

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Trial Court Budget Change Proposals for 2025-26
Date: 1/30/2024
Contact: Rose Lane, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services
916-643-6926 | rosemary.lane@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Finalize the budget change proposal (BCP) concepts from the trial courts for consideration in the 2025–26 budget development process.

Background

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee met on January 22, 2024 to report and discuss trial court funding priorities for potential 2025–26 BCPs¹. Attachment A outlines the funding priorities identified, which are grouped by category and sorted by the approximate number of times the concept was reported as a priority item.

The full list of funding priorities includes input from several courts that was received after the January 22, 2024 meeting.

Recommendation

Finalize and prioritize the 2025–26 BCP concept proposals for the trial courts for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee at its March 13, 2024 meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A: 2025–26 Trial Court Funding Priorities, January 22, 2024

¹ TCBC meeting materials (January 22, 2024), <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/tcbac-20240122-materials.pdf>.

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
2025–26 Trial Court Funding Priorities
January 22 2024

2025–26 Budget Change Proposal (BCP) Concept Title		Approx. # of Submissions
Cost of Court Operations		
A	Inflationary Adjustment (Consumer Price Index)	38
B	Trial Court Salary Increases	1
C	Minimum Wage Inflation Offsets	1
D	Research Attorney Funding	1
Facilities		
E	New and Deferred Facility Maintenance Funding (including modifications, upgrades, and deferred maintenance)	12
F	Funding for Courthouse Construction (including courthouses not managed by the Judicial Council and associated security measures)	7
G	Ongoing Facility Lease Funding	2
General Operations		
H	Self-Help Funding	9
I	Funding for Unfunded Mandates (including AB 1058, California Family Code 3150 counsel for minors, mental health diversion, conservatorship changes, and post-conviction work)	8
J	Mental Health Evaluation Funding (including caseload, reports, and doctor costs), Forensic and Psychological Evaluations, Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations	8
K	Court Interpreter Funding	7
L	Increased Court Reporter Funding	2
M	Increased Funding for Capitol Projects	1
N	Ongoing CARE Act Funding	1
O	Maintain Juvenile Dependency Counsel Funding	1
P	Family Law Facilitator Funding	1
Q	Increased Ongoing Pretrial Funding	1
R	Funding for Jury-Related Expenses (including parking, fees, mileage, and failures to appear)	1
Information Technology (IT)		
S	Increased and Ongoing Technology Funding (including modernization, equipment purchases, staff, support, licensing, and infrastructure)	15
T	Funding for Remote Courtroom and Public Services	3
U	Funding for Digitizing Court Records (including warehouse records)	2
V	Audio Visual Funding	1
W	Funding for E-Filing integration	1
Security		
X	Increased Court Security Funding	6
Y	Law Enforcement Security Funding	1
Workload Formula Funding		
Z	Assess an Estimate-based Workload Methodology	4
AA	Equity Funding	4
Other Judicial Branch Priorities¹		
i	Increase or Eliminate Fund Balance Cap	7
ii	Maintain Current Funding / Baseline Funding Level	7
iii	Additional Judgeships	5

¹ Not proposed as BCPs, but listed as priorities to address.

List includes funding priorities from several courts received after the January 22, 2024 meeting.