JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES

Report to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
(Action Item)

Title: **Fiscal Year 2025–26 Reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act Funding**

Date: 2/26/2026

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Issue

Consideration of a one-time reallocation of $72,960 from unspent Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act funding in fiscal year (FY) 2025–26 to provide additional resources to one trial court—the Superior Court of El Dorado County—that exceeded their current year allocation to support program activities.

Background

The Budget Act of 2025 included $32.9 million to fund court operations related to the CARE Act in FY 2025–26 for the 58 trial courts.

At its business meeting on July 21, 2023[1], the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology that included the following:

1. For Cohort One courts implementing the CARE Act, an allocation for court hearing costs that employs the Workload Formula with a base of 25 CARE Act cases calculated at $93,225;

2. For Cohort One courts implementing the CARE Act, an allocation for staff and other operational costs that employs the Workload Formula with a base of $98,000, prorated to the amount that Cohort One courts are estimated to receive in FY 2024–25 when all courts are implementing the CARE Act;

3. For Cohort Two courts, an allocation that employs the Workload Formula with a base of $98,000, prorated to the amount that remains after the allocation described in step two above and after reduction by 0.5 percent to hold as a reserve for Cohort One courts that require additional program funding, with any unspent funding from the court allocations and this reserve redistributed through the reallocation process via the approved methodology; and

[1] Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2023–24 Allocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding (June 7, 2023), *https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12125820&GUID=BB56211B-2F20-4BB8-8E94-B0909B17F695*.

- A method to reallocate unspent funds during the fiscal year.

Reallocation Survey and Process

Judicial Council staff sent out the reallocation survey to the 58 trial courts in January 2026 to obtain an estimate of their potential unspent funding available in FY 2025–26 for the one-time reallocation process. A total of 53 courts responded to the survey.

There are 38 courts that indicated through the survey that they anticipate expenditures lower than their allocation, and are able to return CARE Act funding in FY 2025–26 through the mid-year reallocation process. The total amount of unspent funding estimated by the 38 courts is $9.9 million.

There is one court that indicated they would be able to utilize additional CARE Act funding in FY 2025–26, the Superior Court of El Dorado County. The additional funding needed by the court is $72,960.

The $72,960 requested will be deducted from the allocations of those courts returning funding on a pro-rata basis. This leaves 99 percent of the $9.9 million of the estimated unspent funding currently to continue to fund services through the end of the fiscal year. While courts currently project approximately $9.9 million in funding available for return, actual expenditures may vary by the end of the fiscal year.

The list of courts and detailed survey results are outlined in Attachment A.

Upon approval of the recommendation, council staff will include the reallocation of $72,960 in the May 2026 distribution to the trial courts.

Recommendation

Approve the recommendation to reallocate $72,960 of unspent CARE Act funding in FY 2025–26 to El Dorado Court as outlined in Attachment A. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on April 24, 2026.

Attachments

Attachment A: Recommended Fiscal Year 2025–26 Reallocation and Redistribution of CARE Act Funding

Attachment A

Recommended Fiscal Year 2025–26 Reallocation and Redistribution of CARE Act Funding

Court	Responded to Survey	Allocation Amount	Amount Available for Reallocation	Additional Amount Requested
Alameda	Yes	1,005,414	-	-
Alpine	No	191,225		
Amador	Yes	191,225	90,000	-
Butte	Yes	317,994	300,000	-
Calaveras	Yes	191,225	50,000	-
Colusa	Yes	191,225	191,225	-
Contra Costa	Yes	674,682	-	-
Del Norte	No	191,225		
El Dorado	Yes	191,225	-	72,960
Fresno	Yes	769,612	250,000	-
Glenn	Yes	191,225	110,000	-
Humboldt	Yes	191,225	-	-
Imperial	Yes	191,225	150,000	-
Inyo	Yes	191,225	191,225	-
Kern	Yes	772,469	522,469	-
Kings	Yes	191,225	185,000	-
Lake	Yes	191,225	191,225	-
Lassen	Yes	191,225	40,000	-
Los Angeles	Yes	6,839,203	-	-
Madera	Yes	303,766	302,266	-
Marin	Yes	321,223	75,000	-
Mariposa	Yes	191,225	191,225	-
Mendocino	Yes	191,225	74,000	-
Merced	Yes	345,582	145,000	-
Modoc	No	191,225		
Mono	Yes	191,225	180,000	-
Monterey	Yes	430,117	200,000	-
Napa	Yes	191,225	-	-
Nevada	Yes	191,225	180,225	-
Orange	Yes	1,899,607	1,080,704	-
Placer	Yes	419,628	-	-
Plumas	Yes	191,225	150,000	-
Riverside	Yes	1,441,221	500,000	-
Sacramento	Yes	1,180,137	909,618	-
San Benito	Yes	191,225	-	-
San Bernardino	Yes	1,500,038	-	-
San Diego	Yes	1,765,122	-	-
San Francisco	Yes	764,852	-	-
San Joaquin	Yes	658,951	608,950	-
San Luis Obispo	Yes	361,793	274,240	-
San Mateo	Yes	584,512	-	-
Santa Barbara	Yes	440,496	433,098	-
Santa Clara	Yes	1,063,149	-	-
Santa Cruz	Yes	345,498	160,498	-
Shasta	No	339,661		
Sierra	Yes	191,225	141,225	-
Siskiyou	Yes	191,225	185,000	-
Solano	Yes	455,077	90,000	-
Sonoma	No	468,452		
Stanislaus	Yes	484,317	315,000	-
Sutter	Yes	191,225	150,000	-
Tehama	Yes	191,225	171,225	-
Trinity	Yes	191,225	186,650	-
Tulare	Yes	483,065	351,835	-
Tuolumne	Yes	191,225	-	-
Ventura	Yes	597,694	350,000	-
Yolo	Yes	331,651	-	-
Yuba	Yes	191,225	183,725	-
Reserve*	N/A	164,419		
Total	**53**	**$32,883,700**	**$9,860,627**	**$72,960**

* Reflects 0.5 percent of the FY 2025-26 CARE Act appropriation.