



Judicial Council of California
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

www.courts.ca.gov/tcbac.htm

tcbac@jud.ca.gov

TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

May 1, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/3263>

Advisory Body Members Present: Judges: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin (Chair), Hon. Judith C. Clark, Hon. Kimberly A. Gaab, Hon. Wendy G. Getty, Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Hon. David C. Kalemkarian, Hon. Erick L. Larsh, Hon. Michael J. Reinhart, Hon. Michael A. Sachs, and Hon. Kevin M. Seibert.

Executive Officers: Ms. Rebecca Fleming (Vice Chair), Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Shawn Landry, Ms. Krista LeVier, Mr. Brandon E. Riley, Mr. Chris Ruhl, Mr. Lee Seale, Mr. David W. Slayton, Mr. Neal Taniguchi, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Patricia L. Kelly and Mr. James Kim.

Others Present: Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Mr. Adam Dorsey, Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Donna Newman, and Ms. Rose Lane.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair welcomed the members, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved minutes from the March 27, 2024, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-10)

Item 1 – Allocations from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of Revenue and Expenditure (R&E) Subcommittee recommendations on 2024–25 allocations from the IMF.

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve a total of \$46.6 million in allocations for 2024–25 from the IMF for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (Budget Committee), and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting.

Item 2 – State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) Allocation Increase for 2023–24 for Judicial Council Legal Services (Action Required)

Consideration of a R&E Subcommittee recommendation to increase the 2023–24 IMF allocation for Legal Services to address increased legal support for the trial courts.

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve a \$2 million 2023–24 IMF allocation for Judicial Council Legal Services to address trial court-related litigation expenses and settlements for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its May 17, 2024, business meeting.

Item 3 – Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of R&E Subcommittee recommendations on 2024–25 allocations from the TCTF.

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations which assume that the funding proposed in the Governor’s Budget will remain in the final Budget Act of 2024:

- Consumer Price Increase (CPI) funding included in the budget to address inflationary costs for the trial courts is not considered “new money” for the purpose of allocating funding via the Workload Formula (WF) and, therefore, revise the definition of “new money” in the policy to exclude CPI funding;
- Base, discretionary, and nondiscretionary program allocations from the TCTF in the amount of \$3.1 billion (Attachment 3B, column AD), including:
 - TCTF allocation of \$50 million for support for operation of the trial courts (Attachment 3B, column B)
 - General Fund allocation of \$68.8 million for employee benefits (Attachment 3B, column U); and
- As a subset of the \$3.1 billion total allocation, approve a WF allocation of \$2.6 billion based on methodologies approved by the Judicial Council (Attachment 3C, column Y).

Item 4 – AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program Allocations for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of the 2024–25 methodologies and allocations for the child support commissioner and family law facilitator programs.

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the following allocation recommendations for 2024–25 for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting:

- Child Support Commissioner Program – \$35 million base allocations and \$13 million in federal drawdown funding using the methodology adopted by the Judicial Council in January 2019 as set forth in Attachment A; and

- *Family Law Facilitator Program – \$11.9 million base allocations and \$4.4 million in federal drawdown funding using the methodology adopted by the Judicial Council in July 2021 as set forth in Attachment B.*

Item 5 – Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Allocations for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of Funding Methodology Subcommittee (FMS) recommendations on 2024–25 allocations for the CARE Act.

Action: *The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting:*

- *Continue all elements of the fiscal year 2023–24 approved allocation methodology (Link A);*
- *Approve an allocation, for Cohort One courts and Los Angeles, based on the amount required for a full year of CARE Act implementation (Attachment B); and*
- *Approve an allocation, for Cohort Two courts, prorated to the amount required for a full year of CARE Act implementation (Attachment B).*

Item 6 – Model Self-Help Pilot Program—Technology Model Project Allocation Methodology (Action Required)

Consideration of FMS recommendations to revise the allocation methodology for Model Self-Help Pilot Program funding.

Action: *The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the following revisions to the allocation methodology for the Model Self-Help Pilot Program—Technology Model Project for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting:*

- *Require that proposed projects be limited to enabling courts to collaborate in providing self-help services remotely;*
- *Award three-year grants through a competitive solicitation process open to all courts and conducted every three years;*
- *Make one grant award for the project; and*
- *If a responsive proposal is not received in the fiscal year 2024–25 solicitation process, allocate funding through the methodology prescribed in Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: Model Self-Help Pilot Program Reallocation (Feb. 18, 2021).*

Item 7 – Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Allocations for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of the 2024–25 methodologies and allocations for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel.

Action: *The TCBCAC voted (with one abstention) to approve the recommended court-appointed dependency counsel allocations as outlined in Attachment A for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting.*

Item 8 – Pretrial Release Program Allocations for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of the 2024–25 allocations and funding floor adjustment for the Pretrial Release Program.

***Action:** The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the 2024–25 allocations for Pretrial Release funding as outlined in Attachment A, for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting.*

Item 9 – Court Reporter Allocations for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of the 2024–25 allocations for \$30 million to increase the number of court reporters in family law and civil case types.

***Action:** The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the allocation of the \$30 million to the trial courts on a proportional basis using the council-approved methodology with updated Assessed Judicial Need data based on the 2022 Judicial Needs Assessment as outlined in Attachment 9A for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting.*

Item 10 – Self-Help Program Allocations for 2024–25 through 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of the 2024–25 through 2026–27 allocations for the Self-Help Program.

***Action:** The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the allocation recommendations for the Self-Help Program for 2024–25 and ongoing for consideration by the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting.*

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on May 24, 2024.