GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES
Criminal Division (CRM)

FY 2027 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2026 Enacted:	$234.4 million (806 positions; 522 attorneys; 1 agent)
Current Services Adjustments:	+$44.8 million
Program Changes:	+$3.7 million
FY 2027 Budget Request:	$282.8 million (910 positions; 601 attorneys; 1 agent)
Change From FY 2026 Enacted:	+$48.5 million (+20.7%) (+104 positions; +79 attorneys)

Mission:

The mission of the Criminal Division (CRM) is to develop, enforce, and supervise the application of federal criminal laws. CRM responds to critical and emerging national and international criminal threats and works with the enforcement, regulatory, and intelligence communities in a coordinated, nationwide response to reduce those threats.

CRM engages in several program activities to achieve its mission by investigating and prosecuting cases; providing expert guidance, advice, and assistance to our prosecutorial and law enforcement partners; reviewing and approving the use of sensitive law enforcement tools; and engaging with domestic partners and foreign counterparts to enforce the law, advance public safety, and achieve justice.

Resources:

The FY 2027 budget request for CRM totals $282.8 million, which is a 20.7 percent increase over the FY 2026 Enacted. This includes three technical adjustments for the transfers of (1) the criminal portfolios of the Civil Division’s Consumer Protection Branch, (2) the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit of the Civil Rights Division, and (3) the criminal portfolios of the Tax Division to CRM.

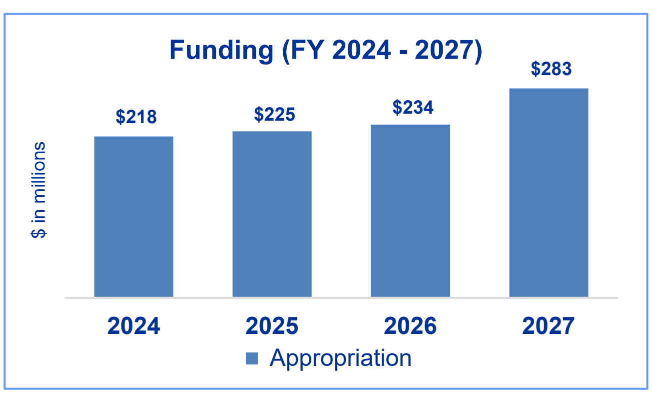
The request also includes a rebaseline adjustment, as well as a $2.0 million technical adjustment resulting from the dissolution of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF).

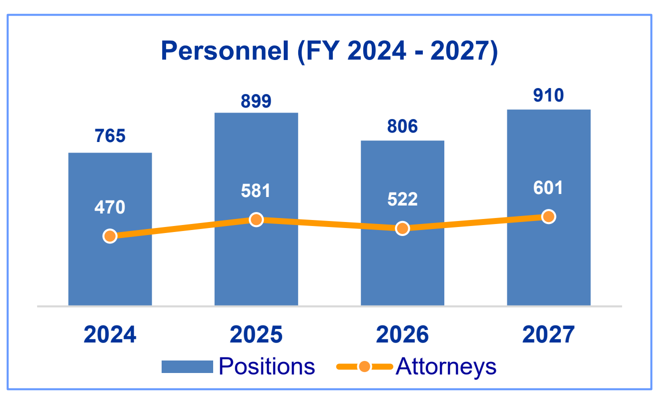
Organization:

CRM is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG), who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The AAG supervises the enforcement of federal criminal laws and policy for the Department of Justice and supervises criminal prosecutions by CRM's more than 900 prosecutors on a broad range of matters, including cartels, violent gangs, human trafficking and smuggling organizations, transnational criminal organizations and drug traffickers. In addition, the Criminal Division prosecutes money laundering offenses, complex financial frauds, child predators, cybercrime, intellectual property theft, and violations to federal tax laws and provides capital punishment analysis and litigation support.

Personnel:

The Criminal Division's direct authorized positions for FY 2027 total 910 positions, including an increase of 104 positions from the FY 2026 Enacted of 806 direct authorized positions.





FY 2027 Strategy:

The Criminal Division serves to protect the American people from serious crimes, including harm caused by transnational criminal organizations, violent gangs, drugs, cybercrime, child exploitation, fraud, and money laundering. The Division's sole mission is to keep Americans safe.

In working to achieve the mission of the Department, CRM has identified several priority areas to ensure that the United States' important justice needs, on both the national and transnational fronts, are effectively addressed, including:

- Disrupting and dismantling transnational criminal organizations and networks that act across state and national boundaries and that threaten our country through narcotics trafficking, human trafficking and smuggling, violence, acts of terrorism, and money laundering operations;
- Ensuring the stability and security of domestic and global markets, as well as the integrity of government programs, by reducing fraud, waste, and abuse;
- Combating cyber-based threats and attacks that threaten national security;
- Protecting children from sexual predators;
- Prosecuting violations of federal tax laws;
- Promoting the rule of law around the world through the training, assistance, and support of key international partners and their developing legal systems;
- Assisting law enforcement partners in obtaining evidence in the United States;
- Providing key guidance and facilitating the authorization process for death penalty eligible federal cases; and
- Supporting crime-fighting efforts across all levels of government: federal, state, and local.

The Department of Justice underwent a reorganization to improve its effectiveness in executing its mission. Included in this reorganization was the integration of three new groups into the Criminal Division: the criminal portfolios of the Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch, the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit of the Civil Rights Division, and the criminal portfolios of the Tax Division. In addition, Interagency Law Enforcement resources (OCDETF) previously allocated to the Criminal Division will be incorporated directly into CRM's base funding to more directly and efficiently support investigations.

FY 2027 Program Changes:

Targeting Transnational Criminal Organizations Misuse of Variable Interest Entities: +$1.6 million and +5 positions (+5 attorneys)
These resources are requested for the Fraud Section (FRD) to enhance its efforts in addressing manipulation by, and in connection with, the securities of foreign-adversary companies listed on U.S. exchanges, including the misuse of variable interest entities. These schemes are sophisticated, transnational in scope, and specifically engineered to exploit structural features of Variable Interest Entities-based listings and gaps in the regulatory architecture governing foreign issuers on U.S. exchanges. They weaponize the trust that American investors place in SEC-registered entities, NASDAQ listing standards, and the perceived legitimacy of U.S.-listed securities. The conspirators operate from abroad, use foreign-based brokerage accounts to execute and receive the proceeds of their fraud, and actively seek to expatriate stolen funds beyond the reach of U.S. law enforcement. Absent sustained and adequately resourced criminal enforcement, these actors will continue to treat U.S. capital markets as a venue for systematic theft from American investors. Current services are 5 positions (5 attorneys) and $1.3 million.

Targeting Trade Fraud Schemes by Transnational Criminal Organizations: +$1.4 million and +5 positions (+5 attorneys)
These resources are requested to strengthen FRD's efforts to lead the Department's criminal investigation and prosecution of trade fraud cases, particularly those involving large-scale trade fraud schemes carried out by transnational criminal organizations. Criminal trade fraud represents a direct and growing attack on the integrity of the U.S. trade system and the revenues owed to the American public. These schemes deprive the United States of hundreds of millions of dollars in lawful tariff revenue, undercut American businesses that comply with trade laws and pay required duties, and undermine the trade policies enacted to protect the American economy from unfair foreign competition. Current services are 5 positions (5 attorneys) and $1.3 million.

Combat Financially Motivated Sextortion and Online Exploitation of Children: +$639,000 and +4 positions (+2 attorneys)
enhance CRM's efforts to combat two expanding, evolving, and devastating crimes of online child exploitation: financially motivated sextortion and sadistic online exploitation. The Division, and the Department of Justice more generally, are committed to identifying and prosecuting offenders who commit these offenses. Support for this program increase will allow the Division's prosecutors to better address these crimes of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Current services are 2 positions (2 attorneys) and $0.5 million.

Criminal Division
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Criminal Division		
	Pos	**FTE**	**Amount**
2025 Enacted	**899**	**672**	**225,312**
2026 Enacted	**806**	**762**	**234,350**
2027 Request	**910**	**839**	**282,807**
Change 2027 from 2026 Enacted	**104**	**77**	**48,457**
Technical Adjustments			
Technical Adjustments Tax Funding to CRM	0	0	**4,220**
Technical Adjustment CIV Consumer Protection Branch to CRM	0	0	**1,494**
Technical Adjustment CRT Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit to CRM	0	0	**427**
FY26 Rebaseline Adjustment	80	59	**27,082**
Technical Adjustment ILE	10	10	**2,041**
Total Technical Adjustments	**90**	**69**	**35,264**
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	8,203
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	-403
Other Adjustments	0	0	39
Foreign Expenses	0	0	1,697
Total Base Adjustments	**0**	**0**	**9,536**
Total Technical and Base Adjustments	**90**	**69**	**44,800**
2027 Current Services	**896**	**831**	**279,150**
Program Changes			
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	**0**	**0**	**0**
Increases:			
Targeting Transnational Criminal Organizations Misuse of Variable Interest Entities	5	3	1,609
Targeting Trade Fraud Schemes by Transnational Criminal Organizations	5	3	1,409
Combat Financially Motivated Sextortion and Online Exploitation of Children	4	2	639
Subtotal, Program Increases	**14**	**8**	**3,657**
Total Program Changes	**14**	**8**	**3,657**
2027 Request	**910**	**839**	**282,807**

Criminal Division
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2026 Enacted			2027 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Enforcing Federal Criminal Laws	806	762	234,350	896	831	279,150
Total	806	762	234,350	896	831	279,150
Reimbursable FTE		146			164	
Total Direct and Reimbursable	806	908	234,350	896	995	279,150
Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)		*354*			*344*	
FTE Grand Total		1,262			1,339	

Comparison by activity and program	2027 Total Program Changes			2027 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Enforcing Federal Criminal Laws	14	8	3,657	910	839	282,807
Total	14	8	3,657	910	839	282,807
Reimbursable FTE	0		0	0	164	0
Total Direct and Reimbursable				910	1,003	282,807
Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)					*344*	
FTE Grand Total					1,347	