



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-118

For business meeting on July 18, 2025

Title

Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2025–26
Allocation of Community Assistance,
Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act
Funding

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

July 18, 2025

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

June 16, 2025

Recommended by

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair
Ms. Rebecca Fleming, Vice-Chair

Contact

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Executive Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) recommends allocation of \$32.9 million to trial courts for fiscal year 2025–26 included in the Budget Act of 2025 for the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act. The allocation may change based on final appropriations included in the enacted Budget Act. The TCBAC presented this recommendation to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) on April 24, 2025, and the JBBC approved it for consideration by the Judicial Council.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council, effective July 18, 2025:

1. Approve the continuation of all elements of the allocation methodology approved in fiscal year (FY) 2023–24, including employing the Workload Formula and the funding base already defined; and

2. Approve an allocation of \$32.9 million, with base funding and pro rata distribution of remaining funds, to fund trial court operations related to the CARE Act for FY 2025–26.

Relevant Previous Council Action

On January 20, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology to distribute \$2.8 million in planning funds to the seven courts making up the first cohort of courts implementing the CARE Act in FY 2022–23.¹ On July 21, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology and allocations to the courts for the \$20 million for court costs that was included in the Budget Act of 2023.² On September 19, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an additional CARE Act allocation to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County that was included in the Budget Act of 2023.³ On July 12, 2024, the Judicial Council approved the methodology and allocations for FY 2024–25.⁴ On April 25, 2025, the Judicial Council approved reallocation of FY 2024–25 CARE Act funding based on projected unspent funding and additional funding needs among the courts.⁵

Analysis/Rationale

The FY 2025–26 Governor’s Budget included \$32.9 million for CARE Act trial court operations for the 58 trial courts.

At its business meeting on July 21, 2023,⁶ the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology for FY 2023–24 and subsequent years that included the following:

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

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Allocation Methodology* (Nov. 29, 2022), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11534097&GUID=9FC7F7C5-8C5F-4D79-970C-FC1A78752C5A>.

² 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>.

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2023–24 Allocation of CARE Act Funding* (Aug. 23, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12246630&GUID=64A38B92-D51B-4459-BF69-F16D534D0541>.

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2024–25 Allocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding* (June 18, 2024), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13046643&GUID=BA05FF49-8305-4B35-A13A-AFCCB554AF5B>.

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2024–25 Reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding* (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14019714&GUID=581352AD-51DE-43C4-BC33-4133ADA9C3A7>.

⁶ 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>.

2. For Cohort One courts, 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 received in FY 2024–25, when all courts implemented 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 for Cohort One courts described in recommendation 2 and after reduction by 0.5 percent to hold as a reserve for Cohort One courts that require additional program funding and any unspent funding from the court allocations and this reserve redistributed through the reallocation process; and
4. A method to reallocate unspent funds during the fiscal year, through a survey of all courts assessing projected expenditures and reallocation needs.

The allocation methodology proposed for consideration for FY 2025–26 (Attachment A) retains the base funding and Workload Formula elements of the 2023–24 methodology and is updated to reflect a full year of implementation funding for all courts.

The final allocation of the \$32.9 million will be updated based on any needed technical adjustments and is contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2025–26.

Policy implications

The committee did not raise policy implications for the proposal.

Comments

Public comments were not solicited for this proposal because the recommendations are within the Judicial Council’s purview to approve without circulation.

Alternatives considered

The recommended action makes no changes to the methodology. At its meeting on April 16, 2025,⁷ the TCBAC discussed the opportunity for potential updates to the existing methodology in future fiscal years to ensure that courts receive funding aligned with CARE Act workload once more data is available from all courts.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

This recommendation is for the allocation of funds that are included in the FY 2025–26 budget. No additional costs or impacts are anticipated.

⁷ Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting notice and agenda (Apr. 16, 2025), <https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20250416-noticeandagenda.pdf>; Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting materials (Apr. 16, 2025), <https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20250416-materials.pdf>.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: CARE Act Allocation of Court Operations Budget FY 2025–26

CARE Act Allocation of Court Operations Budget FY 2025–26

Col. A	Col. B	Col. C	Col. D	Col. E	Col. F	Col. G	Col. H	Col. I
Court	Final Workload Allocation			Staff/Other		Court/Ops		Total
	Final Workload Allocation	Percentage	Distribution	Base	Final Staff/Other Costs	Base	Final Hearing Costs	Total Allocation
Alameda	89,736,650	3.56%	751,677	98,000	\$ 679,154	93,225	\$ 326,260	\$ 1,005,414
Alpine	978,500	0.04%	8,196	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Amador	4,508,080	0.18%	37,762	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Butte	13,971,923	0.55%	117,035	98,000	\$ 188,485	93,225	\$ 129,508	\$ 317,994
Calaveras	3,478,322	0.14%	29,136	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Colusa	2,506,641	0.10%	20,997	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Contra Costa	53,284,741	2.11%	446,338	98,000	\$ 443,084	93,225	\$ 231,599	\$ 674,682
Del Norte	3,867,969	0.15%	32,400	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
El Dorado	9,526,802	0.38%	79,801	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Fresno	63,747,461	2.53%	533,979	98,000	\$ 510,842	93,225	\$ 258,769	\$ 769,612
Glenn	2,997,045	0.12%	25,105	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Humboldt	8,921,029	0.35%	74,727	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Imperial	10,504,343	0.42%	87,989	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Inyo	2,549,184	0.10%	21,353	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Kern	64,062,338	2.54%	536,616	98,000	\$ 512,882	93,225	\$ 259,587	\$ 772,469
Kings	11,101,306	0.44%	92,990	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Lake	5,096,756	0.20%	42,693	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Lassen	2,800,148	0.11%	23,455	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Los Angeles	732,713,543	29.06%	6,137,554	98,000	\$ 4,843,212	93,225	\$ 1,995,991	\$ 6,839,203
Madera	12,403,858	0.49%	103,901	98,000	\$ 178,330	93,225	\$ 125,436	\$ 303,766
Marin	14,327,907	0.57%	120,017	98,000	\$ 190,791	93,225	\$ 130,433	\$ 321,223
Mariposa	1,853,846	0.07%	15,529	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Mendocino	7,646,197	0.30%	64,048	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Merced	17,012,600	0.67%	142,506	98,000	\$ 208,177	93,225	\$ 137,405	\$ 345,582
Modoc	1,406,022	0.06%	11,778	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Mono	2,439,556	0.10%	20,435	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Monterey	26,329,671	1.04%	220,550	98,000	\$ 268,517	93,225	\$ 161,600	\$ 430,117
Napa	9,282,739	0.37%	77,757	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Nevada	6,639,488	0.26%	55,615	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Orange	188,291,022	7.47%	1,577,214	98,000	\$ 1,317,414	93,225	\$ 582,193	\$ 1,899,607
Placer	25,173,615	1.00%	210,866	98,000	\$ 261,030	93,225	\$ 158,598	\$ 419,628
Plumas	1,915,282	0.08%	16,043	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Riverside	137,769,526	5.46%	1,154,023	98,000	\$ 990,225	93,225	\$ 450,995	\$ 1,441,221
Sacramento	108,993,944	4.32%	912,985	98,000	\$ 803,869	93,225	\$ 376,269	\$ 1,180,137
San Benito	4,808,390	0.19%	40,277	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
San Bernardino	144,252,144	5.72%	1,208,324	98,000	\$ 1,032,208	93,225	\$ 467,830	\$ 1,500,038
San Diego	173,468,681	6.88%	1,453,055	98,000	\$ 1,221,421	93,225	\$ 543,701	\$ 1,765,122
San Francisco	63,222,900	2.51%	529,585	98,000	\$ 507,445	93,225	\$ 257,407	\$ 764,852
San Joaquin	51,550,851	2.04%	431,814	98,000	\$ 431,855	93,225	\$ 227,096	\$ 658,951
San Luis Obispo	18,799,273	0.75%	157,472	98,000	\$ 219,748	93,225	\$ 142,044	\$ 361,793
San Mateo	43,346,545	1.72%	363,091	98,000	\$ 378,722	93,225	\$ 205,791	\$ 584,512
Santa Barbara	27,473,608	1.09%	230,132	98,000	\$ 275,925	93,225	\$ 164,571	\$ 440,496
Santa Clara	96,100,018	3.81%	804,979	98,000	\$ 720,365	93,225	\$ 342,785	\$ 1,063,149
Santa Cruz	17,003,334	0.67%	142,428	98,000	\$ 208,117	93,225	\$ 137,381	\$ 345,498
Shasta	16,359,995	0.65%	137,039	98,000	\$ 203,951	93,225	\$ 135,710	\$ 339,661
Sierra	978,500	0.04%	8,196	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Siskiyou	4,337,464	0.17%	36,333	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Solano	29,080,663	1.15%	243,593	98,000	\$ 286,333	93,225	\$ 168,744	\$ 455,077
Sonoma	30,554,838	1.21%	255,942	98,000	\$ 295,880	93,225	\$ 172,572	\$ 468,452
Stanislaus	32,303,460	1.28%	270,589	98,000	\$ 307,204	93,225	\$ 177,113	\$ 484,317
Sutter	8,164,586	0.32%	68,390	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Tehama	6,113,757	0.24%	51,212	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Trinity	2,142,278	0.08%	17,945	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Tulare	32,165,439	1.28%	269,433	98,000	\$ 306,310	93,225	\$ 176,755	\$ 483,065
Tuolumne	4,989,596	0.20%	41,795	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Ventura	44,799,399	1.78%	375,261	98,000	\$ 388,131	93,225	\$ 209,563	\$ 597,694
Yolo	15,477,215	0.61%	129,644	98,000	\$ 198,234	93,225	\$ 133,417	\$ 331,651
Yuba	6,239,055	0.25%	52,261	98,000	\$ 98,000	93,225	\$ 93,225	\$ 191,225
Reserve								\$ 164,419
Total	2,521,570,045	100.00%	21,121,860	5,684,000	\$ 21,121,860	5,407,050	\$ 11,597,422	\$ 32,883,700