



## **Background Briefing**

# **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Robin R. Risko, Senior Fiscal Analyst**

**December 2011**

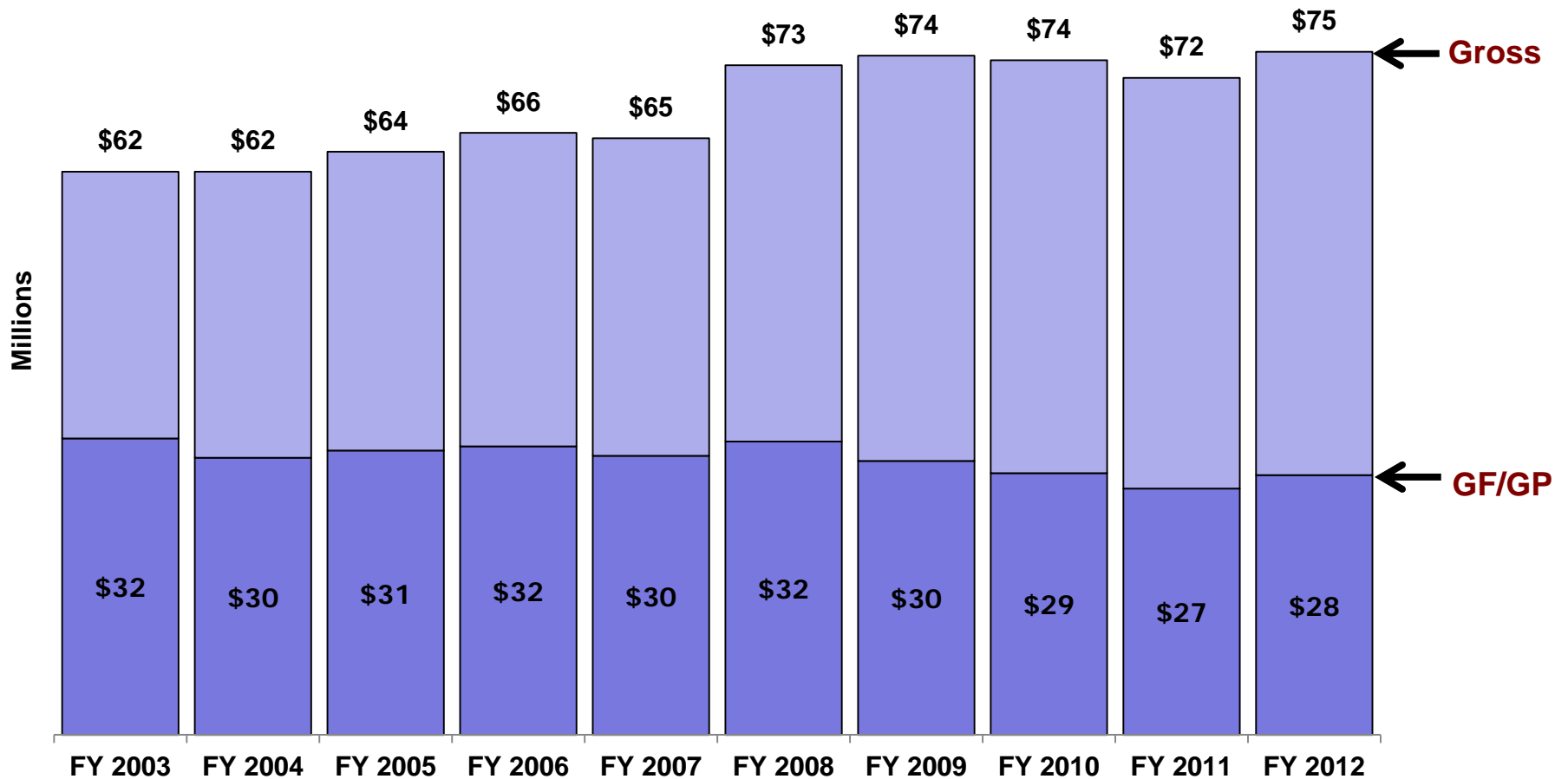
**The fiscal information in this background briefing is based on data through December 31, 2011.**

# Department of Attorney General

- **Attorney General's powers are prescribed in the State Constitution, in statute, in court decisions, and by tradition**
- **Attorney General serves as legal counsel for state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and their officers; defends the state in court and brings actions and intervenes in cases on the state's behalf**
- **Department's mission is to protect the common legal rights of citizens, defend the Constitution and the laws of the state, and represent the legal interests of government**
- **Department's goals are to make the state a safe place for its' citizens, offer justice to the victims of crime, defend common natural resources and monetary assets of the state, and deliver excellent legal services at a minimum cost to taxpayers**

# Attorney General: Gross Appropriations

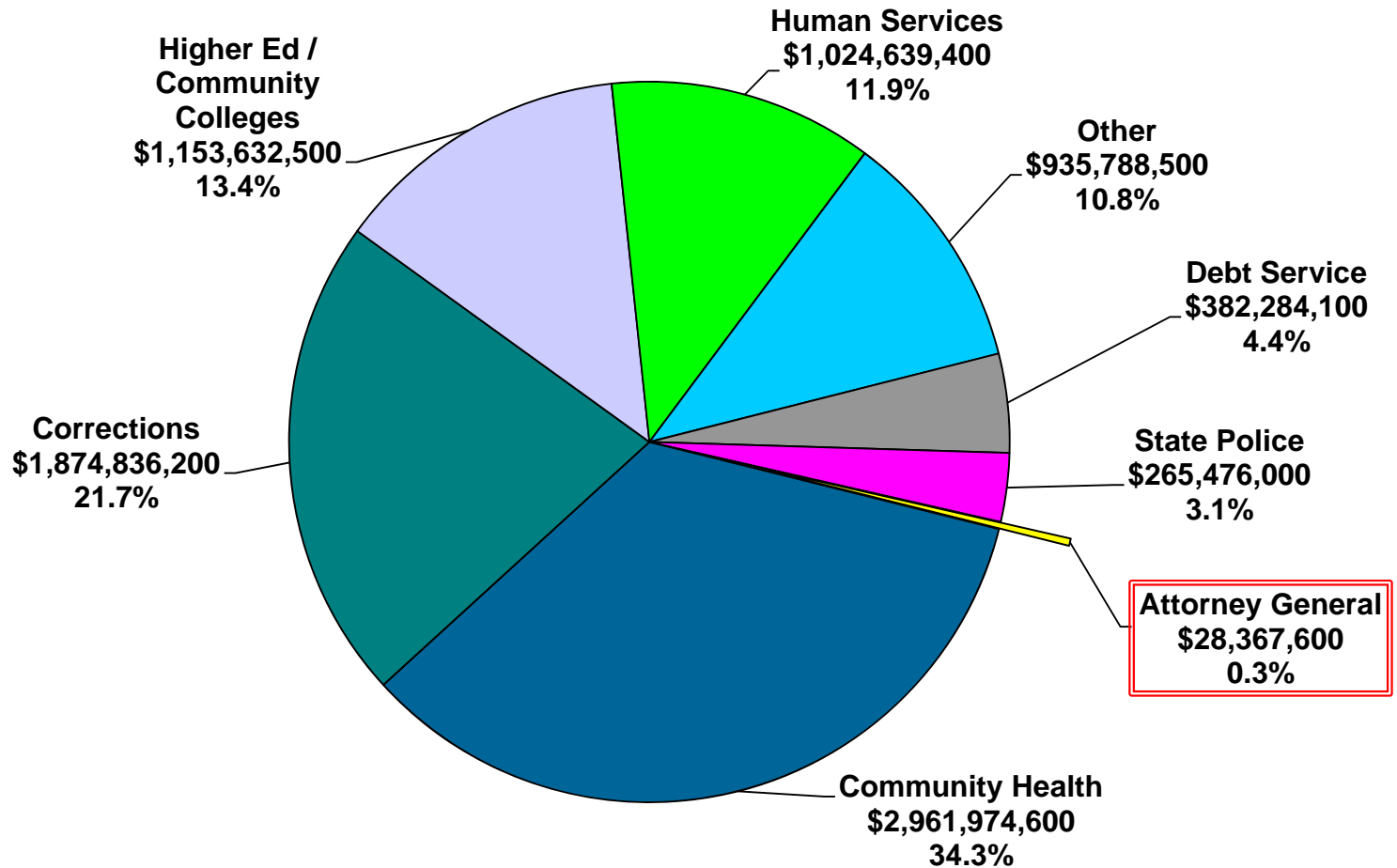
Spending increases are primarily due to inflation; decreases are due to budget reductions. Increase in FY 2008 and on is due partially to reflecting new funds in the budget which were previously provided by other departments.



# Attorney General Share of State GF/GP

Attorney General makes up 0.34% of the total state GF/GP budget

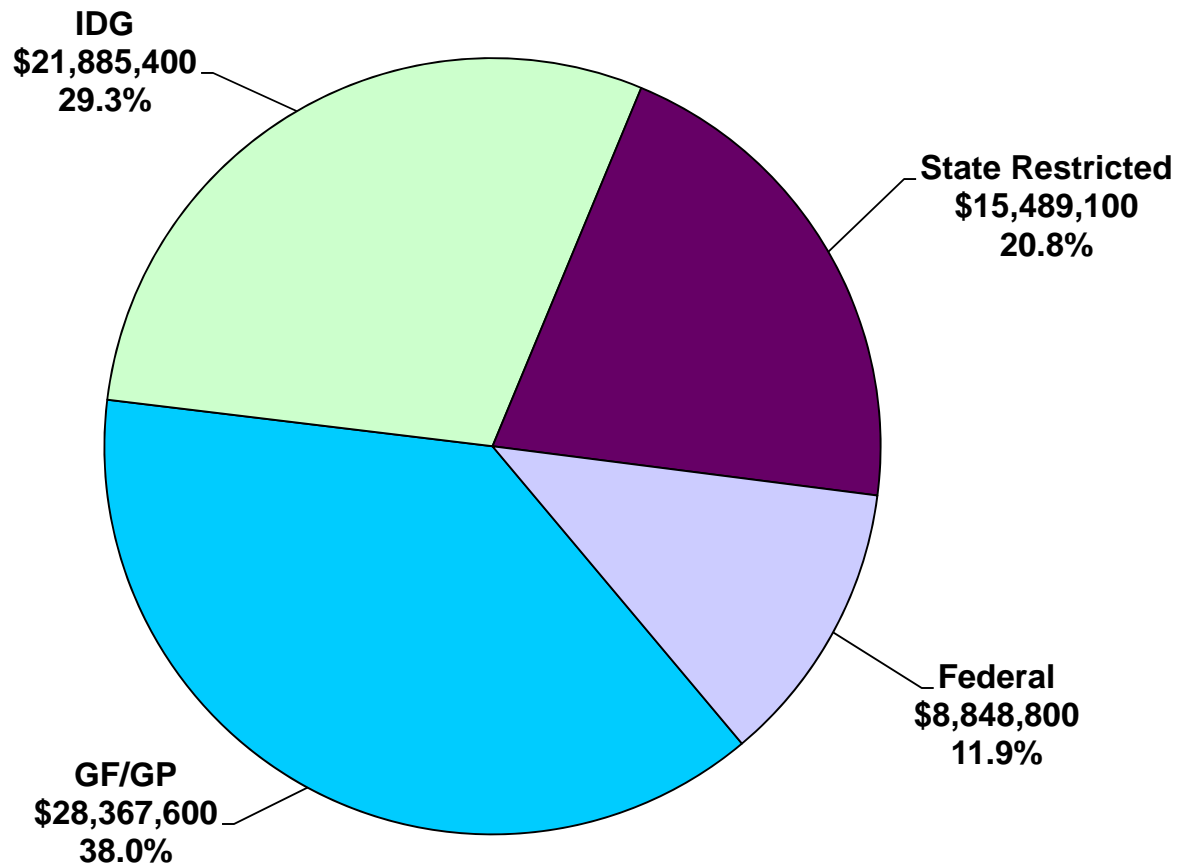
FY 2011-12 GF/GP Total = \$8,626,998,900



# **SOURCES OF FUNDING**

# Attorney General Funding Sources

FY 2011-12 Attorney General Budget = \$74,590,900



# **DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

# Attorney General Appropriations

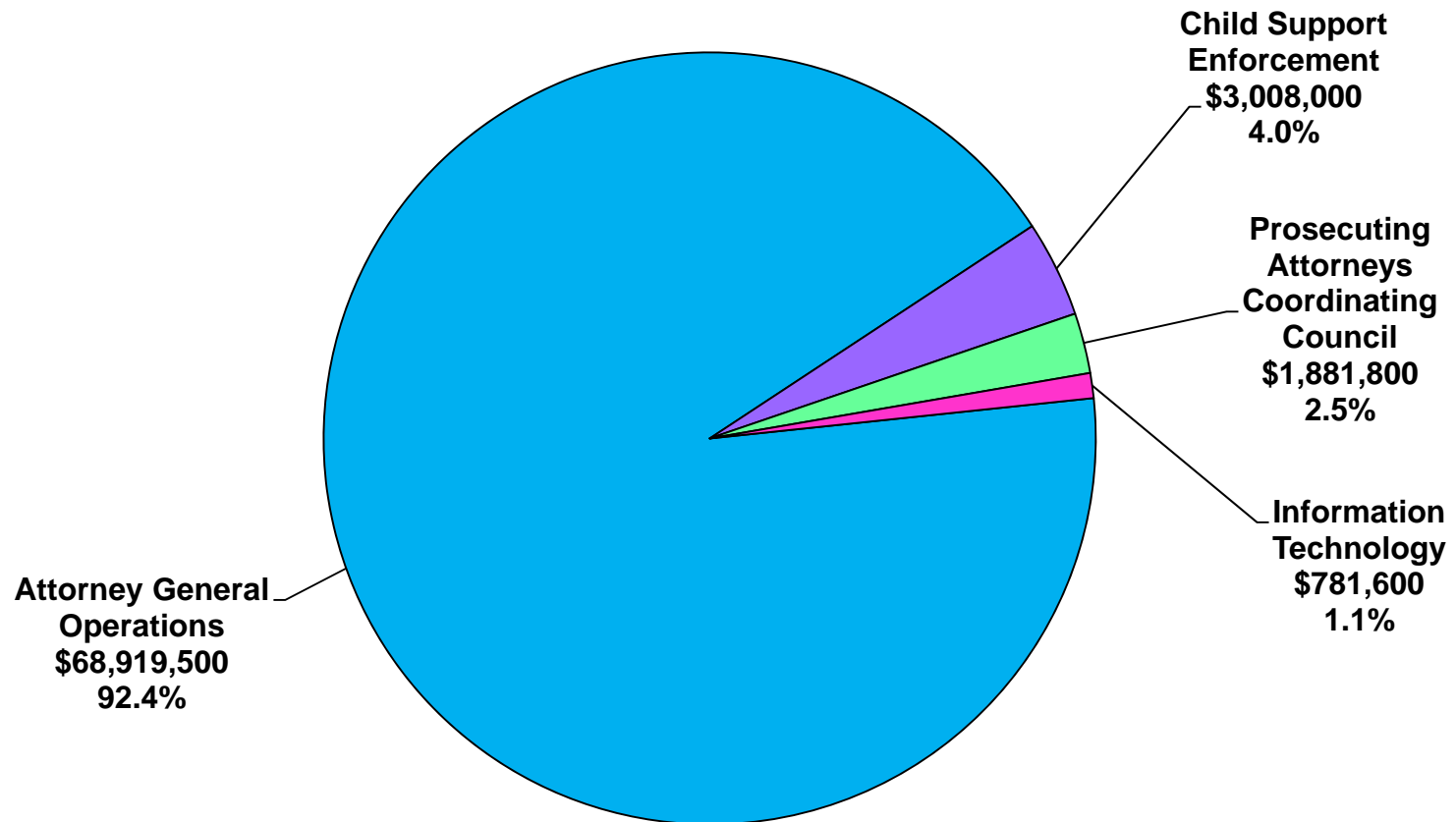
- **Department operations**
  - Attorney and staff salaries and benefits
  - Contractual services, supplies, and materials
  - Rent and building occupancy charges
  - Expert witnesses
  - Travel
  - Equipment
  
- **Staff in Child Support Division and costs associated with increased child support enforcement activities**
  
- **Information technology-related services and projects which support Department activities; administered by the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget**

# Attorney General Appropriations

- **Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council is an autonomous agency responsible for ensuring that a uniform system of conduct, duty, and procedure exists amongst prosecutors throughout the state**
  - **Publishes legal documents**
  - **Provides manuals and other materials on criminal prosecution and practices**
  - **Provides updates on legislation and court procedure changes**
  - **Provides research assistance**
  - **Administers grant-funded services**
  - **Coordinates statewide prosecution activities and office automation**
  - **Provides for continuing professional education**

# Attorney General Appropriations

FY 2011-12 Attorney General Budget = \$74,590,900



**For more information about the  
Attorney General budget, contact:**

**Robin R. Risko  
rrisko@house.mi.gov  
(517) 373-8080**