claims into one charge will be much more efficient. This update also reflects the current Medicaid environment, with services being provided through Managed Care Organizations and not just the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>Proposed amendments to §43-7-90 would allow us to use subpoenas in our investigations.</p> <p>-Much of the evidence uncovered during our investigations is stored in another state or in the cloud, so the ability to use a subpoena is paramount to our continued fight against fraud. Additionally, it is burdensome and an additional cost to taxpayers for our investigators to have to travel to the county where the fraud occurred in order to have a search warrant issued by a magistrate. This is a much more efficient use of time and resources.</p> <p>Proposed amendments to §43-35-10 would prohibit the unauthorized videotaping or recording of vulnerable adults.</p> <p>-It is in the best interest of the people of South Carolina to protect our vulnerable adult population from harassment and abuse, and this amendment would close a perceived loophole in the Omnibus Adult Protection Act allowing unauthorized recording of these</p>
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individuals.

*Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?*