



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-083

For business meeting on April 25, 2025

Title

Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2024–25
Reallocation of Community Assistance,
Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act
Funding

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

April 25, 2025

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

March 27, 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 the reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act fiscal year 2024–25 funds to the trial courts. The CARE Act funding methodology calls for a midyear reallocation process to redistribute funds that courts project will be left unspent to courts that request additional program funding. Judicial Council staff conducted a survey of all the trial courts and identified \$7,580,954.96 projected to be available for reallocation from 34 courts and requests from 2 courts that a total of \$400,000.00 be redistributed to them. The TCBAC presented this recommendation to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) on March 14, 2025, and the JBBC approved it for consideration by the Judicial Council.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) recommends the reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act fiscal year 2024–25 funding based upon projected unspent funding and additional funding needs among the courts, as detailed in Attachment A, including any technical adjustments, effective April 25, 2025.

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 fiscal year (FY) 2022–23.¹ On July 1, 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

Analysis/Rationale

The Budget Act of 2024 included \$26.5 million to fund court operations related to the CARE Act in FY 2024–25. All courts implemented the CARE Act by December 1, 2024.

The FY 2023–24 allocation methodology included these elements:

- 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;
- 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 2024–25 when all courts are implementing the CARE Act;
- 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 the second recommendation 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
- A method to reallocate unspent funds during the fiscal year.

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>.

The allocation methodology in FY 2024–25 retained the base funding, Workload Formula, and reallocation elements of the FY 2023–24 methodology and was updated to reflect a full year of implementation funding for Cohort One and a partial year for Cohort Two.

The reallocation survey was conducted between February 3 and February 13, 2025, with 51 courts responding. There are 34 courts that indicated through the survey that they would be able to return a portion of their CARE Act funding in FY 2024–25 for the reallocation process. The total amount of unspent funding estimated by the 34 courts is \$7.6 million. The \$400,000 requested will be deducted from allocations of those courts returning funding on a pro rata basis. This leaves approximately 95 percent or \$7.2 million of the estimated unspent funding at this time to continue to fund services through the end of the fiscal year. While courts currently project approximately \$7.2 million in funding available for return, actual expenditures may vary as CARE Act implementation for the majority of courts is in the very early stages and continuing to ramp up. This report includes a technical adjustment made after the JBBC action, reducing the amount projected available for reallocation by \$57,200. The survey results and recommendations are detailed in Attachment A.

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

Because the recommended allocation outlined in Attachment A was determined using the methodology approved by the council at its business meeting on July 1, 2023, no alternatives to this proposal were considered.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

This proposal is for the reallocation of funds that have already been allocated. Hence, no additional costs or impacts are anticipated.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Recommended Fiscal Year 2024-25 Reallocation and Redistribution of CARE Act Funding

Recommended Fiscal Year 2024-25 Reallocation and Redistribution of CARE Act Funding

Court	Responded to Survey	Total Expense (Cumulative)	Allocation Amount	Unspent FY 24-25 Funds	Amount Available for Reallocation	Additional Amount Requested
Alameda	Yes	215,252.60	553,256.35	338,003.75	\$ -	\$ -
Alpine	Yes	4,801.55	191,225.00	186,423.45	\$ 175,000.00	\$ -
Amador	Yes	21,637.52	191,225.00	169,587.48	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -
Butte	Yes		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ 191,225.00	\$ -
Calaveras	Yes	22,488.96	191,225.00	168,736.04	\$ -	\$ -
Colusa	Yes		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ 181,225.00	\$ -
Contra Costa	Yes	12,505.17	406,195.66	393,690.49	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -
Del Norte	No		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ -	\$ -
El Dorado	Yes		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
Fresno	Yes	88,520.88	448,406.20	359,885.32	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -
Glenn	Yes	35,334.52	191,225.00	155,890.48	\$ 128,865.03	\$ -
Humboldt	Yes	5,716.34	191,225.00	185,508.66	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
Imperial	Yes	8,973.42	191,225.00	182,251.58	\$ 127,945.22	\$ -
Inyo	Yes		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ 191,225.00	\$ -
Kern	Yes	12,642.09	449,676.53	437,034.44	\$ 272,476.53	\$ -
Kings	Yes	9,564.64	191,225.00	181,660.36	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -
Lake	Yes	766.46	191,225.00	190,458.54	\$ 190,458.54	\$ -
Lassen	Yes	60,613.47	191,225.00	130,611.53	\$ -	\$ -
Los Angeles	Yes	1,585,462.83	6,880,837.95	5,295,375.12	\$ -	\$ -
Madera	Yes		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ 166,911.40	\$ -
Marin	Yes	87,847.84	191,225.00	103,377.16	\$ -	\$ -
Mariposa	No		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Mendocino	Yes	10,534.48	191,225.00	180,690.52	\$ 162,546.89	\$ -
Merced	Yes	29,002.79	191,225.00	162,222.21	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -
Modoc	No	8,028.43	191,225.00	183,196.57	\$ -	\$ -
Mono	Yes	1,905.83	191,225.00	189,319.17	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -
Monterey	Yes	1,052.73	191,225.00	190,172.27	\$ 41,225.00	\$ -
Napa	No		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Nevada	Yes		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Orange	Yes	310,427.36	1,910,306.18	1,599,878.82	\$ 1,217,095.18	\$ -
Placer	Yes	72,132.64	191,225.00	119,092.36	\$ -	\$ -
Plumas	No		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Riverside	Yes	136,789.27	1,449,049.17	1,312,259.90	\$ 1,029,279.44	\$ -
Sacramento	No		630,947.51	630,947.51	\$ -	\$ -
San Benito	Yes	18,280.62	191,225.00	172,944.38	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
San Bernardino	Yes	6,136.92	773,192.33	767,055.41	\$ -	\$ -
San Diego	Yes	43,238.12	1,774,979.45	1,731,741.33	\$ -	\$ -
San Francisco	Yes	101,738.63	768,444.75	666,706.12	\$ -	\$ 350,000.00
San Joaquin	Yes	21,433.75	399,200.50	377,766.75	\$ 334,000.00	\$ -
San Luis Obispo	Yes	5,583.69	191,225.00	185,641.31	\$ 130,000.00	\$ -
San Mateo	Yes	194,736.47	366,101.24	171,364.77	\$ -	\$ -
Santa Barbara	Yes	17,079.41	191,225.00	174,145.59	\$ 157,066.18	\$ -
Santa Clara	Yes		578,928.56	578,928.56	\$ 419,807.68	\$ -
Santa Cruz	Yes	432.11	191,225.00	190,792.89	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -
Shasta	Yes	37,017.32	191,225.00	154,207.68	\$ -	\$ -
Sierra	Yes	6,829.42	191,225.00	184,395.58	\$ 176,000.00	\$ -
Siskiyou	Yes	2,797.26	191,225.00	188,427.74	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -
Solano	Yes	35,207.29	191,225.00	156,017.71	\$ -	\$ -
Sonoma	No		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Stanislaus	Yes	83,374.91	486,152.87	402,777.96	\$ 226,152.87	\$ -
Sutter	Yes	8,075.69	191,225.00	183,149.31	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -
Tehama	Yes		191,225.00	191,225.00	\$ 161,225.00	\$ -
Trinity	No	2,388.08	191,225.00	188,836.92	\$ -	\$ -
Tulare	Yes	4,906.28	320,992.46	316,086.18	\$ 310,000.00	\$ -
Tuolumne	Yes	73,929.06	191,225.00	117,295.94	\$ -	\$ -
Ventura	Yes		371,962.60	371,962.60	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -
Yolo	Yes	102.50	191,225.00	191,122.50	\$ -	\$ -
Yuba	Yes	3,363.92	191,225.00	187,861.08	\$ 181,225.00	\$ -
Total		3,408,653.27	26,408,855.31		\$ 7,580,954.96	\$ 400,000.00