



Judicial Council of California

**TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FUNDING METHODOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING**

December 18, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/4961>

Members Present: Judges: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin (Cochair), Hon. Judith C. Clark, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Hon. David C. Kalemkarian, and Hon. Patricia L. Kelly

Executive Officers: Mr. Chad Finke (Cochair), Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Jake Chatters, Ms. Rebecca Fleming, Mr. David W. Slayton, Ms. Kim Turner, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki

Others Present: Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Audrey Fancy, Ms. Kristin Greenaway, Ms. Deirdre Benedict, Ms. Kelly Meehleib, Ms. Maria Lira, and Ms. Oksana Tuk

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body approved the minutes of the October 9, 2025, Funding Methodology Subcommittee (FMS) meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 3)

Item 1

Trial Court Minimum Operating and Emergency Fund Balance Policy (Action Required)

Consideration of the repeal of the Judicial Council's trial court minimum operating and emergency fund balance requirements.

Action: *The FMS unanimously voted to approve a one-year suspension of the Judicial Council's trial court minimum operating and emergency fund balance policy until June 30, 2027, to give the subcommittee time to reevaluate the policy and consider potential changes to appropriately reflect current conditions regarding trial court financial operations and reserve needs. The FMS recommends adding this item to the subcommittee's annual work plan. This recommendation will be considered by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its April 24, 2026, business meeting.*

Item 2

Mid-Year Reallocation for Pretrial Release Program for Fiscal Year 2025–26 (Action Required)

Consideration of a mid-year reallocation of unspent funding for the Pretrial Release Program in fiscal year 2025–26.

Action: *The FMS unanimously voted to approve option one on a one-time basis for reallocation of the \$194,000 in available funding for the Pretrial Release Program as outlined in Attachment 2A, Table 1. This recommendation will be considered by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its April 24, 2026, business meeting.*

Item 3

Allocation Methodology for Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel (Action Required)

Consideration of potential changes to the current allocation methodology for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel funding.

Action: *The FMS cochairs will establish a working group comprised of FMS members to consider potential changes to the allocation methodology and recommend revising the annual FMS workplan to include this item.*

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (ITEM 1) (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Item 1

Funding Methodology Subcommittee Work Plan Updates

Updates for various Funding Methodology Subcommittee work plan items, including the court cluster system and Workload Formula Policy adjustment requests.

Action: *No action taken.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on July 22, 2026.