



Judicial Council of California

Judicial Branch Budget Committee

JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE

MATERIALS DECEMBER 10, 2024

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Judicial Council of California
Judicial Branch Budget Committee

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JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN MEETING

Open to the Public (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c)(1) and (e)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Public Videocast: <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/3940>

Meeting materials will be posted on the advisory body web page on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be e-mailed to JBBC@jud.ca.gov.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of the October 11, 2024, Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K)(1))

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means with a listen only conference line available for the public. As such, the public may submit comments for this meeting only in writing. In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be e-mailed to JBBC@jud.ca.gov. Only written comments received by Monday, December 9, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–3)

Item 1

2024–25 Trial Court Trust Fund Allocation Increase for Judicial Council Audit Services and Budget Services Offices (Action Required)

Consideration of an increased Trial Court Trust Fund allocation of \$1.5 million for the Judicial Council’s Audit Services and Budget Services offices for 2024–25.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Ms. Oksana Tuk, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

Item 2

Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program Funding (Action Required)

Consideration of court interpreter allocations and expenditures for 2023–24 and 2024–25.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Mr. Douglas Denton, Principal Manager, Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Item 3

2025 Draft Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda (Action Required)

Consideration of the draft Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee annual agenda for 2025.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Ms. Rose Lane, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

IV. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Court Reporter Funding Mid-Year Survey for 2024–25

Informational update on the mid-year survey for one-time redistribution of unspent court reporter funding for 2024–25.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Mr. Chris Belloli, Manager, Judicial Council Business Management Services

Info 2

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Updates

Informational update on the mid-year survey for one-time redistribution of unspent CARE Act funding for 2024–25 and potential allocation adjustments.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Mr. Don Will, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts

V. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn



JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

October 11, 2024

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/3216>

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair; Mr. David H. Yamasaki, Vice Chair; Hon. Carin T. Fujisaki; Hon. Brad R. Hill; Hon. Maria Lucy Armendariz; Hon. C. Todd Bottke; Hon. Charles S. Crompton; Hon. Maria D. Hernandez; and Ms. Kate Bieker

Advisory Body Members Absent:

Others Present: Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Angela Cowan, Mr. Chris Belloli, Ms. Melanie Snider, Ms. Frances Ho, Ms. Rose Lane, and Ms. Oksana Tuk

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the July 11, 2024, Judicial Branch Budget Committee (Budget Committee) meeting and the July 18, 2024, Action by Email between meetings.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–4)

Item 1: 2024–25 Increased Transcript Rate Allocations (Action Required)

Consideration of 2024–25 allocations for increased transcript rates.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the allocation of the \$7 million appropriation to each trial court proportionally using the council-approved methodology for fiscal year 2024–25, based on an average of the prior three-year transcript expenditures as outlined in Attachment A. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Council at its November 15, 2024, business meeting.*

Item 2: 2024–25 Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program Pro Rata Distribution for a Mid-Cycle Allocation (Action Required)

Consideration of an allocation methodology for additional grant funds to current Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program recipients.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the mid-cycle allocation methodology to distribute an additional \$3.6 million to current pilot projects on a pro rata basis as outlined in Attachment A*

and allow pilot projects to spend their allocations during fiscal years 2024–25 and 2025–26. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Council at its November 15, 2024, business meeting.

Item 3: Firearm Relinquishment Grant Program for 2024–25 Through 2025–26 (Action Required)

Consideration of allocations for Cycle 3 Firearm Relinquishment Grant awards for FYs 2024–25 through 2025–26.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its November 15, 2024, business meeting:*

- 1. Approve the allocation and distribution of \$9.1 million to six trial courts to fund new or expanded firearm relinquishment programs for 2024–25 and 2025–26 as outlined in Attachment A; and*
- 2. Delegate authority to the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee to reallocate and distribute any unspent funding allocated to any of the awarded courts in Cycles 1, 2, and 3, based on the same criteria established during the application period.*

Item 4: 2023–24 Final Adjustments for Year-end Fund Balances (Action Required)

Review of final one-time adjustments for 2023–24 year-end fund balances for the trial courts.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the final 2023–24 year-end adjustment of a 3 percent fund balance cap allocation reduction of \$25.5 million, which nets to \$1.5 million after adjusting for \$24 million in applicable Funds Held on Behalf requests. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Council at its November 15, 2024, business meeting.*

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee
(Action Item)

Title: 2024–25 Trial Court Trust Fund Allocation Increase for Judicial Council Audit Services and Budget Services Offices

Date: 12/10/2024

Contact: Oksana Tuk, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services
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Issue

Consider a recommendation from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to increase the Judicial Council’s approved fiscal year 2024–25 Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) allocation by an additional \$1.5 million for the Judicial Council’s Audit Services and Budget Services offices.

1. The Audit Services office requests an allocation increase of \$1.3 million to reflect funding included in the Budget Act of 2024 for required audits conducted by the State Controller’s Office (SCO).
2. The Budget Services office requests an allocation increase of \$150,000 based on a reevaluation of budget workload for the collections program funded by the TCTF.

These recommendations will be considered by the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025, business meeting.

Background

Audit Services Office

Government Code section 77206(h)¹ requires the trial courts to be audited every four years by an external governmental audit organization, such as the SCO, the California State Auditor, or the Department of Finance. Government Code section 77206(j) specifies the SCO as the entity to perform this audit work unless the Judicial Council determines that either the California State Auditor or the Department of Finance can perform the same procedures as determined by the SCO at a lower cost.

Historically, the annual budget act included funding for these external audits so that trial court budgets would not be impacted. Effective with the Budget Act of 2017, the judicial branch

¹ Gov. Code § 77206, subd. (h) and (j).
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=77206.

received an annual appropriation of \$540,000 from the TCTF to cover the initial costs of the SCO's required audits of the trial courts. These audits review trial court compliance with the state's financial rules for revenues, expenditures, and fund balances.

Prior to auditing each court on a four-year cycle, the SCO was required to establish a pilot program to audit six trial courts. The pilot program was intended to provide the SCO with a basis to estimate the full costs of auditing all 58 superior courts on a four-year cycle, which is approximately 14 to 15 audits per year.

The SCO estimates that its costs will be approximately \$1.9 million in 2024–25 to implement the full audit program (14 to 15 audits each year), and these costs will increase by 2 percent each year thereafter. To cover these costs, the Budget Act of 2024 included an additional \$1.3 million in TCTF resources based on an approved budget change proposal. Currently, the Audit Services office is allocated \$865,000 from the TCTF for fiscal year 2024–25 for audits conducted by the SCO (\$540,000) and the California State Auditor (\$325,000). The current allocation does not include the additional \$1.3 million included in the Budget Act of 2024 to fund the full audit program. This request is for a current year allocation increase of \$1.3 million, consistent with the approved budget change proposal, for a total allocation of \$2.2 million in fiscal year 2024–25. (See Attachment A).

Budget Services Office

The Budget Services office has reevaluated its fiscal year 2024–25 TCTF allocation for the Statewide Support for Collections Program. To ensure that the appropriate fund source is used to pay for Budget Services staff that work on activities that support the collections program for the trial courts, it was determined that additional TCTF funding is needed in current year. Technical baseline budget adjustments for rent and employee compensation costs also require additional funding. Currently, the Budget Services office is allocated \$597,000 from the TCTF. This request is for an allocation increase of \$150,000 for a total allocation of \$747,000 in fiscal year 2024–25. (See Attachment A).

The total request for an additional \$1.5 million is reflected in the TCTF Fund Condition Statement (Attachment B). Based on current revenue estimates and the fund balance, there are sufficient resources to accommodate the requested allocation increase for fiscal year 2024–25.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends increasing the approved fiscal year 2024–25 TCTF allocation for the Judicial Council's Audit Services and Budget Services offices by \$1.5 million:

1. The Audit Services office requests an additional \$1.3 million to reflect the resources included in the Budget Act of 2024 to ensure that the appropriate number of trial courts will be audited by the SCO; and

2. The Budget Services office requests an additional \$150,000 to fund the actual costs of budget workload for the collections program that are supported by the TCTF.

Attachments

1. Attachment A: Judicial Council of California Approved FY 2024–25 and New Requested 2024–25 Allocations State Operations and Local Assistance Trial Court Trust Fund
2. Attachment B: Trial Court Trust Fund Fund Condition Statement

Judicial Council of California
Approved FY 2024-25 and New Requested 2024-25 Allocations
State Operations and Local Assistance
Trial Court Trust Fund

#	Program Name	Program Number	Office	Approved 2024-25 Allocations			Recommended 2024-25 Allocations			Total Proposed Allocations	\$\$ Change	% Change
				State Operations	Local Assistance	Total Approved Allocations	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total Requested Allocations			
A	B	C	D	E	F	G (E + F)	H	I	J (H + I)	K (G + J)	L (K - G)	M (L / G)
1	SCO Audit - Per GC 77206 (h)	0150095	AS		\$ 540,000	\$ 540,000		\$ 1,310,000	\$ 1,310,000	\$ 1,850,000	1,310,000	243%
2	California State Auditor Audits	0150010	AS		325,000	325,000				\$ 325,000	-	0%
3	Phoenix Financial Services	0140010	BAP	103,000		103,000				\$ 103,000	-	0%
4	Phoenix HR Services	0140010	BAP	1,723,000		1,723,000				\$ 1,723,000	-	0%
5	Other Post Employment Benefits Valuations	0150095	BAP		131,000	131,000				\$ 131,000	-	0%
6	Statewide Support for Collections Programs	0140010	BS	597,000		597,000	150,000		150,000	\$ 747,000	150,000	25%
7	Jury	0150010	BS		18,700,000	18,700,000				\$ 18,700,000	-	0%
8	Elder Abuse	0150010	BS		1,400,000	1,400,000				\$ 1,400,000	-	0%
9	SCO Administrative Costs per GC 68085(g)	0150010	BS		88,000	88,000				\$ 88,000	-	0%
10	Children in Dependency Case Training	0150095	CFCC		113,000	113,000				\$ 113,000	-	0%
11	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program	0140010	CFCC	780,000		780,000				\$ 780,000	-	0%
12	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program	0150095	CFCC		21,032,000	21,032,000				\$ 21,032,000	-	0%
13	Equal Access Fund	0140010	CFCC	274,000		274,000				\$ 274,000	-	0%
14	Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Collections	0140010	CFCC	556,000		556,000				\$ 556,000	-	0%
15	Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel	0150011	CFCC		186,700,000	186,700,000				\$ 186,700,000	-	0%
16	Juvenile Dependency Collections Reimbursement	0150010	CFCC		350,000	350,000				\$ 350,000	-	0%
17	Self-Help Center	0150010	CFCC		25,300,000	25,300,000				\$ 25,300,000	-	0%
18	Screening Equipment Replacement	0150010	FS		2,511,000	2,511,000				\$ 2,511,000	-	0%
19	Court Interpreters Data Collections System (CIDCS)	0150037	IT	87,000		87,000				\$ 87,000	-	0%
20	Data Center and Cloud Services	0150095	IT		4,611,000	4,611,000				\$ 4,611,000	-	0%
21	Electronic Courts of Appeal Record and Transcripts (eCART) Program	0150095	IT		200,000	200,000				\$ 200,000	-	0%
22	Total Allocations			\$ 4,120,000	\$ 262,001,000	\$ 266,121,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,310,000	\$ 1,460,000	\$ 267,581,000	\$ 1,460,000	0.55%

Totals by Office			Office	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total Approved Allocations	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total Requested Allocations	Total Proposed Allocations	\$\$ Change	% Change
Legend				E	F	G (E + F)	H	I	J (H + I)	K (G + J)	L (K - G)	M (L / G)
23	Audit Services	AS		\$ -	\$ 865,000	\$ 865,000	\$ -	\$ 1,310,000	\$ 1,310,000	\$ 2,175,000	\$ 1,310,000	151.45%
24	Branch Accounting and Procurement	BAP		1,826,000	131,000	1,957,000	-	-	-	1,957,000	-	0.00%
25	Budget Services	BS		597,000	20,188,000	20,785,000	150,000	-	150,000	20,935,000	150,000	0.72%
26	Center for Families, Children and the Courts	CFCC		1,610,000	233,495,000	235,105,000	-	-	-	235,105,000	-	0.00%
27	Facility Services	FS		-	2,511,000	2,511,000	-	-	-	2,511,000	-	0.00%
28	Information Technology	IT		87,000	4,811,000	4,898,000	-	-	-	4,898,000	-	0.00%
Total Allocations				\$ 4,120,000	\$ 262,001,000	\$ 266,121,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,310,000	\$ 1,460,000	\$ 267,581,000	\$ 1,460,000	0.57%

Totals by Program		Program Number	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total Approved Allocations	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total Requested Allocations	Total Proposed Allocations	\$\$ Change	% Change
Legend			E	F	G (E + F)	H	I	J (H + I)	K (G + J)	L (K - G)	M (L / G)
29	Judicial Council (Staff)	0140010	\$ 4,033,000	\$ -	\$ 4,033,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 4,183,000	\$ 150,000	3.45%
30	Support for the Operation of the Trial Courts	0150010	-	48,674,000	48,674,000	-	-	-	48,674,000	-	0.00%
31	Court Appointed Dependency Counsel	0150011	-	186,700,000	186,700,000	-	-	-	186,700,000	-	0.00%
32	Court Interpreters	0150037	87,000	-	87,000	-	-	-	87,000	-	0.00%
33	Expenses on Behalf of the Trial Courts	0150095	-	26,627,000	26,627,000	-	1,310,000	1,310,000	27,937,000	1,310,000	7.05%
Total Allocations			\$ 4,120,000	\$ 262,001,000	\$ 266,121,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,310,000	\$ 1,460,000	\$ 267,581,000	\$ 1,460,000	0.57%

**Trial Court Trust Fund
Fund Condition Statement
October 2024**

Description	YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS			ESTIMATES	
	2021-22 (Financial Statements)	2022-23 (Financial Statements)	2023-24 (Financial Statements)	2024-25	2025-26
A	B	C	D	E	F
Beginning Fund Balance	162,032,593	180,993,913	234,161,463	365,958,407	191,950,270
Prior-Year Adjustments	(2,639,686)	39,095,081	52,234,508	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS¹	1,187,495,894	1,134,044,353	1,227,300,625	1,205,215,000	1,205,215,000
Total Resources	1,346,888,801	1,354,133,348	1,513,696,595	1,571,173,407	1,397,165,270
EXPENDITURES/ENCUMBRANCES/ALLOCATIONS					
Program 0140010/0150037 - Judicial Council (Staff)	3,678,027	3,592,910	3,589,736	4,270,000	4,270,000
Program 0150010 - Support for Operation of the Trial Courts	2,217,294,000	2,466,660,242	2,632,244,156	2,567,420,137	2,552,320,137
Program 0150011 - Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel	196,700,000	211,967,000	211,616,172	186,700,000	186,700,000
Program 0150019 - Compensation of Superior Court Judges	398,004,000	423,563,000	428,118,549	450,098,000	450,098,000
Program 0150028 - Assigned Judges	47,371,000	24,111,000	23,569,452	31,860,000	31,860,000
Program 0150037 - Court Interpreters	121,413,000	124,546,000	131,951,695	134,802,000	134,802,000
Program 0150075 - Grants	9,426,000	29,840,000	29,840,016	30,329,000	10,329,000
Program 0150095 - Expenses on Behalf of the Trial Courts	14,944,000	13,750,000	13,018,675	27,937,000	27,974,000
Total Local Assistance	3,005,152,000	3,294,437,242	3,470,358,714	3,429,146,137	3,394,083,137
<i>FISCAL Assessment</i>	<i>174,000</i>	<i>174,000</i>	<i>174,000</i>	<i>174,000</i>	<i>174,000</i>
<i>Pro Rata/State Ops</i>	<i>209,861</i>	<i>184,733</i>	<i>91,623</i>	<i>77,000</i>	<i>77,000</i>
<i>Supplemental Pension Payments</i>	<i>76,000</i>	<i>76,000</i>	<i>30,116</i>		
Item 601 - Redevelopment Agency Writ Case Reimbursements	-	-	-		
Total Expenditures (includes State Ops and LA)	3,008,830,027	3,298,030,152	3,473,948,449	3,433,416,137	3,398,353,137
<i>Unallocated</i>					
<i>Less Funding Provided by General Fund:</i>	<i>1,843,395,000</i>	<i>2,178,493,000</i>	<i>2,326,506,000</i>	<i>2,054,444,000</i>	<i>2,191,744,000</i>
Total Expenditures and Expenditure Adjustments	1,165,894,888	1,119,971,885	1,147,738,188	1,379,223,137	1,206,860,137
Ending Fund Balance	180,993,913	234,161,463	365,958,407	191,950,270	190,305,133
Restricted Funds					
Total Restricted/Reserved Funds	106,311,454	139,975,854	113,346,076	108,346,076	108,346,076
Ending Unrestricted Fund Balance	74,682,460	94,185,609	252,612,331	83,604,194	81,959,057

¹ Revenue estimates are as of 2024-25 Enacted Budget

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program Funding
Date: 12/10/2024
Contact: Douglas G. Denton, Principal Manager, Center for Families, Children & the Courts
415-865-7870 | douglas.denton@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Consider Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) Court Interpreters Program (CIP) allocations and expenditures for 2023–24 and 2024–25 to address funding shortfalls due to increasing interpreter costs and expenses. The approved recommendations will be considered by the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025, business meeting.

Background

With the adoption of the Judicial Council’s Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts in 2015, the council has approved budget change proposals to augment the CIP to support expansion of interpreter services to all case types.¹ Expenditure increases in the CIP are a result of multiple factors including wage growth on ratified agreements, expansion of interpreter services to all case types, increases in the number of mandated staff interpreters and mandated contractor usage, contractor rates, and merit salary adjustments.

At its business meeting on September 21, 2018, the council approved an allocation of unrestricted fund balance from the TCTF on a one-time basis to address an anticipated shortfall in the CIP for fiscal year 2018–19, not to exceed the estimated \$3.4 million required to cover cost increases and maintain service levels. The council directed staff to continue to monitor CIP funding and to provide regular updates to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) to report any changes, and to incorporate any additional funding after the Governor’s proposed budget was released in January 2019.²

At its business meeting on May 17, 2019, the council approved a one-time allocation of unrestricted fund balance from the TCTF in an amount not to exceed \$13.5 million to address the projected shortfall in fiscal year 2019–20.³

¹ Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts, adopted by the Judicial Council on January 22, 2015, https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2024-01/CLASP_report_060514.pdf

² Judicial Council meeting report (September 21, 2018), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6613659&GUID=D8DDBB1D-D123-410A-80B7-124C840672DB>

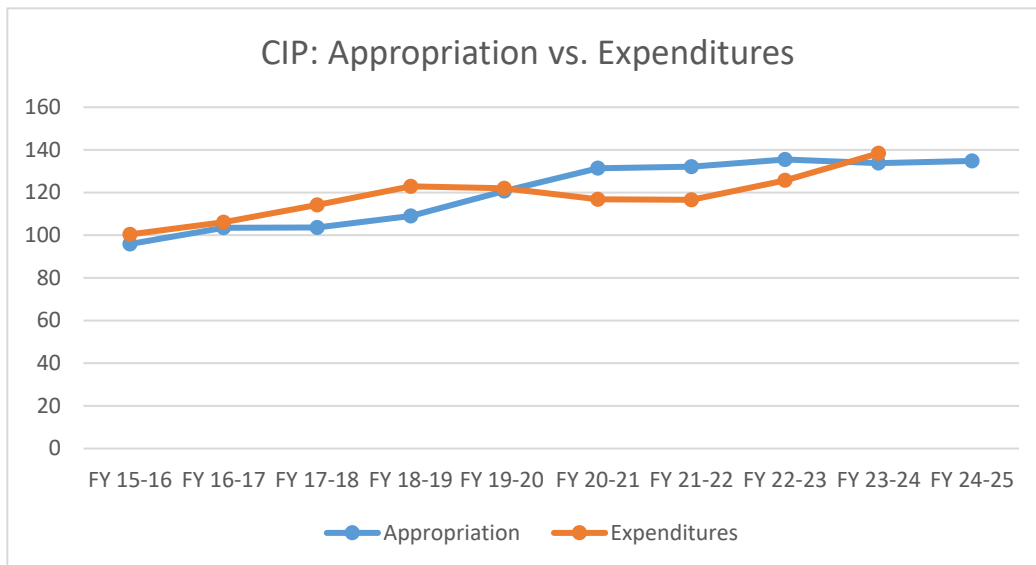
³ Judicial Council meeting report (May 17, 2019), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7213051&GUID=C4A81071-30F9-4D1C-B10A-1F56A047C3BA>

The Budget Act of 2020 included a \$9.3 million augmentation which brought the CIP appropriation up to \$131.4 million for fiscal year 2020–21. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, expenditures have been less than the yearly appropriation, resulting in cumulative program savings of approximately \$35 million.⁴

At its January 20, 2023, business meeting, the council approved a TCBCAC recommendation to approve the approach and methodology for when courts experience a shortfall in their allocation. Courts with a funding shortage will first be covered by other court savings up to the appropriation amount, after which the CIP fund balance will be used to make a court whole, and funds will be allocated proportionally based on the percentage of the shortfall if the savings or fund balance are insufficient to cover the shortage, effective July 1, 2023.⁵

Analysis

Graph 1: CIP Appropriation vs. Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2015–16 through 2023–24 (Numbers in Millions)



Graph 1 shows how court interpreter expenditures were greater than the appropriation beginning in fiscal years 2015–16 through 2018–19. Beginning in fiscal year 2019–20 due to COVID-19, expenditures for the CIP were below the appropriation for several years resulting in \$35 million in program savings. However, in fiscal year 2023–24, program expenditures exceeded the appropriation by \$4.6 million due to increased interpreter costs.

⁴ Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2020–21, as required by the Budget Act of 2020, <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2023-12/lr-2022-trial-court-interpreters-program-expenditure-report-fy-20-21.pdf>

⁵ Judicial Council meeting report (January 20, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11533862&GUID=BF5043BE-FE6C-4464-B2CE-336C36D5DB40>

Chart 1: Projected CIP Appropriation and Expenditures (Dollars in Millions)⁶

CIP Detail	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
Appropriation	\$135.5	\$133.8	\$134.8	\$134.8	\$134.8
Actual or Projected Expenditures	\$125.7	\$138.4	\$146.7	\$155.5	\$164.8
Actual or Projected Rate of Increase Compared to Prior Year	7.8%	10.1%	6%	6%	6%
Current Year Surplus	\$9.8	-\$4.6	-\$11.9	-\$20.7	-\$30.0
Ending Program Balance	\$35.0	\$35.0	\$23.1	\$2.4	-\$27.6

Chart 1 demonstrates the anticipated funding needed from the program’s fund balance reserves based on projected expenditures increasing by 6 percent each year beginning in fiscal year 2024–25. Based on projections, the CIP will have insufficient funding at the end of fiscal year 2025–26 and will require additional ongoing funding beginning in fiscal year 2026–27.

Although the rate of increase for expenditures was 7.8 percent for fiscal year 2022–23 and 10.1 percent in fiscal year 2023–24, the projections for fiscal years 2024–25 and 2025–26 use a rate of increase of 6 percent. This means that in theory, and as needed, courts could spend up to 6 percent over their allocation for those fiscal years. Courts will need information and guidance to understand the projected expenditure plan for the next few years based on the projected 6 percent rate increase. As noted, new funding to increase the ongoing baseline appropriation is projected to be needed beginning in fiscal year 2026–27.

One factor that has led to the recent marked increase in court interpreter expenses is the high rates charged by independent contractors. The *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2022–23*, as required by the Budget Act of 2022, found that contract interpreter expenditures in fiscal year 2022–23 represented 26.7 percent of total expenditures, reflecting an increase from fiscal year 2021–22, when contractor expenses were 21.7 percent of the total expenditures.⁷

Compared to fiscal year 2021–22, expenditures for contract interpreters in fiscal year 2022–23 increased by \$8.3 million (32.7 percent), and expenditures for court employees in fiscal year

⁶ Actual appropriation for 2025–26 and 2026–27 may differ from amounts shown on the chart due to benefit increases or increased interpreter funding based on new judgeships.

⁷ Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2022–23, as required by the Budget Act of 2022, https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2024-06/Trial%20Court%20Interpreters%20Program%20Expenditure%20Report_Fiscal%20Year%202022%E2%80%9323.pdf

2022–23 increased by \$850,000 (0.9 percent). Courts have reported that many contractors are requesting rates that exceed the council’s standard rates for contractors⁸ and that are commensurate with current federal rates.

Addressing CIP Funding Shortfalls

The CIP has an annual appropriation of approximately \$135 million for trial court interpreter services. Courts receive an allocation based on a three-year average of prior expenses. Expenses for fiscal year 2020–21 (which is considered the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic) are excluded when calculating the three-year average. Savings remain in the CIP and are carried over for future use.

Since the pandemic, expenditures for fiscal years 2020–21 through 2022–23 were less than the annual appropriation, resulting in cumulative program savings of approximately \$35 million. Judicial Council staff propose the utilization of program savings for a mid-year allocation to the trial courts to address the \$4.6 million shortfall for 2023–24 and anticipated program deficiencies for fiscal years 2024–25 and 2025–26. Based on current projections, the program savings are expected to be depleted at the end of fiscal year 2025–26.

To address the continued anticipated growth in interpreter expenses and ensure critical services are provided to court users, Judicial Council staff will work with the trial courts to develop a funding request for additional resources beginning in fiscal year 2026–27.

The TCBAC met on November 22, 2024, and approved recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025 business meeting.⁹

Next Steps

For fiscal year 2024–25, following council approval, \$4.6 million of the CIP reserve fund will be distributed to compensate courts for court interpreter expenditures in fiscal year 2023–24 that exceeded the appropriation. See Attachment A, *Fiscal Year 2023–24 Court Interpreter Funding Summary and Reconciliation*. Courts with a shortfall will receive funds in the March 2025 distribution. Staff will also conduct a mid-year survey in February 2025 to determine the anticipated amount of court interpreter reserve funding needed for courts with an anticipated shortfall in fiscal year 2024–25, based on available program savings.

Following the mid-year survey, staff will submit a reallocation proposal for consideration by the TCBAC, the Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its April 2025 business meeting for distribution of surplus savings no later than May 2025. This mid-year process will be repeated beginning in February 2026 for fiscal year 2025–26.

Based on current projections, the program savings are expected to be depleted at the end of fiscal

⁸ Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters (Effective July 1, 2021), <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2023-07/CIP-Payment-Policies-for-Independent-Contractor-Interpreters.pdf>

⁹ Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Materials (November 22, 2024), https://beta.courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20241122-materials_1.pdf

year 2025–26. To address the continued anticipated growth in interpreter expenses and ensure critical services are provided to court users, Judicial Council staff will work with the trial courts to develop a funding request for additional resources beginning in fiscal year 2026–27.

The Court Executives Advisory Committee will review the Judicial Council’s *Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters* for potential changes due to the recent cost increases.

Recommendations

Approve the following recommendations from the TCBAC for consideration by the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025, business meeting:

1. Address the \$4.6 million shortfall in fiscal year 2023–24 by allocating this amount from the \$35 million CIP fund balance from the TCTF in fiscal year 2024–25 to courts that exceeded their allocation as outlined in Attachment A;
2. Approve the remaining CIP fund balance from the TCTF to be allocated to courts mid-year to address any CIP shortfalls for fiscal years 2024–25 and 2025–26, based on available program savings;
3. Direct Judicial Council staff to continue to monitor CIP funding and program expenditures, provide regular updates to the TCBAC to report any changes, and work with the trial courts to develop a funding request for additional CIP resources beginning in fiscal year 2026–27; and
4. Direct Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts’ staff to work in collaboration with the Court Executives Advisory Committee to further refine the council’s Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters to address the statewide operational impacts of rising CIP expenditures.

Attachments

Attachment A: *Fiscal Year 2023–24 Court Interpreter Funding Summary and Reconciliation*

Fiscal Year 2023-24 Court Interpreter Funding Summary and Reconciliation

Court	FY 23-24 Court Interpreter Allocation Award	Total Eligible FY 23-24 Expenditures Verification from the Court	Eligible Prior Year 999910 Adjustment Verification from the Court	Redistribution of Shortage covered by other court savings (Pro Rata)	Amount Owed to TCTF (+) or Amount Due to the Court (-)
	A	B	C	D	E= (A-B-C+D)
Alameda	5,892,840.96	5,964,653.64	161,510.00	143,547.46	(89,775.22)
Alpine	881.73	1,458.70		354.97	(222.00)
Amador	175,158.91	60,198.32		(114,960.59)	(0.00)
Butte	263,021.84	286,681.18	350.00	14,771.30	(9,238.04)
Calaveras	68,992.78	24,070.39		(44,922.39)	0.00
Colusa	139,071.27	139,143.09		44.19	(27.63)
Contra Costa	3,334,496.92	3,677,457.51	6,336.00	214,898.27	(134,398.32)
Del Norte	52,538.23	19,924.40		(32,613.83)	0.00
El Dorado	251,822.44	249,077.67	2,884.37	85.89	(53.71)
Fresno	2,586,721.09	2,771,071.80		113,418.36	(70,932.35)
Glenn	139,285.49	161,154.00	(63.00)	13,415.44	(8,390.07)
Humboldt	192,273.26	89,109.22	17,454.78	(85,709.26)	0.00
Imperial	657,282.95	846,438.92		116,374.71	(72,781.26)
Inyo	70,698.06	73,179.46		1,526.64	(954.76)
Kern	2,115,844.68	3,808,574.00	6,097.42	1,045,171.73	(653,655.01)
Kings	612,979.42	748,444.25		83,342.23	(52,122.60)
Lake	134,170.50	212,695.69		48,311.17	(30,214.02)
Lassen	55,449.80	64,120.67		5,334.59	(3,336.28)
Los Angeles	42,531,684.15	38,502,132.14		(4,029,552.01)	(0.00)
Madera	717,478.48	870,812.27		94,335.78	(58,998.01)
Marin	749,122.52	809,134.28	222.06	37,057.74	(23,176.08)
Mariposa	42,901.43	55,728.01		7,891.32	(4,935.26)
Mendocino	449,212.90	679,323.12		141,571.06	(88,539.16)
Merced	1,166,561.24	1,311,063.64		88,902.43	(55,599.97)
Modoc	5,117.52	6,737.26		996.52	(623.22)
Mono	67,013.44	66,451.95		(561.49)	0.00
Monterey	1,581,409.35	1,832,740.82	4,024.10	157,102.79	(98,252.78)
Napa	780,650.03	954,081.58		106,700.55	(66,731.00)
Nevada	83,049.55	119,180.90		22,229.14	(13,902.21)
Orange	11,198,730.93	9,014,165.00		(2,184,565.93)	(0.00)
Placer	647,534.50	1,146,546.30		307,007.78	(192,004.02)
Plumas	10,751.61	1,862.78		(8,888.83)	(0.00)
Riverside	6,764,343.91	7,215,269.65	550.00	277,762.10	(173,713.64)
Sacramento	4,871,249.08	5,248,074.24		231,834.71	(144,990.45)
San Benito	132,951.35	159,977.81		16,627.53	(10,398.93)
San Bernardino	6,806,754.68	6,115,909.99		(690,844.69)	0.00
San Diego	6,817,244.83	6,875,712.50	5,151.45	39,140.49	(24,478.63)
San Francisco	4,212,026.62	5,228,778.01		625,537.49	(391,213.90)
San Joaquin	2,025,910.63	2,297,665.78	4,169.00	169,757.23	(106,166.92)
San Luis Obispo	941,858.47	880,782.59		(61,075.88)	(0.00)
San Mateo	3,011,715.51	3,769,405.27	2,369.62	467,612.48	(292,446.90)
Santa Barbara	2,626,484.81	3,153,258.66		324,087.87	(202,685.98)
Santa Clara	6,945,775.07	7,792,192.91		520,742.92	(325,674.92)
Santa Cruz	1,048,908.03	1,147,227.91		60,489.49	(37,830.39)
Shasta	432,228.11	632,690.20		123,330.59	(77,131.50)

Fiscal Year 2023-24 Court Interpreter Funding Summary and Reconciliation

Court	FY 23-24 Court Interpreter Allocation Award	Total Eligible FY 23-24 Expenditures Verification from the Court	Eligible Prior Year 999910 Adjustment Verification from the Court	Redistribution of Shortage covered by other court savings (Pro Rata)	Amount Owed to TCTF (+) or Amount Due to the Court (-)
	A	B	C	D	E= (A-B-C+D)
Sierra	428.00	82.63		(345.37)	0.00
Siskiyou	60,937.75	65,721.23		2,942.95	(1,840.53)
Solano	817,677.72	933,207.63		71,077.64	(44,452.27)
Sonoma	1,682,210.50	2,458,124.08		477,366.48	(298,547.10)
Stanislaus	1,732,377.10	1,806,125.75	3,806.26	47,714.22	(29,840.69)
Sutter	323,656.58	327,820.15		2,561.56	(1,602.01)
Tehama	227,818.68	243,641.22		9,734.53	(6,088.01)
Trinity	68,298.72	60,828.36		(7,470.36)	0.00
Tulare	2,026,592.44	3,052,385.91		631,100.43	(394,693.04)
Tuolumne	69,441.43	79,080.13		5,930.03	(3,708.67)
Ventura	2,398,657.36	3,131,828.46	1,948.50	452,268.74	(282,850.86)
Yolo	896,805.19	802,170.02		(94,635.17)	0.00
Yuba	74,898.98	130,380.95		34,134.26	(21,347.71)
Total	133,792,000	138,175,755.00	216,810.56	(0.00)	(4,600,566.05)

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee
(Action Item)

Title: 2025 Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda

Date: 12/10/2024

Contact: Rose Lane, Senior Analyst, Budget Services
916-643-6926 | rosemary.lane@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Consideration of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda for 2025.

Background

Rule 10.64(a)¹ of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input to the council on policy issues affecting trial court funding.

On an annual basis, the chair of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee evaluates and prioritizes projects for the coming year including, but not limited to, the following:

- Consider trial court funding priorities to guide the development of the annual budget;
- Recommend allocation methodologies, including changes to existing methodologies for allocating budget augmentations and reductions, to ensure funding equity, stability, and predictability for the trial courts; and
- Review of trial court budget policies and procedures, as appropriate.

The annual agenda outlines the work plan for the committee and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee provides oversight to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and is responsible for approving the annual agenda. The oversight committee may add, delete, or modify specific projects and reassign priorities as needed.

The current 2024 annual agenda, approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee on January 18, 2024², is provided as Attachment A.

¹ California Rule of Court 10.64(a), https://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=ten&linkid=rule10_64

² Judicial Branch Budget Committee Meeting Materials (January 18, 2024), <https://beta.courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/jbbc-20240118-materials.pdf>

2025 Annual Agenda

The 2025 annual agenda reflects new or one-time projects, ongoing projects and activities, and summarizes 2024 project highlights and achievements (see Attachment B). All proposed projects are identified by priority of *The Strategic Plan for California's Judicial Branch*.³

Recommendation

Approve the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee's annual agenda for 2025.

Attachments

Attachment A: Approved – 2024 Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda

Attachment B: 2025 Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda

³ The Strategic Plan of California's Judicial Branch, <https://www.courts.ca.gov/3045.htm>

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee**Annual Agenda¹—2024****Approved by Judicial Branch Budget Committee: January 18, 2024****I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

Chair:	Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Judge, Superior Court of Fresno County
Lead Staff:	Ms. Rose Lane, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services
<p>Committee's Charge/Membership:</p> <p>Rule 10.64(a) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input to the council on policy issues affecting trial court funding. Rule 10.64(b) sets forth additional duties of the committee.</p> <p>Rule 10.64(c) sets forth the membership requirements of the committee. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee currently has 24 members. The current committee roster is available on the committee's web page.</p>	
<p>Subcommittees/Working Groups²:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fiscal Planning Subcommittee – Review recommendations regarding trial court requests to set aside funds on their behalf that have reverted to the Trial Court Trust Fund pursuant to Government Code section 77203. This subcommittee also reviews requests from trial courts that relate to Children's Waiting Room funding. 2. Funding Methodology Subcommittee – Ongoing review and refinement of the Workload Formula, develop a methodology for allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program (0150037) in the event of a funding shortfall, and consider funding allocation methodologies for other non-discretionary dollars as necessary. Additionally, the subcommittee will continue its ongoing work to evaluate existing allocation methodologies and consider alternative methodologies to advance the goal of funding equity and stability to support trial court operations. 3. Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee – Ongoing review of Trial Court Trust Fund and State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund allocations supporting trial court projects and programs as well as any systematic cash flow issues affecting the trial courts. 	

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

² California Rules of Court, [rule 10.30 \(c\)](#) allows an advisory body to form subgroups, composed entirely of current members of the advisory body, to carry out the body's duties, subject to available resources, with the approval of its oversight committee.

4. Ad Hoc Interpreter Working Group – Develop an ongoing, workload-based methodology for allocation of Court Interpreters Program funding including, but not limited to, video remote interpreting and cross-assignments.
5. Ad Hoc Funds Held on Behalf Working Group – Review of current Trial Court Trust Fund Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts guidelines to develop recommendations to increase program efficiency and transparency.

Meetings Planned for 2024³ (Advisory body and all subcommittees and working groups)

Date/Time/Location or Teleconference:

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

January 2024/Videoconference; February 2024/Videoconference; May 2024/Videoconference; July 2024/ Videoconference; September 2024/In-person; November 2024/Videoconference

Funding Methodology Subcommittee

April 2024/Videoconference; June 2024/ Videoconference, October 2024/Videoconference

Fiscal Planning Subcommittee

April 2024/Videoconference; September 2024/Videoconference; October 2024/Videoconference

Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee

April 2024/Teleconference, August 2024/Teleconference

Check here if exception to policy is granted by Executive Office or rule of court.

³ Refer to [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴	
1.	Project Title Firearms Relinquishment Grant Program	Priority 1⁵
<p data-bbox="163 310 1980 581">Project Summary⁷: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of \$40 million one-time General Fund included in the 2022 Budget Act, of which \$36 million is to be distributed to trial courts to support court-based firearm relinquishment programs. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to allocate \$18.5 million to seven trial courts in the first grant cycle was approved by the Judicial Council at its January 20, 2023 business meeting. A subsequent recommendation to allocate \$1.5 million to one additional trial court in the second grant cycle was approved by the Judicial Council at its May 12, 2023 business meeting. The funding for these programs must be spent or encumbered by June 30, 2025.</p> <p data-bbox="163 613 535 646">Status/Timeline: One-time.</p> <p data-bbox="163 686 1413 719">Fiscal Impact/Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff.</p> <p data-bbox="163 727 1921 800"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. The committee will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p data-bbox="163 841 1186 873">Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p data-bbox="163 914 1501 946">AC Collaboration: Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee; Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>		

⁴ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as *implementation* or a *program* in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁵ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law; 1(b) Council or an internal committee has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms; 1(c) Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; 1(d) Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law; 2(b) Responsive to identified concerns or problems; 2(c) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

⁶ Indicate which goal number of The Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch the project most closely aligns.

⁷ A key objective is a strategic aim, purpose, or “end of action” to be achieved for the coming year.

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴	
2.	Project Title Court Cluster System	Priority 2⁵
		Strategic Plan Goal⁶VII
	<p>Project Summary⁷: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated from a Funding Methodology Subcommittee recommendation made on February 20, 2020 to initiate an ad hoc subcommittee to reevaluate the cluster system to identify potential opportunities for refinement or change. On July 6, 2023, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved updates to the annual Funding Methodology Subcommittee workplan, which included redirecting the court cluster system project to be addressed by the new Data Analytics Advisory Committee, which replaced the former Workload Assessment Advisory Committee. The project outcome could potentially impact the statewide four-cluster system and/or its criteria.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: One-time.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Business Management Services' Office of Court Research and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. The committee will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Data Analytics Advisory Committee; Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
3.	Project Title Funds Held on Behalf Policy Update	Priority 2⁵
		Strategic Plan Goal⁶VII
	<p>Project Summary⁷: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. In October 2023, the Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Ad Hoc Funds Held on Behalf Working Group was established. The working group was charged with evaluating the process, application, and distribution components of the Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts program. The working group met several times during November and December 2023 to develop recommendations for process and policy improvements. These recommendations will be considered at the January 22, 2024 Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting and by the Judicial Council at its March 24, 2024 business meeting.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: One-time.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. The committee will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</p>	

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴
	<p data-bbox="176 188 1184 224"><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p data-bbox="176 263 888 298"><i>AC Collaboration:</i> Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities ⁴	
1.	Project Title Allocations to the Trial Courts	Priority 1⁵
		Strategic Plan Goal⁶ VII
	<p>Project Summary⁷: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommended that the Judicial Council allocate \$3 billion to the trial courts, including \$2.8 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund, which included \$74.1 million General Fund for inflationary costs and \$207.8 million General Fund for employee benefits, pretrial funding, implementation of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act, and for support of trial court operations for 2023–24. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee also recommended approval of the Workload Formula allocation of \$2.5 billion (a subset of the total \$3 billion allocation) based on recommended methodologies. The allocations were approved by the Judicial Council at its July 21, 2023 business meeting.</p> <p>The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will continue to make recommendations to the council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input to the council on policy issues affecting trial court funding. This will include an ongoing evaluation of existing allocation methodologies and consideration of alternative methodologies to advance the goal of funding equity and stability to support trial court operations.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. The committee will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
2.	Project Title Workload Formula Adjustment Request Process (ARP)	Priority 1⁵
		Strategic Plan Goal⁶ VII
	<p>Project Summary⁷: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. At its August 22, 2013 meeting, the Judicial Council approved the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to adopt the Workload Formula Adjustment Request Process to allow courts an annual opportunity to submit recommendations for changes to the Workload Formula. The project outcome is expected to assist the courts and the council with ongoing review and refinement of the Workload Formula to support trial court operations.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p>	

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities⁴	
	<p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Business Management Services’ Office of Court Research and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. The committee will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Data Analytics Advisory Committee.</p>	
3.	Project Title Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act	Priority 1⁵
	<p>Strategic Plan Goal⁶VII</p> <p>Project Summary⁷: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of a new required court-based mental health services engagement and oversight program. The 2023 Budget Act included \$29.5 million for the trial courts for program planning and implementation. Of that amount, \$21.7 million was allocated to Cohort One trial courts (Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Los Angeles) and \$7.7 million to Cohort Two courts to support implementation in 2024–25. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommended utilizing the Workload Formula methodology to allocate the 2023–24 CARE Act funding to all participating courts in 2023–24 and in subsequent years. This methodology was approved by the Judicial Council at its July 21, 2023 business meeting. The allocation for Los Angeles Superior Court was approved by the council at its September 19, 2023 meeting, as Los Angeles was added to Cohort One late in the budget process and was not included in the allocations approved by the council in July.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. The committee will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
4.	Project Title Court Interpreter Funding Methodology	Priority 2⁵
	Strategic Plan Goal⁶VII	

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities ⁴
	<p>Project Summary⁷: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated due to the declining fund balance in the Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program (0150037). The Ad Hoc Interpreter Working Group was established to develop a methodology for allocations from the Court Interpreters Program in the event of a funding shortfall and to review existing methodologies. The working group made a recommendation to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee that was approved by the Judicial Council on July 24, 2020, to allocate the 2020 Budget Act appropriation to the trial courts, replacing the prior reimbursement process. Effective July 1, 2022, the Judicial Council approved an update to the methodology that incorporates the prior three years' interpreter expenditures and allocates funding up to the appropriation amount. Unspent funds will reimburse courts with a shortfall. On January 20, 2023, the Judicial Council approved additional recommendations to the methodology to exclude the 2020–21 pandemic year in the three-year average expenditure data indefinitely, utilize Court Interpreters Program fund balance to make courts whole in the event court savings are insufficient up to the appropriation amount, and approve a cross-assignment reimbursement process. The working group will continue its work in 2024 to consider if data on video remote interpreting can be utilized in the methodology for consideration by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee. The project outcome anticipates that allocations will not exceed the program appropriation using a workload-based methodology based on the most reliable data available.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. The committee will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>

III. LIST OF 2023 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	<p>Workload Formula, State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund, and Trial Court Trust Fund Allocations</p> <p>The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee made 2023–24 recommendations to the Judicial Council that included State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and Trial Court Trust Fund allocations to support trial court programs and operations. The recommendations included allocations of \$45.2 million from the Improvement and Modernization Fund and approximately \$3 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund, which were approved by the Judicial Council at its July 21, 2023 business meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Allocation Methodologies for SB 154 and SB 101 Backfill Funding</p> <p>The Funding Methodology Subcommittee recommended allocation methodologies for trial court backfill funding, developed in consultation with the Department of Finance, related to the expansion of eligibility for civil filing fee waivers and elimination of certain criminal fees. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved the recommendation for the five-year revenue collection methodology for allocation of \$689,000 in backfill funding to the trial courts for 2022–23 and ongoing. For 2023–24, trial courts will receive a total of \$1.4 million, which includes the annual backfill amount for 2022–23 and 2023–24. In addition, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved the five-year average revenue collection methodology for allocation of \$826,000 in backfill funding to the trial courts for 2023–24 and ongoing. The recommendations were approved by the Judicial Council at its September 19, 2023 business meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Civil Assessment Allocation Methodology</p> <p>Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of new, ongoing funding included in the 2022 Budget Act to backfill civil assessment fee revenue loss due to the reduction in the amount of the civil assessment from \$300 to \$100 and one-time elimination of prior debt. Civil assessment revenues are now deposited into the General Fund rather than the Trial Court Trust Fund. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommended allocation methodology for the \$110 million was approved by the Judicial Council at its July 15, 2022 business meeting. Beginning in 2023–24, the amount of civil assessment backfill funding is \$100 million ongoing. The Judicial Council approved the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to allocate the ongoing \$10 million reduction at its September 20, 2022 business meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Court Reporter Funding</p> <p>Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of \$30 million ongoing General Fund included in the 2021 Budget Act to increase the number of court reporters in family law and civil law case types. The Ad Hoc Court Reporter Funding Subcommittee was established to develop a methodology for allocating the funding to all trial courts. The Trial Court</p>

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
	<p>Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to allocate the \$30 million proportionally based on the most-recently published Assessed Judicial Need, after a funding floor is provided, beginning in 2021–22, was approved by the Judicial Council at its January 22, 2022 business meeting. This established allocation methodology is used to allocate funding included in the annual budget to the trial courts to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law case types.</p>
5.	<p>Increased Transcript Rates</p> <p>Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of \$7 million ongoing General Fund included in the 2021 Budget Act to address the costs associated with increased transcript rates. The Ad Hoc Court Reporter Funding Subcommittee was established to develop a methodology for allocating the funding to all trial courts. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to allocate the \$7 million proportionally in one lump sum using an average of the prior three-year transcript expenditures was approved by the Judicial Council at its January 21, 2022 business meeting. The recommendation also established a baseline for identifying cost increases based on the most-recently published Assessed Judicial Need after a funding floor is provided, beginning in 2021–22. This established allocation methodology is used to allocate funding included in the annual budget to the trial courts to cover the cost of increased transcript rates.</p>
6.	<p>State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and Trial Court Trust Fund Allocation Adjustments</p> <p>Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated from requests from several Judicial Council offices to increase their approved allocations from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and Trial Court Trust Fund to address unanticipated funding needs in support of the trial courts. The Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee and Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee acted promptly to consider the requests to ensure the funding adjustments occurred timely to meet the needs of the trial courts and comply with related rules of court. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee advanced the respective recommendations for these requests which were approved by the Judicial Council at various business meetings.</p>

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2025

Pending Approval by Judicial Branch Budget Committee: December 10, 2024

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Judge, Superior Court of Fresno County
Lead Staff:	Ms. Rose Lane, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services
<p>Committee’s Charge/Membership:</p> <p>Rule 10.64(a) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input to the council on policy issues affecting trial court funding. Rule 10.64(b) sets forth additional duties of the committee.</p> <p>Rule 10.64(c) sets forth the membership requirements of the committee. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee currently has 24 membership positions, of which 22 are filled. The current committee roster is available on the committee’s web page.</p>	
<p>Subgroups of the Advisory Committee²:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fiscal Planning Subcommittee – Review recommendations regarding trial court requests to set aside funds to be held on their behalf that would have reverted to the Trial Court Trust Fund pursuant to the fund balance cap as specified in Government Code section 77203. This subcommittee also reviews requests from trial courts related to Children’s Waiting Room funding. 2. Funding Methodology Subcommittee – Ongoing review and refinement of the Workload Formula, develop methodologies for allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program (0150037) in the event of funding shortfalls, and consider allocation methodologies for funding augmentations and reductions as necessary. Additionally, the subcommittee will continue its ongoing work to evaluate existing allocation methodologies and consider alternative allocation approaches based on the Workload Formula’s core principles to advance the goal of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations. 3. Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee – Ongoing review of Trial Court Trust Fund and State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund allocations supporting trial court projects and programs as well as any cash flow issues affecting the trial courts. 	

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

²For the definition of “subcommittee” see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); “working group” see rule 10.70, “workstream,” see rule 10.53(c); and “education curriculum committee,” see rule 10.50(c)(6).

Meetings Planned for 2025³**Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee**

January 2025/Videoconference; February 2025/Videoconference; May 2025/Videoconference; July 2025/ Videoconference; October 2025/Videoconference

Funding Methodology Subcommittee

January 2025/Videoconference; April 2025/Videoconference; June 2025/ Videoconference; September 2025/Videoconference

Fiscal Planning Subcommittee

October 2025/Videoconference

Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee

April 2025/Videoconference

Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

³ Refer to section IV. 2. of the [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is suspending advisory body in-person meetings for the 2024–2025 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek final approval from the advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2024, for additional details.

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴	
1.	Project Title: Workload Formula Allocation Methodologies for Potential Future Budget Reductions and Funding Restoration	Priority 1⁵ Strategic Plan Goal⁶VII
<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated from a new item added to the approved Funding Methodology Subcommittee’s annual work plan for fiscal year 2024–25. The project is to further refine the Workload Formula policy, including methodologies to allocate future budget reductions and/or the restoration of funding that had previously been reduced due to budget shortfalls. The Budget Act of 2024 included an ongoing reduction of \$97 million to trial court baseline funding due to the state’s projected multi-year budget deficit. The Judicial Council approved the allocation of this reduction in July 2024, with the understanding that the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will continue to explore additional methodologies for future allocations. In October 2024, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee started to work on this project. The expected outcome is potential updates to the Workload Formula policy that may include changes to existing allocation methodologies to address future budget reductions and the restoration of funding to ensure they align with the policy’s core principles to advance the goal of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations. The targeted completion date is for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to make a recommendation at the April 2025 Judicial Council business meeting for implementation in fiscal year 2025–26.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: One-time.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>		

⁴ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as *implementation* or a *program* in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁵ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law; 1(b) Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms; 1(c) Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; or 1(d) Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. *For each priority level 1 proposal, the advisory body must provide a specific reason why it should be done this year and how it fits within the identified category.* 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law; 2(b) Responsive to identified concerns or problems; or 2(c) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives. *If an advisory committee is interested in pursuing any Priority Level 2 proposals, please include justification as to why the proposal should be approved at this time.*

⁶ Indicate which goal number of The Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch the project most closely aligns.

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴	
2.	Project Title: Court Interpreter Program Funding and Policy Review	Priority 1
		Strategic Plan Goal VII
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of a \$4.6 million shortfall of Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program funding in fiscal year 2023–24 and projected future shortfalls. On January 20, 2023, the Judicial Council approved a Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommendation for when courts experience a shortfall, in which courts with a shortage will first be covered by other court savings up to the appropriation amount, after which the Court Interpreters Program funding balance will be used to make courts whole, and funds will be allocated proportionally based on the percentage of the shortfall if the savings or funding balance is insufficient to cover the shortage. On November 22, 2024, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee considered recommendations to address any Court Interpreters Program funding shortfalls for fiscal years 2023–24, 2024–25, and 2025–26, and direct Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts’ staff to work in collaboration with the Court Executives Advisory Committee to further refine the Court Interpreters Program policy to address the statewide operational impacts of increasing program costs. This item will be considered by the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025, business meeting.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: New.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
3.	Project Title: Court Reporter Funding	Priority 1
		Strategic Plan Goal VII
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of ongoing funding of \$30 million beginning in fiscal year 2021–22 to increase the number of court reporters in family law and civil law case types. At its July 12, 2024, business meeting, the Judicial Council directed council staff to survey the courts after allocations are distributed to the trial courts, no later than mid-year of fiscal year 2024–25, for a one-time redistribution of unspent funds to ensure the full appropriation is maximized to increase the number of court reporters. The expected outcome is to redistribute funding in the current year to be used by the courts to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law case types.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: New.</p>	

#	New or One-Time Projects⁴	
	<p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Business Management Services and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
4.	Project Title: Firearms Relinquishment Grant Program	Priority 1
	Strategic Plan Goal VII	
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of \$40 million one-time General Fund included in the Budget Act of 2022 to support court-based firearm relinquishment programs. In fiscal years 2022–23 and 2023–24, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommended \$20.1 million in allocations to eight trial courts in the first two grant cycles. In fiscal year 2024–25, the budget for this program was reduced by \$9.2 million due to the state’s fiscal deficit and \$9.1 million was retained for a third grant cycle and \$1.6 million for the required program evaluation. The \$9.1 million for the third grant cycle, which included awards to six trial courts, was approved by the Judicial Council at its November 15, 2024, business meeting. The funding for this program must be spent or encumbered by June 30, 2025.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: One-time.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
5.	Project Title: Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program	Priority 1
	Strategic Plan Goal VII	

#	New or One-Time Projects⁴	
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. At its July 12, 2024, business meeting, the Judicial Council approved a \$21 million Trial Court Trust Fund allocation for fiscal year 2024–25 for the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program, which included \$5 million of additional funding for a mid-cycle allocation. On October 4, 2024, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved the Shriver Committee’s recommendation to allocate \$3.6 million of the \$5 million to existing pilot participants. The Shriver program will hold the unrequested amount of \$1.4 million in the program’s reserves to be allocated in the 2026–29 grant cycle. After the allocation of the \$3.5 million, total reserve funding for the program is \$20 million. This item was approved by the Judicial Council at its November 15, 2024, business meeting. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will collaborate with the Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee as needed to support future grant cycles.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: New and one-time.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
6.	<p>Project Title: Court Cluster System</p>	<p>Priority 2</p> <p>Strategic Plan Goal VII</p>
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated from a Funding Methodology Subcommittee recommendation made on February 20, 2020, to initiate an ad hoc subcommittee to reevaluate the cluster system to identify potential opportunities for refinement or change. On July 6, 2023, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved updates to the annual Funding Methodology Subcommittee workplan, which referred the court cluster system project to the Data Analytics Advisory Committee. The Data Analytics Advisory Committee met on September 25, 2024, to begin their evaluation. The project outcome could potentially impact the statewide four-cluster system and/or its criteria, which is informed by the number of authorized judicial positions.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: One-time.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Business Management Services’ Office of Court Research and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p>	

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴
	<p data-bbox="176 191 1184 224"><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p data-bbox="176 264 1415 297"><i>AC Collaboration:</i> Data Analytics Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
1.	Project Title: Workload Formula and Allocations to the Trial Courts	Priority 1
		Strategic Plan Goal VII
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council make annual allocations to the trial courts. For fiscal year 2024–25, this included a total of \$3 billion, \$2.8 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund and \$137.8 million General Fund for support of trial court operations, based on recommended methodologies and the Workload Formula. The allocations were approved by the Judicial Council at its July 12, 2024, business meeting.</p> <p>The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will continue to make recommendations to the council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input on policy issues affecting trial court funding. This will include an ongoing evaluation of existing allocation methodologies and consideration of alternative allocation approaches based on the Workload Formula’s core principles to advance the goal of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will continue to collaborate with other advisory committees including, but not limited to, the Data Analytics Advisory Committee on relevant issues affecting the Workload Formula and trial court funding priorities.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee, Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and Data Analytics Advisory Committee.</p>	
2.	Project Title: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act	Priority 1
		Strategic Plan Goal VII
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. The project originated as a result of a new court-based mental health services engagement and oversight program beginning in fiscal year 2022–23. In fiscal years 2022–23 and 2023–24, a total of \$32.2 million was allocated to the trial courts in Cohorts One and Two for planning and program implementation. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommended utilizing the Workload Formula methodology to allocate CARE Act funding to all participating courts in 2023–24 and in subsequent years. The Budget Act of 2024 includes \$26.5 million to fund court operations related to the CARE Act. All trial courts are required to implement the CARE Act by December 30, 2024. A methodology to reallocate unspent funding during fiscal year 2024–25 will be considered.</p>	

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
	<p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Health Care Services.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	
3.	<p>Project Title: Workload Formula Adjustment Request Process</p>	<p>Priority 2</p> <hr/> <p>Strategic Plan Goal VII</p>
	<p>Project Summary: Part of the charge of the committee pursuant to rule 10.64. At its August 22, 2013, business meeting, the Judicial Council approved the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to adopt the Workload Formula adjustment request process to provide the trial courts with an annual opportunity to submit recommendations for changes to the Workload Formula as needed. The Judicial Council last received a Workload Formula adjustment request proposal in January 2024 from the Superior Court of Fresno County. However, after review of the request by the Judicial Council’s Office of Court Research, it was determined that the adjustments were already accounted for in the Workload Formula model. This process is in place to assist the Judicial Council with the ongoing review and refinement of the Workload Formula to respond to potential changes in the funding needs of the trial courts.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Business Management Services’ Office of Court Research and Budget Services staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Data Analytics Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>	

III. LIST OF 2024 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	<p>Workload Formula, State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund, and Trial Court Trust Fund Allocations</p> <p>The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee made recommendations to the Judicial Council that included State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and Trial Court Trust Fund allocations for 2024–25 to support trial court programs and operations. On July 12, 2024, the Judicial Council approved allocations totaling \$46.6 million from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and an allocation of \$3 billion, which includes \$2.8 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund, \$137.8 million from the General Fund, and an ongoing \$97 million General Fund reduction to the trial courts’ operational funding due to the state’s fiscal deficit.</p>
2.	<p>Funds Held on Behalf Policy Update</p> <p>In October 2023, the Fiscal Planning Subcommittee’s Ad Hoc Funds Held on Behalf Working Group was established. The working group was charged with evaluating the process, application, and distribution components of the Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts program. The recommendations from the working group included newly defined criteria, streamlining of the submission process, and implementation of a reimbursement model to distribute funding to the participating trial courts, which support improved transparency and accountability of the program. The recommendations were approved by the Judicial Council at its March 24, 2024, business meeting and were implemented in fiscal year 2024–25.</p>
3.	<p>Workload Formula Definition for “New Money”</p> <p>At its July 12, 2024, business meeting, the Judicial Council approved a recommendation from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee that Consumer Price Index 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. As a result, the definition of “new money” in the Workload Formula policy was revised to exclude Consumer Price Index funding.</p>
4.	<p>State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Allocation Increase for the Litigation Management Program for 2023–24</p> <p>In fiscal year 2023–24, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee acted promptly to recommend a \$2 million State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund allocation for the Litigation Management Program to address increased legal services for the trial courts. The \$2 million request was to supplement the annual appropriation of \$6.2 million General Fund for the Litigation Management Program and was approved by the Judicial Council at its May 17, 2024, business meeting. As a result of increasing program costs, the Judicial Council also approved (1) an increased allocation for the program in 2024–25 from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and (2) a budget change proposal requesting additional funding for the program for consideration in the fiscal year 2025–26 Governor’s Budget.</p>

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
5.	<p>Court Interpreter Funding Methodology</p> <p>At its July, 2, 2024 meeting, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved updates to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee’s annual work plan for fiscal year 2024–25. The multi-year project for the development of an ongoing workload-based allocation methodology for Court Interpreter Program funding was removed from the plan. The final components of this project, related to the use of data collected in the Court Interpreter Data Collection System for video remote interpreting and a mechanism for courts to bill each other for cross assignments, were recently completed and no further action is needed.</p>