



Judicial Council of California
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

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TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FUNDING METHODOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

March 11, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/4163>

Advisory Body Judges: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin (Cochair), Hon. J. Eric Bradshaw, Hon. Judith C. Clark, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Hon. David C. Kalemkarian, and Hon. Patricia L. Kelly

Members Present: Executive Officers: Mr. Chad Finke (Cochair), Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Shawn C. Landry, Mr. Chris Ruhl, Mr. David W. Slayton, Ms. Kim Turner, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki

Advisory Body Ms. Rebecca Fleming

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Donna Newman, Ms. Thera Hearne, Ms. Rose Lane, and Ms. Oksana Tuk

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body approved the minutes of the February 5, 2025, Funding Methodology Subcommittee (FMS) meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1-3)

Item 1 – Funding Reallocation in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025–26 with No New Money (Action Required)

Consideration of a reallocation of existing funding in FY 2025–26 to support equity for the trial courts per the Workload Formula policy regarding no new money.

Action: The FMS unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting:

1. Approve the equity-based reallocation of existing funding for the trial courts for FY 2025–26 based on specified steps in the Workload Formula policy regarding no new money as displayed in Attachment 1A. The final reallocation will be based on the new calculated need and technical adjustments for FY 2025–26 and is contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2025–26;
2. Approve the sequence of funding adjustments for FY 2025–26 so that the equity-based reallocation of existing funding as noted in recommendation #1 occurs first before adding the \$40 million for increased operational costs for the trial courts, which is detailed in Item 2 of the agenda; and
3. Revisit the Workload Formula policy for equity-based reallocation in future years.

Item 2 – Allocation Methodology for \$40 Million for Trial Court Operational Cost Increases (Action Required)

Consideration of an allocation methodology for the ongoing \$40 million included in the FY 2025–26 Governor's Budget to address operational cost increases for the trial courts.

Action: The FMS unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting:

1. Approve the \$40 million allocation for operational cost increases as a proportional increase over each trial court's FY 2024–25 Workload Formula allocation as displayed in Attachment 2A, including technical adjustments to the calculation and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2025–26; and
2. Approve the sequence of funding adjustments for FY 2025–26 so that the \$40 million allocation is added after the equity-based reallocation of existing funding in the second year of no new money (as described in Item 1 of the agenda).

Item 3 – Allocation Methodologies for Potential Future Funding Restoration (Action Required)

Consideration of allocation methodology options for potential restoration of funding for trial courts in future budget years.

Action: The FMS unanimously voted to approve the existing Workload Formula methodology, based on need, for the restoration of funding in a future fiscal year that follows a reduction in a prior fiscal year, as outlined in Option 2 and displayed in Attachment 3C. This recommendation will be consideration by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on June 18, 2025.