

# 2025 Annual Report



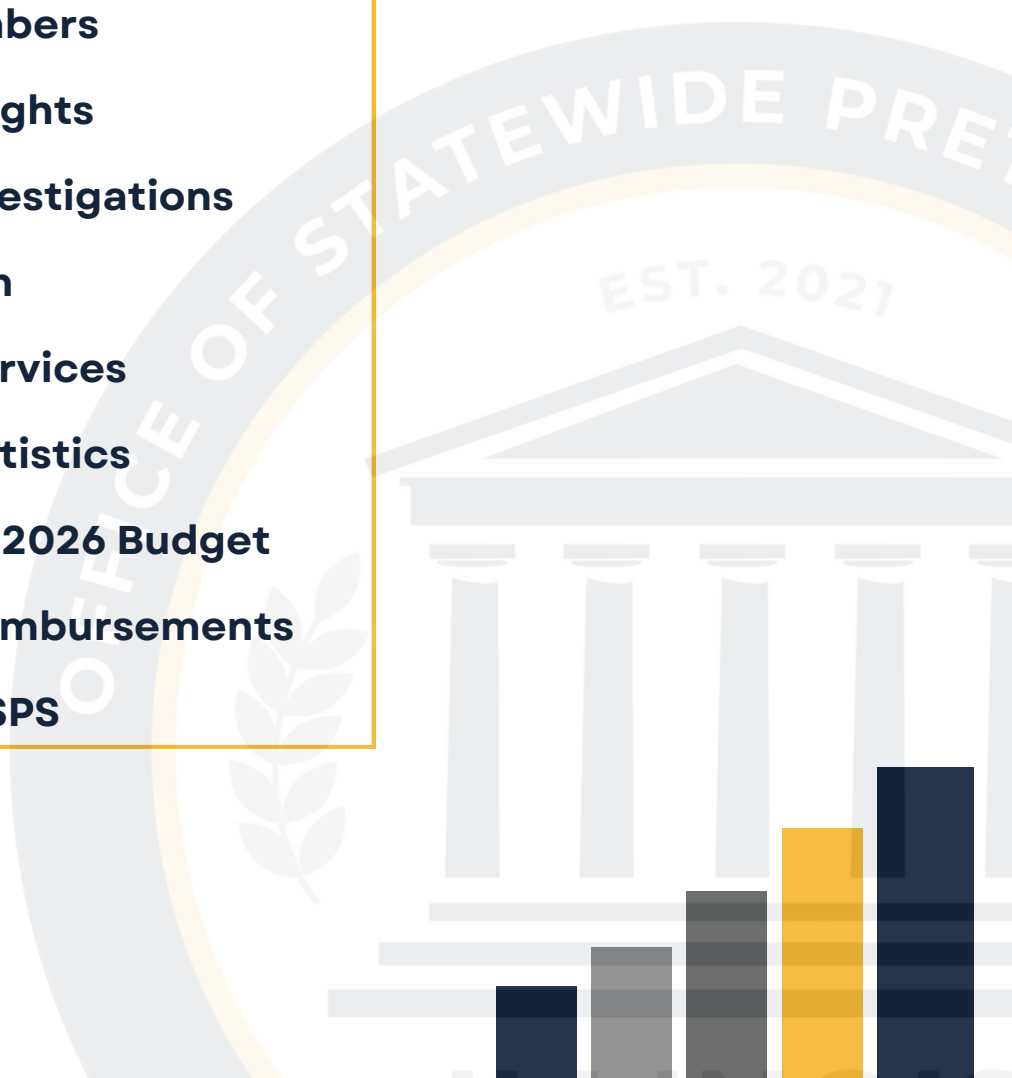
## Office of Statewide Pretrial Services

Promoting Pretrial Justice & Community Safety

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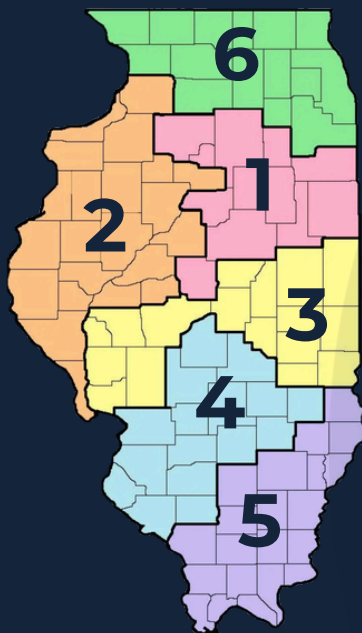
# About OSPS

Pretrial services are an essential element of an effective criminal justice system, assisting the court in assessing a defendant's background, and if released before trial, supervising the defendant's compliance with court orders while helping to address barriers to success, including housing, employment and treatment.

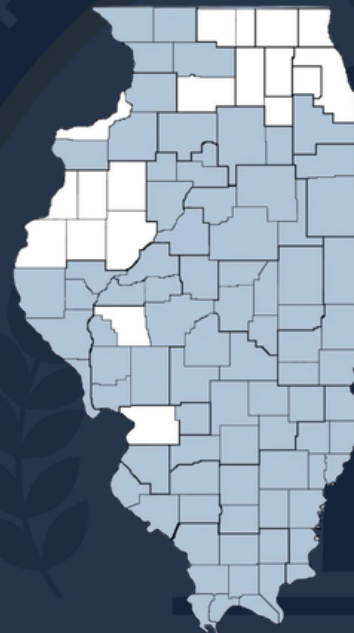
To ensure such critical services statewide, the Illinois Supreme Court created the Office of Statewide Pretrial Services (OSPS) in 2021 and the General Assembly made it an independent state agency within the Judicial Branch in July of 2025 ([725 ILCS 185](#)).

In 2025 OSPS provided services in 83 counties across the state, employing more than 300 pretrial professionals who prepare pretrial investigation reports and supervise individuals released from custody as ordered by the court. OSPS also enforced the Pretrial Services Act and reimbursed the state's other 19 counties for local pretrial services.

## OSPS Service Regions



## OSPS Served Counties





# Our Leadership

## **CARA LEFEVOUR SMITH**

DIRECTOR

Smith was selected by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2021 to create OSPS and was appointed in 2025 to a 4-year term as Director. In 2019, Smith was appointed a Circuit Court judge in Cook County. She was formerly Chief Policy Advisor for the Cook County Sheriff's Office and an Illinois Assistant Attorney General.

## **JOANNE OLSON**

CHIEF OF STAFF

Olson oversees all operations of OSPS. Olson joined OSPS as Chief of Staff in 2021. She previously Served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Illinois Department of Public Health and as Deputy General Counsel for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

## **JOE HOWE**

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Howe oversees OSPS' field operations including Pretrial Services Officers. He joined OSPS in 2022 as an Assistant Deputy Director of Field Operations. Howe previously spent 23 years in county probation, culminating in his role as Chief Adult Probation Officer in Tazewell County.

## **DEANN RICHARD**

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRALIZED OPERATIONS

Richard currently oversees electronic monitoring, support services and investigations. Richard joined OSPS as Region 3 Chief in 2024. She previously spent 20 years working in Sangamon County Court Services.

# Guiding Principles



## From the Director

As a steadfast believer in the fundamental principals of our justice system, I'm proud to present OSPS' first Annual Report to the public. OSPS was created just a few short years ago through the vision and leadership of the Illinois Supreme Court and the collaboration of countless pretrial professionals and local stakeholders, each one believing we can do more to keep communities safe and promote pretrial justice.

Upon that foundation, I'm humbled by the progress of our dedicated team in building standards and growing capacity in 2025 as we worked closely with stakeholders to continually improve our work and contributions to the justice system of this state. OSPS will remain committed to our vision, mission and values as we tackle any challenge that may arise.

*Cara LeFevour Smith*

## Vision, Mission & Values

### VISION

PROMOTING PRETRIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY  
THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS

### MISSION

TO ASSIST IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND TO PROMOTE  
COMMUNITY SAFETY BY ENSURING FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY IN THE PRETRIAL  
PROCESS

### VALUES

COMMUNITY SAFETY, EQUAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, INTEGRITY, RESPECT,  
DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND COLLABORATION

# Our History



## The Need

Illinois has required pretrial services in every county since 1987. However, the majority of Illinois counties were unable to launch pretrial programs and the goal remained a work in progress.

Studies show that well-designed pretrial services can improve defendant outcomes and protect the community by monitoring compliance with court orders and connecting defendants to services.

## Initial Launch

In 2017, the Illinois Supreme Court created the Commission on Pretrial Practices to study national practices, consult experts, listen to stakeholders at public hearings statewide and review a myriad of reports and data.

Based on recommendations from the Commission's final report, the Supreme Court created OSPS in August of 2021.

## Rapid Growth

In 2022, OSPS services launched across the state with an initial 69 counties.

By 2025, OSPS had become a new state agency within the Judicial Branch and gained its 83rd county thanks to broad support.

1987

New Law Requires Pretrial Services

2017

Supreme Court Launches Study of Pretrial Practices

2021

Supreme Court Creates OSPS

2022

OSPS Starts Operations in 69 Counties

2025

Legislature Makes OSPS a New State Agency

# Our Work



## Pretrial Investigations

OSPS gathers the defendant's criminal history and interviews the defendant regarding socio-economic factors to complete a pretrial assessment.

The reports provide important, verified information to inform judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys as the court decides what, if any, supervision rules to impose or, in certain cases, whether to detain.

## Pretrial Supervision

When a defendant is ordered to pretrial supervision, OSPS monitors whether they follow court orders and attend hearings.

OSPS also provides court reminders, routine background checks and compliance reports, including required check-ins, drug testing or GPS Monitoring, among other supervision requirements.

## Support Services

OSPS aims to improve public safety by addressing barriers to supervision compliance. OSPS provides defendants personal care kits, overdose prevention, transportation assistance and connections to social service referrals that help to increase court attendance and reduce new offenses.

With Partners for Justice, OSPS also supports client advocates embedded within public defender offices in select counties.





# Our Values in Action

OSPS' Vision, Mission and Core Values guide our daily work. Below are just a few testimonials on how staff demonstrated our values in 2025.

## Justice

OSPS Staff obtained an **unsolicited confession regarding an Indiana murder** that was undiscovered until reported to authorities. The confession was made by a client during a routine intake interview.

**“Staff’s quick thinking helped solve the case!”**

## Safety

OSPS Staff **responded swiftly to a GPS alert where the monitored individual was found tracing at the victim’s residence.** Staff stayed on the phone with the victim until police arrived and took the individual into custody.

**“Thank you for your dedication and professionalism in handling this very intense situation!”**

## Collaboration

While in the office for a regular intake, **a client experienced a medical emergency** and became unresponsive. OSPS staff immediately responded and alerted emergency medical services. OSPS staff performed appropriate medical procedures of sternal rubbing and pulse, respiration and pupil checks until help could arrive.

**“They remained calm and composed while working seamlessly together to respond to the situation.”**



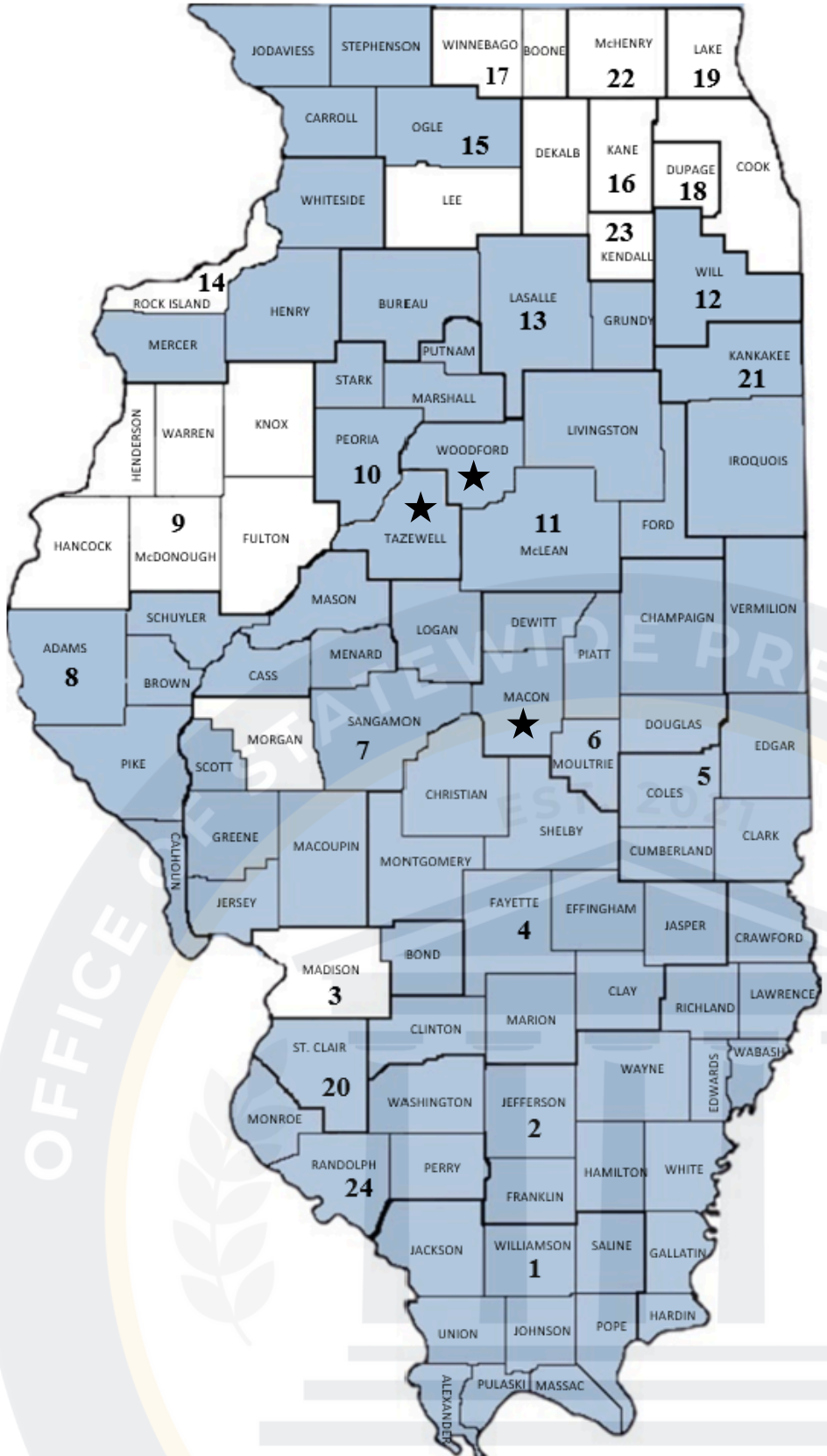
# By the Numbers

## Since 2023

- 69,661 Pretrial Investigative Reports
- 39,379 Supervised Cases
- 171,457 Court Date Reminders
- 8,599 Defendants Supervised on GPS
- 93% of Court Dates Did Not Result in a Failure to Appear Warrant

## 2025 Key Figures

- 83 Counties
- 318 Professionals
- 44,627 Square Miles
- 3.9 million residents



★ Joined OSPS in 2025

# 2025 Highlights

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- OSPS becomes an independent agency within the Judicial Branch on July 1, 2025 pursuant to Public Act 103-0602
- Macon, Tazewell and Woodford counties joined OSPS, bringing the Office's covered population to nearly 4 million
- Transferred to a new case management system, improving efficiency for a growing agency
- Funded new client advocates in Effingham, Saline and Will counties
- Expanded access to transportation passes for court hearings and other essential travel
- Launched OSPS website and social media accounts to improve accessibility for stakeholders and clients
- Staff size surpassed 300 pretrial professionals, daily supervised caseload surpassed 9,000 and supervised clients on GPS surpassed 2,000

# Pretrial Investigations



OSPS' pretrial investigation reports provide the court, prosecution and defense valuable information as they determine whether a defendant should be released or detained while their criminal case continues. The reports also help inform what supervision supports are needed, if any, if a defendant is released to the community.

For each First Appearance Hearing, OSPS staff provide a thorough and verified criminal history report, including previous failures to appear and active orders of protection. This information is combined with an interview of the defendant to obtain socio-economic information, including family obligations, employment, mental health and substance use. The information is verified with a third party where possible.

OSPS staff then use this information to calculate and provide a score on the widely-used Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (Revised) as well as the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment, where appropriate.

	2024	2025
Investigations	20,786	25,597

# Supervision



When a defendant is not detained pretrial, courts can order individuals to OSPS supervision, which can include routine check-ins, drug testing, referrals for mental health or substance use disorder treatment, routine criminal background checks and electronic monitoring, among other restrictions. For example, in 2025, OSPS staff oversaw 12,611 drug tests of supervised defendants, as ordered by the court.

Pretrial Services Officers cover every county, meet directly with defendants and attend court hearings. OSPS informs the court, prosecution and defense attorneys about the defendant's compliance with those orders, often times through progress reports and violation reports filed in the case.

The overall caseload for supervision rose 27% between 2024 and 2025, and it is expected to continue to grow in the coming years. Supervised cases discharged in 2025 lasted an average of six months while GPS conditions averaged a little more than four months.

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2025
Supervision Cases	7,896	10,039

# Support Services



OSPS works to lower barriers to a defendant successfully following court orders or attending court, including a lack of housing, unemployment, mental health challenges, lack of transportation or a substance use disorder, among others. OSPS works with the defendant to address those barriers where possible to improve pretrial outcomes as well as community safety.

In 2025, OSPS expanded efforts to provide transportation assistance, now available in 16 counties, to improve court attendance and personal care kits statewide for unhoused defendants. Court date reminders are provided to every defendant for every court date.

While access to mental health or substance use treatment is globally a challenge, OSPS is committed to identifying such partners for defendants and has curated an extensive resource list for all public services on its website for defendants to access at any time.

	Personal Care Kits	Transportation Assists	Court Date Reminders
2025	1,825	5,948	81,122

## Client Advocate Program

OSPS also funded 14 advocates within the public defender offices of 10 counties in a partnership with Partners for Justice. These advocates work with public defender clients to address pressing needs such as housing, employment, and healthcare, helping to improve court hearing attendance and client wellness.

Counties include: Adams, Champaign, Effingham, Jackson, Peoria, Saline, Sangamon, White, Will and Williamson.

# 2025 Circuit Statistics



The following table includes the number of OSPS pretrial investigations, supervised cases and GPS defendants throughout 2025 for each judicial circuit.

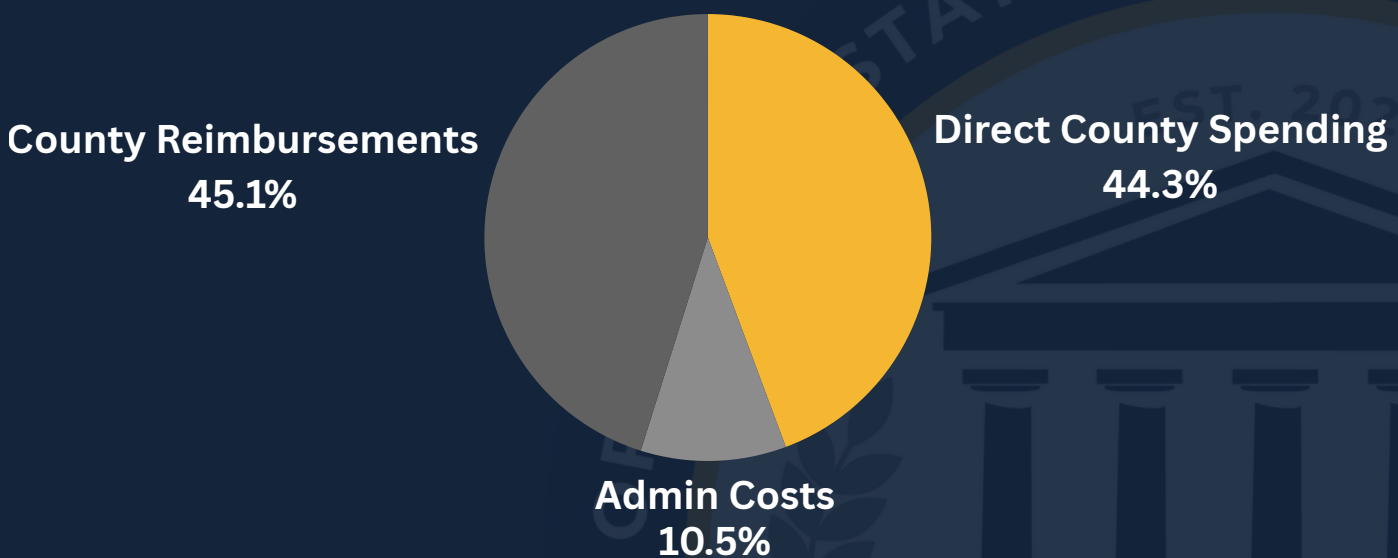
Judicial Circuit	Total Pretrial Investigations	Total Supervised Cases	Total GPS Defendants
1	2,880	2,063	500
2	1,605	2,167	234
3	96	123	64
4	2,382	2,856	519
5	2,010	2,221	343
6	2,838	1,355	177
7	2,720	2,077	381
8	997	1,468	297
10	846	967	470
11	1,634	985	73
12	1,882	2,993	1,312
13	822	836	570
14	1,147	1,092	110
15	956	419	63
20	947	813	432
21	1,108	612	225
24	533	700	50

# FY26 Budget



The FY26 budget was approved by the General Assembly in May of 2025 and provides funding for OSPS from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. OSPS' budget, covering comprehensive pretrial services across most of the state, is approved by the Illinois Supreme Court and the Illinois General Assembly.

Nearly 90% of OSPS' \$75 million budget goes directly toward providing pretrial services in counties in every region of the state. This includes direct reimbursements for approved pretrial positions in 19 counties (\$34 million) as well as salaries for OSPS staff, office space and equipment (\$33 million). The OSPS team creates tens of thousands of detailed investigative reports and supervises thousands of defendants across most of the state. The budget covers salaries for more than 700 pretrial professionals statewide.



# Pretrial Reimbursements



In addition to providing direct services to the 83 counties OSPS served in 2025, the office also reimbursed approved pretrial salaries in the state's other 19 counties. OSPS is responsible for reimbursing non-OSPS counties for the salaries of approved pretrial positions under the Pretrial Services Act. Pretrial reimbursements for non-OSPS counties comprise nearly half of OSPS' annual budget. The following table details the salary reimbursements for Fiscal Year 2026 approved by the General Assembly in 2025.

Provider	FY26 Funding	Staff	Provider	FY26 Funding	Staff
9th Circuit	\$275,510	5	Lee	\$55,131	1
Boone	\$46,913	1	Madison	\$403,104	5
Cook	\$26,360,352	352	McHenry	\$165,828	4
DeKalb	\$251,083	4	Morgan	\$51,523	1
DuPage	\$1,857,461	29	Rock Island	\$181,277	3
Kane	\$744,419	13	Tazewell	\$86,065	4
Kendall	\$181,757	3	Winnebago	\$671,230	12
Lake	\$1,477,740	23	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,809,392</b>	<b>460</b>

# Contact OSPS



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