

**UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION**  
*Salaries and Expenses*  
**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>\$22,677,000</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Requested Appropriation</b>	<b>\$23,741,000</b>
<b>Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>\$1,064,000</b>

**APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE**

**UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For the salaries and expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of chapter 58 of title 28, United States Code, [\$22,677,000] \$23,741,000, of which not to exceed \$1,000 is authorized for official reception and representation expenses.

(Division E, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 – P.L. 119-75)

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST  
UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES  
FISCAL YEAR 2027  
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

**Fiscal Year 2027 Resource Requirements:**

	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Obligations.....</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>24,398</b>
Less Obligations from the Judiciary Information Technology Fund Carryforward Balances.....	-	(1,721)
<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation .....</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>22,677</b>

**Page No. Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:**

**A. Personnel**

*Pay and Benefit Adjustments*

10.14	1. Annualization of the FY 2026 Pay Adjustment (1.0% for three months).....	-	44
10.14	2. Promotions and Within-grade Increases.....	-	135
	3. Benefits Adjustments		
10.14	a. Health Benefits.....	-	84
10.15	b. FICA.....	-	13
10.15	c. FERS Adjustment.....	-	(61)

**B. Other Adjustments**

*General Inflationary Adjustments*

10.15	4. Inflationary Increases for Contracts, Services, Supplies, and Equipment.....	-	74
	<b>Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services.....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>289</b>

**C. Program Increase**

10.15	5. Information Technology and Cybersecurity.....		775
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<b>Total Current Services Appropriation Required.....</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>23,741</b>
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<b>Total Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Required.....</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>23,741</b>
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<b>Total Appropriation Change, Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2027.....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,064</b>
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<b>Total Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2027.....</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>23,741</b>
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**UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION**  
**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**  
**Obligations by Activity (\$000)**

Activity	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Total Obligations	21,755	24,398	23,741
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(1,844)	(1,721)	-
Deposits and Other Adjustments:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(200)	-	-
Unobligated Balance, End of Year:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	1,721	-	-
<i>Subtotal, Other Obligations</i>	<i>(322)</i>	<i>(1,721)</i>	<i>-</i>
<b>Total Direct Obligations</b>	<b>21,432</b>	<b>22,677</b>	<b>23,741</b>
Unobligated Balance, End of Year	209	-	-
Less Offsetting Collections	-	-	-
<b>Appropriation Total</b>	<b>21,641</b>	<b>22,677</b>	<b>23,741</b>

**Obligations by Object Class (\$000)**

Description	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
11 Personnel Compensation	13,420	14,089	14,268
12 Personnel Benefits	4,884	5,076	5,112
21 Travel and Transportation of Persons	467	433	457
25 Other Services from Non-federal Sources	800	563	671
31 Equipment	1,861	2,516	3,233
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>21,432</b>	<b>22,677</b>	<b>23,741</b>

**UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION**  
**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**  
**Relation of Obligations to Outlays (\$000)**

	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Difference (+) or (-)</b>
Direct Obligations Incurred	21,432	22,677	23,741	1,064
Obligated Balance, Start of Year	2,946	2,341	2,496	-
Adjustments of Prior Year Activity	(240)	-	-	-
Obligated Balance, End of Year	(2,341)	(2,496)	(2,656)	(160)
<b>Total Outlays</b>	<b>21,798</b>	<b>22,521</b>	<b>23,581</b>	
Less Offsets	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Outlays</b>	<b>21,798</b>	<b>22,521</b>	<b>23,581</b>	<b>1,060</b>

**Personnel Summary**

	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Difference (+) or (-)</b>
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)	88	96	96	-

## GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 created the United States Sentencing Commission (Commission) as an expert independent agency within the judicial branch, whose seven voting members, including the Chair, are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. By statute, no more than four Commissioners can be from the same political party, and at least three must be federal judges, ensuring a bipartisan Commission of diverse backgrounds. The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee, and the Chair of the U.S. Parole Commission are *ex officio*, nonvoting members of the Commission.

By statute, the Commission:

- establishes federal sentencing guidelines that judges must properly calculate and consider in all federal criminal cases;
- serves as a clearinghouse and information center for the systematic collection, preparation, and dissemination of data and statistics on federal sentencing;
- conducts and disseminates empirical research and analysis of federal sentencing practices and policy; and
- provides specialized training to judges, probation officers and other court personnel, prosecutors and defense attorneys, and others concerning the federal sentencing guidelines and federal sentencing in general.

In fiscal year (FY) 2025, the Commission operated with a quorum of five voting members: Judge Carlton W. Reeves (Chair), Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo (Vice Chair), Laura Mate (Vice Chair), Claire Murray (Vice Chair), and Candice C. Wong. This group of bipartisan commissioners unanimously approved several amendments in FY 2025 to advance equity and fairness in federal sentencing.

The package of FY 2025 amendments includes an amendment encouraging courts to take an individualized approach to the imposition and management of supervised release. Notably, the Commission's guideline amendment adopts an approach similar to bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would statutorily require individualized decisions about supervised release at all relevant stages of the criminal justice process. In conjunction with the amendment, the Commission launched a "Supervised Release Toolkit," which offers an eLearning course, interactive data, and a comprehensive history of relevant governing statutes related to supervised release.

The FY 2025 amendments also address the harms of "fake pills" containing fentanyl, while ensuring that sentences better reflect a defendant's role and function in drug trafficking organizations; provide increased penalties for firearms offenses involving machine gun

conversion devices; simplify the “three-step approach” courts currently use when applying the guidelines; and promote consistent guideline application by resolving certain circuit conflicts.

Interest in the Commission’s work continues to increase. In FY 2025, traffic to the Commission’s website reached approximately 3.6 million views and 1.3 million users. These figures are driven by the Commission’s continual development of innovative and interactive statistical and data resources as well as new educational resources and toolkits.

The Commission’s website includes more than 40 “Quick Facts” on timely topics, which are updated annually. Traffic to these resources increased from 15,000 sessions per month in FY 2024 to 47,000 per month in FY 2025. In addition, the Commission began a special 10-part Quick Facts series on crime victims, which was released periodically into FY 2026.

The Commission continues to expand features on the Interactive Data Analyzer (IDA), an online tool that allows users to easily sort and analyze federal sentencing data by district, circuit, or state, and by specific crime type. In FY 2025, the Commission expanded IDA to include a new section on individual characteristics, including race, gender, citizenship, and education. IDA was accessed more than 1,500 times per month by 10,000 users throughout the year.

The Commission’s Judiciary Sentencing Information (JSIN) online tool provides users with quick access to even more granular sentencing data for similarly situated individuals, including the types of sentences imposed, as well as average and median sentences. JSIN was accessed approximately 4,800 times per month by nearly 17,000 users. The Commission also maintains a helpful resource page on its website regarding certain Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) programs, the Residential Drug Abuse Treatment Program (RDAP), and earned time credits under the First Step Act.

To make this information available to Congress, judges, litigators, and the general public, the Commission must safely and securely receive, analyze, and store approximately 315,000 confidential and sensitive documents from the courts each year. In FY 2025, these documents reported information for more than 64,000 original sentencings and more than 11,000 resentencings or motions for sentence reductions.

The Commission can manage this high volume of documents only by continually investing in advanced technologies to efficiently process court documents while ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, and security of sensitive information. Technologies such as automated data extraction and machine learning tools not only improve efficiency, accuracy, and security, but also expand the information the Commission can collect and analyze on a routine basis. For example, the Commission now analyzes and reports the

nature of more than 300,000 criminal history events each year — something that could not be done without strategic investments in technology.

In FY 2026, the Commission will, for the first time, begin to routinely collect and analyze data on approximately 20,000 supervised release revocations each year. The Commission is undertaking this significant increase in workload in direct response to requests from members of Congress, judges, and others in the criminal justice system to collect and report such information on an ongoing basis.

To meet the growing demands for confidential electronic document storage, data collection, and public-facing tools, the Commission must continue to invest in technology and automation—anchored by robust cybersecurity measures—to ensure its systems remain secure, resilient, and cost-effective. These investments are essential to building on the operational productivity the Commission has achieved over the past fiscal years and to establishing a foundation for future cost savings.

The Commission’s FY 2027 budget request is \$23.7 million. This funding level maintains current services and includes a program increase for information technology and cybersecurity. These investments are aimed at reducing long-term costs. For the last 20 years, the Commission has absorbed the cost of any new initiatives within the current services level. The FY 2027 funding request will allow the Commission to pursue and sustain these critical investments.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

### **Policy Priorities**

By statute, the Commission must submit guideline amendments to Congress for review no later than May 1 of each year. Absent congressional action, these amendments go into effect on November 1 of the respective year. The Commission's work and policy priorities are informed by data, as well as comment and feedback from judges, members of Congress, executive branch officials, attorneys, probation officers, advisory groups, academia, advocacy organizations, incarcerated individuals and their families, and others. During the FY 2025 guideline amendment cycle, the Commission received and considered several hundred pages of public comment on dozens of federal sentencing topics within its purview.

The 2025 [Guidelines Manual](#) includes several amendments that aim to improve the fairness, effectiveness, and consistency of federal sentencing. Among the amendments, all of which were unanimously approved by the bipartisan Commission, are:

### ***Supervised Release***

The Commission approved an amendment that updates the supervised release guidelines by emphasizing the importance of individualized decision-making by judges at all relevant stages, including imposition, modification or extension, and revocation. This amendment followed a roundtable discussion and extensive public comment and testimony from members of Congress, the Committee on Criminal Law of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the Department of Justice, the Federal Public and Community Defenders, the Commission's advisory groups, law professors, formerly incarcerated individuals and others involved in the criminal justice system. In addition, the amendment is consistent with many of the objectives of bipartisan and bicameral federal legislation.

In conjunction with the supervised release amendment, the Commission unveiled a [Supervised Release Toolkit](#) on its website to serve as a resource for relevant background and information.

### ***Drug Offenses***

Following a multiyear study on drug trafficking, which also included data analysis, public comment, and a roundtable discussion, the Commission approved an amendment to ensure that an individual's sentence is more commensurate with their role in a drug trafficking offense or organization. In addition, to address the continuing dangers associated with the misrepresentation of fake prescription pills

containing fentanyl or a fentanyl analog, the amendment provides a sentencing enhancement if an individual knowingly misrepresented or marketed as another substance a mixture or substance containing fentanyl or a fentanyl analog.

### ***Firearms Offenses***

In response to concerns from the Department of Justice and others about the proliferation of “Machine Gun Conversion Devices” (MCDs), which pose a heightened danger to the public, the Commission approved an amendment to more fully account for MCDs in the primary firearms guideline. The Commission’s data reflects an increase in firearms cases involving MCDs, including instances where individuals possessed four or more of these devices.

### ***Simplification***

Following significant public comment and a multiyear effort to simplify application of the *Guidelines Manual*, the Commission removed one of the three steps in the sentencing process. Specifically, the amendment removes departures from the sentencing process. In *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), the Supreme Court rendered the guidelines advisory, and in the years since, the frequency of departures has steadily declined as courts rely on variances to a much greater extent. By eliminating departures, the Commission’s amendment better aligns the *Guidelines Manual* with current practices.

More information on the Commission’s 2025 guideline amendments can be found here:

[2025 Amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines](#)

### ***2025-2026 Policy Priorities***

In June 2025, the Commission unanimously approved policy priorities for the 2025-2026 Guideline Amendment cycle after considering several hundred pages of insightful public comment. The Commission’s 2026 priorities include:

- Providing courts with additional guidance on selecting the appropriate sentencing option (e.g., imprisonment, probation, or fine);
- Further examination of the penalty structure for certain drug trafficking offenses including those involving methamphetamine and fentanyl;
- Examination of whether the fraud guidelines appropriately reflect the culpability of a defendant and harm to victims;

- Continued exploration of ways to simplify the Guidelines Manual;
- Examination of whether the Guidelines provide appropriate adjustments for good behavior;
- Examination of offenses involving sophisticated means;
- Examination of the human smuggling guideline to ensure it appropriately accounts for a range of factors;
- Implementation of legislation such as the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act (HALT Act) that was signed into law on July 16, 2025.

The Commission remains committed to implementing any additional legislation warranting Commission action.

### **Conducting Research**

Research is a critical part of the Commission's mission and provides a valuable resource to policy makers and the Commission's stakeholders. The Commission regularly analyzes data to learn how courts sentence individuals and use the guidelines and routinely uses these analyses to inform its policy making. The Commission publishes many of its analyses as a resource for the judiciary, Congress, the executive branch, and the criminal justice community.

In FY 2025, the Commission issued a report titled [Overdoses in Federal Drug Trafficking Crimes](#). According to Commission data in this report, while overdoses accounted for less than two percent of federal drug trafficking cases, the prevalence of overdoses increased by 44 percent from FY 2019-2025. Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs were involved in 80 percent of the overdose cases studied.

The Commission's [Quick Facts](#) provide easily accessible and recent data on nearly 40 federal sentencing topics including drug, firearms, child pornography, and economic offenses. In addition, in FY 2025 and 2026, the Commission released a special 10-part series, [Crime Victims Fact Sheets](#). In its analysis, the Commission had information about persons victimized in 1,455 economic crime cases and collected information regarding more than 8,600 persons identified as victims in these offenses.

In FY 2026, the Commission anticipates releasing research on federal crimes in Indian Country and trends in economic crimes including fraud, embezzlement, and government benefits fraud.

The Commission also created a new ad hoc Research and Data Practices Advisory Group (RDPAG). RDPAG is comprised of criminal justice and social science research experts and will help ensure that the Commission continues to employ best practices regarding data collection, interpretation and analysis, consistent with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

### **Collecting, Analyzing, and Reporting Sentencing Data**

Each year the Commission collects and analyzes data regarding every felony and Class A misdemeanor offense sentenced that year. Sentencing courts are statutorily required to submit five sentencing documents to the Commission within 30 days of entry of judgment: the charging document, plea agreement, Presentence Report, Judgment and Commitment Order, and Statement of Reasons form. The Commission analyzes these documents to report information of interest and importance to policymakers and the federal criminal justice community.

In FY 2025, the Commission received and reviewed approximately 315,000 documents from the courts. These documents reported information for more than 64,000 original sentencings and more than 11,000 resentencings or motions for sentence reductions. In FY 2026, the Commission also began collecting and analyzing data on approximately 20,000 cases of supervised release revocations each year.

Each year the Commission makes its sentencing data publicly available on multiple platforms. It compiles its annual sentencing dataset into one comprehensive publication, [the Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics](#), which provides a detailed analysis of the individuals sentenced for a federal felony or Class A misdemeanor during that year. The IDA allows Congress, judges, litigants, the media, and the general public to analyze federal sentencing data easily and independently by district, circuit, or state, and specific type of crime. And the JSIN online application provides quick and easy access to sentencing data for similarly situated defendants, including the types of sentences imposed and average and median sentences of imprisonment.

### **Congressional Data Inquiries and Briefings**

The Commission receives frequent requests from Congress to complete prison and sentencing impact assessments of proposed legislation using real-time sentencing data. These assessments are often complex and time-sensitive, and they require the Commission's highly specialized resources. Members of Congress and their staff have found the Commission's data highly valuable to the legislative process.

The Commission also provides circuit, district, and state-wide data analyses to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees and as requested, to other members of Congress. The Commission also provides frequent briefings to members of Congress and their staff on the Commission's work and data.

### **Specialized Training**

The Commission continues to provide specialized seminars, workshops, and training programs for judges, probation officers, law clerks, prosecutors, and defense attorneys on application of the guidelines and federal sentencing generally. In FY 2025, the Commission conducted training for individuals from all 94 federal districts. This training included 63 in-person programs attended by approximately 3,200 individuals; its Annual National Seminar, with nearly 700 judges, probation officers, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and others participating; and its Annual Judges' Seminar was attended by 65 judges from districts from across the country.

The Commission's ongoing investments in eLearning, remote training platforms, and other online resources continue to provide effective, efficient, and accessible training. In FY 2025, the Commission conducted 42 virtual training sessions with more than 7,100 live participants. The recordings were accessed over 2,300 times, a one-year 64 percent increase, and its eLearning courses were accessed more than 10,300 times.

In addition to staff-led training, Commissioners train and engage with judges and practitioners through visits to several circuit conferences, participation in numerous bench and bar conferences, as well as programs sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center and other criminal justice organizations.

The Commission maintains a HelpLine to assist judges, practitioners, and probation offices with guideline application and related questions. In FY 2025, the Commission responded to approximately 3,400 inquiries.

### **Public Interface**

The Commission continues to expand its public outreach and engagement. For example, in FY 2025, the Commission formed a new standing advisory group, the Sentencing Impact Advisory Group, to gather insights from formerly incarcerated individuals and their families.

In FY 2025, the Commission's website had 3.6 million views and nearly 1.3 million users, a substantial increase from the previous year. The Commission also leverages social media and cloud-based tools to disseminate information and updates broadly and efficiently to the public.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2026 APPROPRIATIONS**

The judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2027 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 119-75). The FY 2026 enacted level of \$22.7 million for the Commission account is equal to the FY 2026 Conference Appeal.

## JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The United States Sentencing Commission appropriation request for FY 2027 is \$23.7 million. This represents an overall increase of \$1.1 million, or 4.7 percent, over the FY 2026 enacted appropriation of \$22.7 million.

The FY 2027 budget request includes funding to account for inflationary increases and maintain current services. This includes pay and benefits, cost adjustments for current staff, and continued support for ongoing activities such as contract renewals, cybersecurity, information technology and infrastructure upgrades, and rising costs for services, supplies, equipment, and other Commission needs. The request also includes a program increase for information technology and cybersecurity projects, which are projected to result in long-term cost savings.

### ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

The following narrative provides information and justification for each of the adjustments to base for the United States Sentencing Commission.

#### A. PERSONNEL

##### *Pay and Benefit Adjustments*

##### 1. Annualization of 2026 pay adjustment

##### **Requested Increase: \$44,000**

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2026 pay adjustment of 1.0 percent, effective as of January 2026. The requested increase provides for the cost of three months (from October to December 2026) of the FY 2026 pay increase in FY 2027.

##### 2. Promotions and within-grade increases

##### **Requested Increase: \$135,000**

The requested increase provides for promotions and within-grade increases for personnel. The salary plan for judicial support personnel provides for periodic within-grade increases for staff who receive a performance rating of satisfactory or higher.

##### 3. Benefits adjustments:

##### a. Health benefits

##### **Requested Increase: \$84,000**

Based on information from Office of Personnel Management, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 10.1 percent in January 2026 and 5.0 percent in January 2027. The requested increase annualizes the 2026 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2027.

**b. FICA adjustment**

**Requested Increase: \$13,000**

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) portion of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax increased in 2026. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$176,100 to \$184,500 in January 2026. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary’s contribution in FY 2027, based on the annualized 2026 increase and the 2027 projected increase in the 2025 Social Security Trustees Report.

**c. FERS adjustment**

**Requested Decrease: (\$61,000)**

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), there is a projected decrease in the agency contribution rate to Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) plans for FY 2027. For most employees, the agency contribution will decrease from 18.4 percent to 17.9 percent. Any FERS decrease is in accordance with revised estimates of the cost of providing benefits by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability System.

**B. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS**

*General Inflationary Adjustments*

**4. Inflationary increases in charges for contracts, services,**

**supplies, and equipment**

**Requested Increase: \$74,000**

Consistent with guidance from OMB, the requested increase is required to fund inflationary adjustments of 2.1 percent for operating expenses such as travel, communications, printing, contractual services, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment.

**C. PROGRAM INCREASE**

**5. Information Technology and Cybersecurity**

**Requested Increase: \$775,000**

The Commission annually receives and stores approximately 315,000 sensitive and confidential court documents—adding to millions of documents from prior years. In FY 2025, the Commission reported data on more than 64,000 original sentencing and more than 11,000 resentencing, or motions for sentence reductions. In addition, beginning in 2026, the Commission is collecting and storing data on approximately 20,000 cases of supervised release revocations.

To sustain the increased volume of court documents received and stored, the Commission needs to continuously devote funds into strengthening its systems and security. These information technology and cybersecurity investments are necessary for required technology refreshes and cybersecurity data collection and reporting responsibilities. The improvements to the Commission’s information technology infrastructure necessitate

expanded use of automation and machine learning and transitioning core operations to a secure GovCloud environment; continued reliance on on-premises systems poses potential operational, cybersecurity, and service-delivery risks.

This request will fund the replacement, installation, and implementation of several critical information technology and cybersecurity systems. The requested funds will update and integrate the United States Sentencing Commission GovCloud system; fortify security for data backup and recovery; and enhance authentication to protect sensitive data from internal and external cybersecurity threats.