



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of the Pardon Attorney (PARDON)

FY 2025 Budget Request at A Glance	
FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	\$10.9 million (40 positions; 26 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$1.7 million
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2025 Budget Request:	\$12.6 million (40 positions; 26 attorneys)
Change From FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	+\$1.7 million (+15.7%)

Mission:

The Office of the Pardon Attorney (PARDON), in consultation with the Attorney General and/or the Deputy Attorney General, assists the President in exercising their executive clemency power, as authorized under Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution. Under the Constitution, the President's clemency power extends only to Federal offenses against the United States. Executive clemency may take several forms including pardon (after completion of sentence), commutation (reduction) of sentence, remission of fine or restitution, and reprieve of the death penalty. PARDON is the exclusive entity that receives, reviews, and investigates requests for clemency for Federal offenses. The Pardon Attorney prepares the Department's recommendation for the President's final disposition for each executive petition of clemency and handles all related tasks attendant to accomplishing this mission. These include collecting materials, corresponding to the public, conducting statistical analyses of the clemency population, maintaining records relating to clemency, and providing timely responses to administration officials and congressional inquiries regarding clemency.

Resources:

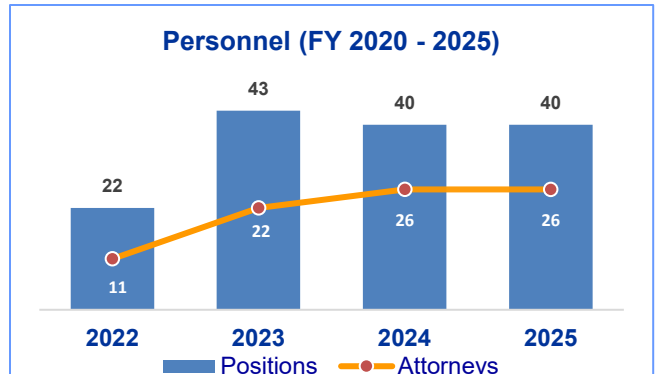
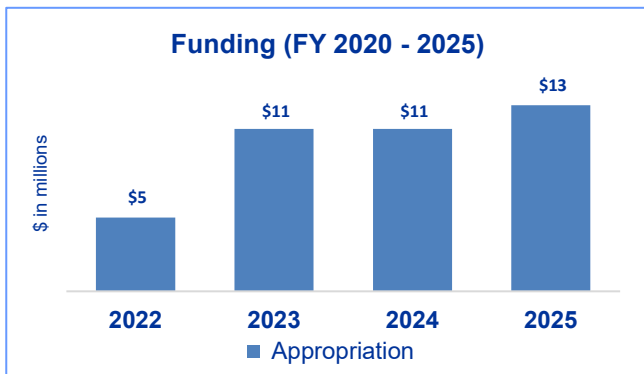
The FY 2025 budget request for PARDON totals \$12.6 million, which is a 15.7 percent increase over the FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.

Organization:

PARDON is headed by the Pardon Attorney who is a key career senior executive service employee appointed and designated authority to carry out the mission of the office by the Attorney General. The sole physical location of the Office is in Washington, DC.

Personnel:

PARDON's direct authorized positions for FY 2025 total 40 positions and are the same as the FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.



FY 2025 Strategy:

In FY 2025, PARDON expects to continue to receive incoming clemency cases. This includes both pursuant to ordinary case submissions and to the President's October 2022 and December 2023 Proclamations pardoning individuals convicted of simple possession of marijuana. Additionally, PARDON is seeing a significant increase in capital case filings and an expansion of PARDON's consultation role in capital cases, following the Attorney General's January 2023 update to the Justice Manual. These cases demand an extremely detailed and time-consuming review in consultation with other Department stakeholders.

PARDON will continue processing all forms of clemency applications, evaluating each petition's merits based on the totality of the circumstances in the case. PARDON will respond to inquiries concerning clemency petitions and proactively make specific information available on the website concerning the clemency process for applicants, their representatives, members of the public, members of Congress, and various Federal, State, and local officials and agencies. PARDON will also prepare all necessary documentation to implement the President's decision on granting or denying clemency and notify each clemency applicant of the President's decision concerning their clemency request. PARDON will also provide general advice to the White House concerning clemency procedures and matters.

In FY 2023, PARDON received additional resources that were instrumental in addressing the backlog of cases. PARDON ended FY 2023 with an overall caseload of approximately 16,000 petitioners. However, the internal PARDON caseload was approximately 4,000 petitioners, which is roughly 11,000 less than at the end of FY 2022. PARDON continues making progress in FY 2024 in addressing the clemency caseload.

PARDON's FY 2025 budget request is critical to allow PARDON to continue to expeditiously review and address pending clemency cases, receive new ones, evaluate capital cases, and process the influx of submissions pursuant to the two Presidential Proclamations on marijuana. Also, historical practice suggests it is likely that PARDON will continue to receive consistently high numbers of cases in future fiscal years. Without the requested budget, PARDON will lack the resources necessary to maintain a reasonable and manageable caseload, potentially returning to an overwhelming backlog of thousands of cases as it previously had for well over a decade.

FY 2025 Program Changes:

The budget proposal includes funds for current services for PARDON. No program changes are requested.

Office of Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Pardon Attorney		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2023 Appropriation	43	24	10,862
2024 Continuing Resolution	43	28	10,862
FY 2024 Position/FTE Rightsizing	0	7	0
FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Resolution	-3	0	0
2024 Continuing Resolution	40	35	10,862
2025 Request	40	40	12,568
Change 2025 from 2024 Continuing Resolution	0	5	1,706
Technical Adjustments			
Additional Amount for 2024 Pay Raise	0	0	184
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	184
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	5	1,510
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	12
Total Base Adjustments	0	5	1,522
2025 Current Services	40	40	12,568
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2025 Request	40	40	12,568

Office of Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2024 Continuing Resolution			2025 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	40	35	10,862	40	40	12,568
Total	40	35	10,862	40	40	12,568

Comparison by activity and program	2025 Total Program Changes			2025 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	0	0	0	40	40	12,568
Total	0	0	0	40	40	12,568