



Judicial Council of California

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CIRCULATING ORDER MEMORANDUM TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Circulating Order Number: CO-25-05

Title

Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2025–26
Allocation of Court-Appointed Juvenile
Dependency Counsel Funding

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Recommended by

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair

Action Requested

VOTING MEMBERS ONLY: Submit votes
by responding to the transmittal email.

Please Respond By

September 2, 2025

Date of Report

August 25, 2025

Contact

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Public Comment

Written comments for this Judicial Council
action are accepted by 3:00 p.m., on
August 26, 2025.

California Rules of Court, rules 10.5(h) and 10.13(d) allow the Judicial Council to act on business between meetings, including urgent matters, by circulating order. This memorandum is not a Judicial Council meeting; circulating orders are conducted via electronic communications. Public notice for circulating orders may be provided and public comments may be accepted in writing according to an established time frame at judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov. Only written comments received by the deadline will be delivered to Judicial Council members.

Executive Summary

The Judicial Council approves the allocation of court-appointed dependency counsel funding on an annual basis. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends the fiscal year 2025–26 appropriation of \$186.7 million for court-appointed dependency counsel.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) recommends that the Judicial Council, effective September 2, 2025, allocate \$186.7 million for fiscal year (FY) 2025–26 to the trial courts for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel costs. The following recommendations were presented to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee on August 18, 2025, and approved for consideration by the Judicial Council:

1. Allocate funding according to the existing court-appointed counsel (CAC) funding methodology approved by the Judicial Council. Proposed allocations are detailed in Attachment A, column L.
2. Allocate FY 2025–26 funds identified by courts through a spending plan survey of all courts conducted to determine whether any courts do not intend to spend their full allocation (as detailed in Attachment A, column L) and to make those funds available to assist small courts in adjusting to the reductions they face in this fiscal year. Concurrent to base allocations, allocate available funds to impacted small courts that require assistance, up to their proposed allocation approved by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee on May 7, 2025, with any remaining funds to be allocated to all eligible courts through the regular midyear reallocation process. Proposed allocations based on the spending plan survey results are detailed in Attachment A, column M.
3. Direct TCBAC to add an additional item to its FY 2025–26 work plan to consider a revised methodology for an appropriate and effective way to address unique challenges faced by trial courts.

Relevant Previous Council Action

Court-appointed dependency counsel became a state fiscal responsibility in 1989 through the Brown–Presley Trial Court Funding Act (Sen. Bill 612; Stats. 1988, ch. 945). The act added section 77003 to the Government Code, defined “court operations” in that section as including court-appointed dependency counsel, and made an appropriation to fund trial court operations. In 1997, the Lockyer–Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act (Assem. Bill 233; Stats. 1997, ch. 850) provided the funding for and delineated the parameters of the transition to state trial court funding that had been outlined in the earlier legislation.

Court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel funding is distributed to the courts based on a workload model adopted by the Judicial Council in 2016¹ and amended in 2022.² Models of

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Dependency: Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Workload and Funding Methodology* (Apr. 1, 2016), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=4382676&GUID=E8BCCA8A-5DED-48C3-B946-6E21EBB0BEAF.

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2022–23 Allocation of Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Funding* (June 24, 2022), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11019079&GUID=CB0A2EE1-B3CF-43AC-B92B-F4724B5D209C.

dependency counsel provision among attorneys and organizations are numerous around the state. They range from solo practitioners who charge hourly fees to complex nonprofit, for-profit, and governmental organizations. No single method of calculating financial need for court-appointed counsel accounts for all the variance in organizational models and local costs. The model provides a means for calculating a total financial need that courts and attorney firms can then implement through a variety of service models.

The key factors used in this methodology are (for each court):

- A three-year rolling average of original dependency filings;
- A three-year rolling average of the number of children in foster care;³ and
- Current county counsel salaries at the median of the first two salary ranges reported by counties and the current index from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The funding methodology also includes several adjustments for small courts to ensure that these courts have adequate funding to meet their needs.⁴ Small-court adjustments include (1) suspending reallocation-related budget reductions for the smallest courts, with caseloads under 200; (2) adjusting the local economic index for the small courts, with dependency caseloads under 400; and (3) reducing the funding allocations of all large-court budgets to offset the costs for small courts. The methodology also provides that if the impact of these adjustments results in a small court being allocated more than 100 percent of the total need calculated through the workload and funding methodology, the court will receive an allocation equal to 100 percent of total need.

Due to downward trends in dependency filings, the small-court adjustments have applied to more courts in recent years, which has resulted in some small courts receiving increased funding despite drops in caseloads. Based on current workload and filing information, 37 courts are in the small-court category, with 27 of those courts meeting the “smallest court” criteria.

Analysis/Rationale

The current annual budget for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel is \$186.7 million. The current court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel allocation methodology for small

³ On February 27, 2020, the California Child Welfare Indicators Project site was updated to improve navigation and offer new features. With these changes, some previously available views of the data were removed. Cases opened and not identified with a specific court are assigned to the service component “Missing.”

To comply with California Department of Social Services (CDSS) data de-identification guidelines, “masking” is performed to protect the privacy of individuals served by CDSS. In reporting the number of children served, any service component with a value between 1 and 10 is masked. Two courts, Alpine and Mono, had total values between 1 and 10; therefore, the number of children served was masked and identified with (M). With the aim of maintaining confidentiality and allocating funds to each of these courts, each was allotted a value of 10 as of reporting period July 1, 2024.

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Law: Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Funding Methodology for Small Courts* (Dec. 20, 2018), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6913216&GUID=4DEB6A82-B007-46D8-9885-8D11D907DBF5.

courts,⁵ approved by the Judicial Council in FY 2019–20, specifies adjustments for small courts based on caseload and the local economic index and provides that no small court receives more than 100 percent of its total need.

The initial CAC allocation of \$186.7 million for FY 2025–26, considered by TCBAC at its meeting on May 7, 2025,⁶ included a calculation error in the application of the 100 percent limit for small courts. A revised allocation reflecting the correct methodology resulted in the reallocation of \$438,000 among the trial courts, approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee at its meeting on May 16, 2025.⁷ This recalculation resulted in a significant and unexpected percentage funding decrease for a number of small courts.

The FY 2025–26 allocations to trial courts in Attachment A, column L, were derived using the methodology designated in the Judicial Council reports listed above. Proposed allocations are based on a survey conducted by Judicial Council staff of all courts and their spending plan in relation to their proposed allocation as detailed in Attachment A, column L. Staff consulted with courts on their funding needs and the impact of technical corrections made to allocation levels in FY 2025–26 to determine—based on courts’ spending plans—whether funds could be made available to assist courts needing a glide path to accommodate the impact of the technical correction this fiscal year. The results of this spending plan assessment are detailed in Attachment A, column M. Attachment B details the total funding need for court-appointed dependency counsel using the methodology designated in those same reports.

Policy implications

Applying this correction prospectively, beginning in FY 2025–26, results in a slight increase to the allocations for larger courts but downward-adjusted allocations for 16 small courts. The committee determined that it was necessary to maintain fidelity to the approved methodology while providing a glide path for impacted small courts needing one-time assistance.

Comments

Public comments were not solicited for this proposal because the recommendations are within the Judicial Council’s purview to approve without circulation. However, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee and this committee received written and verbal comments for

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Law: Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Funding Methodology for Small Courts* (Dec. 20, 2018), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6913216&GUID=4DEB6A82-B007-46D8-9885-8D11D907DBF5.

⁶ Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda (May 7, 2025), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20250507-noticeandagenda.pdf; Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Materials (May 7, 2025), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20250507-materials.pdf.

⁷ Judicial Branch Budget Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda (May 16, 2025), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/jbbc-20250516-noticeandagenda.pdf; Judicial Branch Budget Committee Meeting Materials (May 16, 2025), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/jbbc-20250516-materials.pdf.

consideration at their meetings and informal comments from courts and court-appointed dependency providers.

Alternatives considered

TCBAC considered alternative options for the allocation of funding that were raised by the trial courts or stakeholders. The committee considered delaying the correction of the identified calculation error until FY 2026–27 to give the impacted courts time to prepare and minimize destabilization of their CAC programs. However, the committee determined that it would be an inaccurate allocation and inappropriate to not follow the methodology that was approved by the Judicial Council. In addition, the error impacts funding for the large courts that would fund the small-court adjustments.

The committee also considered using all or a portion of the \$100,000 in small-court reserve funding, included in the annual budget to assist small courts that experience sudden caseload increases, to fund impacted small courts. However, the committee determined that this was not a viable option because the reserve funding is already insufficient to meet the current intended need and may preclude access to these funds should a court experience a sudden caseload increase or unusually complex cases. The committee also considered using other funding sources, including the Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program and Federally Funded Dependency Representation Program, and unspent funding from prior years to address funding needs, but determined that these options are not viable because of restrictions on the funds.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

This recommendation is for the allocation of funds that are included in the FY 2025–26 budget. Hence, no additional costs or impacts are anticipated. However, as noted above, committee recommendation 2 provides small courts with a glide path without impacting allocation levels for courts intending to fully spend allocated funds.⁸

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Fiscal Year 2025–26 Allocation of Dependency Counsel Funding*
2. Attachment B: *Fiscal Year 2025–26 Total Funding Need for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Based on 2016 Workload Methodology*
3. Voting instructions, at page 9
4. Vote and signature pages, at pages 10–11

⁸ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Dependency: Court-Appointed–Counsel Funding Reallocation* (Apr. 8, 2015), courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-10/jc-20150417-itemi.pdf.

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Fiscal Year 2025-26 Allocation of Dependency Counsel Funding

| Court | Caseload Funding Model Estimated Funding Need Prior Year 24-25 | Caseload Funding Model Estimated Funding Need Current Year 25-26 | 2016-17 Allocation | 2017-18 Allocation | 2018-19 Allocation | 2019-20 Allocation | 2020-21 Allocation | 2021-22 Allocation | 2022-23 Allocation | 2023-24 Allocation | 2024-25 Allocation | Proposed Allocation 2025-26 | Proposed Allocation 2025-26 Based on Court Spending Plan |
|-----------------|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
| Alameda | \$ 5,507,175 | \$ 5,200,616 | \$ 3,618,313 | \$ 3,565,629 | \$ 3,399,620 | \$ 3,629,342 | \$ 3,422,591 | \$ 3,346,652 | \$ 3,840,167 | \$ 3,903,699 | \$ 4,150,739 | \$ 4,137,757 | \$ 4,137,757 |
| Alpine | 19,301 | 18,488 | 399 | 1,799 | 2,628 | 7,226 | 11,439 | 19,616 | 19,850 | 25,764 | 18,999 | 18,999 | 18,488 |
| Amador | 200,569 | 195,107 | 115,233 | 143,696 | 144,678 | 145,653 | 126,205 | 128,301 | 144,314 | 158,374 | 155,513 | 162,137 | 162,137 |
| Butte | 1,276,798 | 1,173,237 | 627,554 | 794,546 | 799,814 | 926,951 | 891,346 | 872,569 | 926,321 | 945,296 | 962,319 | 933,460 | 933,460 |
| Calaveras | 258,697 | 261,689 | 142,758 | 220,822 | 191,355 | 203,567 | 202,088 | 189,010 | 161,288 | 190,388 | 231,546 | 245,673 | 245,673 |
| Colusa | 99,107 | 92,682 | 40,667 | 43,948 | 72,637 | 103,517 | 117,871 | 112,668 | 99,064 | 111,854 | 101,811 | 92,682 | 72,682 |
| Contra Costa | 3,343,233 | 3,028,870 | 2,600,337 | 2,363,610 | 2,294,410 | 2,617,772 | 2,571,073 | 2,651,024 | 2,748,197 | 2,653,306 | 2,519,783 | 2,409,855 | 2,409,855 |
| Del Norte | 269,344 | 259,687 | 214,730 | 214,730 | 214,730 | 214,730 | 203,096 | 214,730 | 214,730 | 256,964 | 269,768 | 259,687 | 275,298 |
| El Dorado | 601,436 | 668,438 | 655,569 | 548,764 | 505,148 | 582,746 | 560,863 | 579,296 | 553,278 | 474,903 | 601,356 | 668,438 | 668,438 |
| Fresno | 6,778,404 | 6,453,499 | 2,670,600 | 3,015,746 | 2,800,979 | 3,209,875 | 3,302,907 | 3,735,438 | 4,462,884 | 4,787,455 | 5,108,860 | 5,134,586 | 4,936,000 |
| Glenn | 142,637 | 140,795 | 90,417 | 111,158 | 122,690 | 140,011 | 154,825 | 164,905 | 146,444 | 143,016 | 141,039 | 140,795 | 146,455 |
| Humboldt | 988,193 | 946,581 | 462,558 | 522,682 | 657,658 | 615,068 | 665,891 | 715,427 | 778,671 | 729,831 | 744,798 | 946,581 | 946,581 |
| Imperial | 747,666 | 702,205 | 518,512 | 576,150 | 562,114 | 645,919 | 693,729 | 669,610 | 681,656 | 581,336 | 809,029 | 702,205 | 797,587 |
| Inyo | 88,156 | 81,884 | 72,277 | 45,459 | 51,626 | 48,006 | 39,570 | 41,562 | 58,143 | 76,990 | 85,907 | 81,884 | 81,884 |
| Kern | 5,481,045 | 5,757,583 | 2,277,753 | 2,664,810 | 2,627,276 | 2,864,207 | 2,720,713 | 2,748,308 | 3,247,790 | 3,644,535 | 4,131,045 | 4,580,896 | 4,580,896 |
| Kings | 1,093,705 | 1,070,376 | 443,478 | 700,757 | 713,352 | 696,307 | 659,612 | 690,969 | 791,315 | 775,408 | 824,322 | 1,023,513 | 1,023,513 |
| Lake | 184,195 | 188,449 | 296,119 | 272,201 | 276,158 | 285,153 | 288,934 | 280,183 | 296,119 | 277,755 | 247,103 | 188,449 | 246,219 |
| Lassen | 184,025 | 170,559 | 106,891 | 106,891 | 108,967 | 128,825 | 130,683 | 135,339 | 129,091 | 174,612 | 173,075 | 170,559 | 170,559 |
| Los Angeles | 115,214,556 | 104,063,283 | 45,149,389 | 60,560,884 | 62,434,046 | 73,864,405 | 75,809,513 | 82,722,770 | 92,946,429 | 90,982,340 | 86,836,815 | 82,795,685 | 82,795,685 |
| Madera | 998,990 | 906,405 | 293,833 | 535,074 | 589,946 | 674,047 | 631,797 | 643,573 | 732,094 | 844,825 | 824,032 | 797,713 | 797,713 |
| Marin | 385,919 | 398,873 | 388,488 | 311,538 | 304,984 | 270,557 | 287,842 | 288,497 | 357,163 | 358,761 | 386,687 | 398,873 | 398,873 |
| Mariposa | 86,998 | 109,316 | 38,070 | 41,897 | 54,019 | 48,793 | 60,059 | 67,857 | 73,918 | 75,764 | 104,702 | 104,702 | 104,702 |
| Mendocino | 704,430 | 666,874 | 566,908 | 440,581 | 458,911 | 527,624 | 510,212 | 529,357 | 511,024 | 608,018 | 662,845 | 666,874 | 666,874 |
| Merced | 1,548,128 | 1,619,967 | 751,397 | 844,260 | 775,718 | 825,284 | 840,466 | 894,211 | 1,031,445 | 1,052,809 | 1,166,819 | 1,288,891 | 1,288,891 |
| Modoc | 48,248 | 55,531 | 17,128 | 24,065 | 37,161 | 49,493 | 59,313 | 52,855 | 51,256 | 50,853 | 56,582 | 55,531 | 79,436 |
| Mono | 32,047 | 32,202 | 13,956 | 13,956 | 14,615 | 14,550 | 18,114 | 18,392 | 19,817 | 21,591 | 26,958 | 26,683 | 26,683 |
| Monterey | 694,915 | 715,812 | 494,823 | 682,574 | 715,702 | 829,349 | 797,204 | 738,059 | 670,542 | 595,734 | 528,532 | 574,546 | 574,546 |
| Napa | 469,074 | 398,461 | 232,362 | 315,051 | 311,403 | 384,039 | 417,108 | 435,215 | 449,822 | 375,955 | 356,764 | 319,824 | 319,824 |
| Nevada | 193,343 | 169,292 | 226,123 | 202,832 | 174,058 | 173,215 | 178,805 | 185,041 | 226,123 | 203,761 | 169,292 | 169,292 | 169,292 |
| Orange | 12,943,647 | 13,311,806 | 5,648,065 | 5,366,139 | 5,355,390 | 6,553,748 | 6,915,607 | 7,611,043 | 8,758,132 | 9,166,564 | 9,755,582 | 10,591,250 | 10,591,250 |
| Placer | 849,058 | 920,382 | 687,985 | 895,552 | 747,111 | 710,846 | 600,593 | 622,053 | 651,832 | 704,472 | 645,769 | 738,744 | 738,744 |
| Plumas | 91,447 | 98,933 | 154,059 | 151,555 | 154,059 | 154,059 | 154,059 | 154,059 | 154,059 | 159,634 | 128,921 | 98,933 | 137,275 |
| Riverside | 15,792,508 | 17,353,158 | 6,411,055 | 8,806,009 | 8,173,324 | 7,999,219 | 6,877,392 | 7,422,498 | 9,263,855 | 10,707,784 | 11,902,759 | 13,806,662 | 13,806,662 |
| Sacramento | 6,269,231 | 5,655,172 | 4,832,997 | 5,609,080 | 5,161,591 | 5,586,032 | 5,017,201 | 4,920,141 | 5,091,685 | 4,905,409 | 4,725,098 | 4,499,414 | 4,499,414 |
| San Benito | 124,742 | 124,179 | 89,163 | 112,410 | 104,920 | 107,040 | 109,317 | 99,288 | 103,347 | 95,270 | 94,875 | 99,672 | 99,672 |
| San Bernardino | 21,326,805 | 20,782,763 | 5,731,210 | 8,514,703 | 9,751,976 | 11,957,781 | 12,446,717 | 13,045,926 | 14,821,566 | 15,061,246 | 16,073,940 | 16,535,353 | 16,535,353 |
| San Diego | 6,073,185 | 7,440,278 | 7,711,177 | 6,132,621 | 5,359,513 | 5,525,422 | 5,141,307 | 5,323,538 | 6,128,460 | 6,270,441 | 6,084,732 | 5,919,695 | 5,919,695 |
| San Francisco | 4,131,224 | 4,328,355 | 3,296,146 | 3,060,973 | 2,754,101 | 2,926,579 | 2,698,254 | 2,671,980 | 2,907,007 | 2,841,720 | 3,113,689 | 3,443,762 | 3,443,762 |
| San Joaquin | 4,223,902 | 4,245,431 | 2,601,178 | 2,480,278 | 2,399,805 | 2,739,513 | 2,729,427 | 2,705,301 | 2,886,866 | 2,843,217 | 3,183,540 | 3,377,785 | 3,377,785 |
| San Luis Obispo | 940,973 | 954,201 | 647,980 | 703,001 | 672,046 | 795,812 | 803,509 | 797,919 | 805,354 | 700,254 | 732,191 | 765,888 | 765,888 |
| San Mateo | 952,983 | 827,243 | 668,643 | 960,903 | 934,702 | 984,479 | 837,813 | 829,202 | 829,503 | 765,432 | 724,811 | 663,986 | 663,986 |
| Santa Barbara | 1,911,090 | 1,875,853 | 1,267,448 | 979,287 | 826,760 | 865,438 | 889,172 | 1,012,943 | 1,316,470 | 1,394,843 | 1,440,382 | 1,492,481 | 1,492,481 |
| Santa Clara | 3,270,112 | 2,687,186 | 3,780,956 | 3,223,912 | 2,947,634 | 3,290,686 | 3,262,294 | 3,404,630 | 3,666,823 | 3,030,273 | 2,464,672 | 2,138,001 | 2,138,001 |
| Santa Cruz | 586,717 | 563,955 | 713,676 | 598,314 | 544,197 | 619,253 | 557,112 | 526,052 | 504,267 | 623,754 | 584,471 | 563,955 | 563,955 |
| Shasta | 1,236,665 | 1,313,197 | 621,700 | 680,076 | 614,678 | 690,857 | 662,855 | 670,839 | 753,266 | 821,850 | 932,070 | 1,044,817 | 1,044,817 |
| Sierra | 34,732 | 31,447 | 13,759 | 9,848 | 8,323 | 5,045 | 10,829 | 13,759 | 22,459 | 28,440 | 36,894 | 31,447 | 31,447 |
| Siskiyou | 175,297 | 172,097 | 245,373 | 245,373 | 245,373 | 245,373 | 245,373 | 245,373 | 245,373 | 256,552 | 255,222 | 172,097 | 250,568 |
| Solano | 1,520,292 | 1,386,404 | 801,057 | 883,349 | 805,489 | 880,251 | 868,262 | 957,238 | 1,144,763 | 1,162,244 | 1,145,839 | 1,112,796 | 1,112,796 |
| Sonoma | 2,170,223 | 2,060,600 | 990,021 | 918,101 | 945,770 | 1,262,354 | 1,405,793 | 1,477,889 | 1,581,093 | 1,625,196 | 1,635,689 | 1,639,472 | 1,639,472 |
| Stanislaus | 1,800,657 | 1,614,945 | 1,004,470 | 1,092,505 | 1,091,719 | 1,424,350 | 1,448,878 | 1,452,004 | 1,492,887 | 1,419,811 | 1,357,149 | 1,284,896 | 1,284,896 |
| Sutter | 418,535 | 430,755 | 146,804 | 220,511 | 260,937 | 353,444 | 374,781 | 363,107 | 345,198 | 336,571 | 337,171 | 363,813 | 363,813 |
| Tehama | 308,871 | 339,029 | 177,634 | 319,793 | 362,975 | 392,840 | 340,323 | 293,399 | 241,836 | 294,234 | 313,954 | 339,029 | 339,029 |
| Trinity | 75,925 | 65,884 | 93,829 | 96,021 | 93,829 | 93,829 | 93,829 | 93,829 | 93,829 | 83,204 | 83,204 | 83,204 | 83,204 |
| Tulare | 3,474,774 | 3,753,824 | 1,032,410 | 1,591,232 | 1,714,221 | 2,067,711 | 2,155,963 | 2,290,172 | 2,489,610 | 2,416,609 | 2,618,925 | 2,986,648 | 1,984,956 |
| Tuolumne | 325,449 | 317,223 | 110,593 | 159,147 | 168,548 | 187,463 | 257,399 | 338,350 | 313,321 | 307,665 | 300,491 | 304,674 | 304,674 |
| Ventura | 2,249,805 | 1,998,532 | 1,284,628 | 1,835,753 | 1,833,055 | 2,017,019 | 1,802,468 | 1,741,369 | 1,895,272 | 1,843,364 | 1,695,670 | 1,590,089 | 1,590,089 |
| Yolo | 1,681,966 | 1,473,280 | 430,429 | 596,503 | 712,428 | 1,021,991 | 1,167,029 | 1,272,273 | 1,353,723 | 1,235,231 | 1,267,692 | 1,182,527 | 1,182,527 |
| Yuba | 740,872 | 807,295 | 278,909 | 474,768 | 471,244 | 410,105 | 363,820 | 377,291 | 375,249 | 418,668 | 563,486 | 647,975 | 600,000 |
| Reserve | - | - | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Total | \$ 245,342,019 | \$ 232,480,168 | \$ 114,700,000 | \$ 136,700,000 | \$ 136,700,000 | \$ 156,700,000 | \$ 156,700,000 | \$ 166,700,000 | \$ 186,700,000 | \$ 186,700,000 | \$ 186,700,000 | \$ 186,700,000 | \$ 185,764,227 |

Notes: Allocations are based on filings data obtained from the Judicial Council Research, Analytics, and Data and caseload data obtained from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) as of July 1, 2024.

Item 0250-102-0932 of section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2025 provides that the \$186,700,000 appropriated for Court Appointed Dependency Counsel shall be allocated by the Judicial Council using the methodology customarily used to distribute statewide court-appointed dependency counsel funding, which shall reflect annual updates to relevant variables based on the most recently available data.

leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20250260SB101

Fiscal Year 2025-26 Total Funding Need for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Based on 2016 Workload Methodology*

| Court | Average Original Filings FY21 - FY23 | Average CW Cases July 2022, 2023, 2024 | Filings % | Cases % | Sum of Weighted % | Partially Redistributed Caseload | BLS Index 2021- 2023 | Annual Salary | Caseload Multiplied by Estimated Child-to-Parent Case Ratio | Attorneys Needed per Caseload | Total Salaries | Total Funding Need | Allocation Pre-BLS Adjustment | Small Court Increase with BLS Adjustment | Large Court Funding Adjustment (Pro Rata Decrease) | Proposed Allocation 2025-26 | Proposed Allocation 2025-26 Based on Court Spending Plan |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|---------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | A | B | C | D | E (.3C+.7D) | F (B*E) | G | H (G*Median Salary) | I (F*1.8) | J (I/141) | K (H*J) | L (K/.45) | M | N | O | P | Q |
| Alameda | 491 | 1,126 | 1.65% | 1.90% | 1.82% | 1,081 | 1.49 | \$ 169,533 | 1,946 | 13.80 | \$ 2,340,277 | \$ 5,200,616 | \$ 4,174,270 | \$ - | \$ (36,513) | \$ 4,137,757 | \$ 4,137,757 |
| *Alpine | 1 | 10 | 0.00% | 0.02% | 0.01% | 7 | 0.78 | 88,097 | 13 | 0.09 | 8,319 | 18,488 | 14,839 | 3,649 | - | 18,488 | 18,488 |
| *Amador | 37 | 59 | 0.12% | 0.10% | 0.11% | 63 | 0.96 | 108,893 | 114 | 0.81 | 87,798 | 195,107 | 156,602 | 5,535 | - | 162,137 | 162,137 |
| Butte | 189 | 435 | 0.63% | 0.73% | 0.70% | 417 | 0.87 | 99,191 | 750 | 5.32 | 527,957 | 1,173,237 | 941,698 | - | (8,237) | 933,460 | 933,460 |
| *Calaveras | 69 | 78 | 0.23% | 0.13% | 0.16% | 96 | 0.85 | 96,391 | 172 | 1.22 | 117,760 | 261,689 | 210,044 | 35,629 | - | 245,673 | 245,673 |
| *Colusa | 21 | 38 | 0.07% | 0.06% | 0.07% | 39 | 0.74 | 83,590 | 70 | 0.50 | 41,707 | 92,682 | 74,391 | 18,291 | - | 92,682 | 72,682 |
| Contra Costa | 386 | 679 | 1.29% | 1.14% | 1.19% | 705 | 1.33 | 151,363 | 1,270 | 9.00 | 1,362,992 | 3,028,870 | 2,431,120 | - | (21,265) | 2,409,855 | 2,409,855 |
| *Del Norte | 50 | 110 | 0.17% | 0.19% | 0.18% | 107 | 0.75 | 85,360 | 193 | 1.37 | 116,859 | 259,687 | 208,437 | 51,249 | - | 259,687 | 275,298 |
| *El Dorado | 123 | 161 | 0.41% | 0.27% | 0.31% | 186 | 1.11 | 126,504 | 335 | 2.38 | 300,797 | 668,438 | 536,521 | 131,917 | - | 668,438 | 668,438 |
| Fresno | 913 | 2,262 | 3.06% | 3.81% | 3.58% | 2,127 | 0.94 | 106,928 | 3,829 | 27.16 | 2,904,075 | 6,453,499 | 5,179,896 | - | (45,309) | 5,134,586 | 4,936,000 |
| *Glenn | 30 | 56 | 0.10% | 0.09% | 0.10% | 57 | 0.77 | 86,995 | 103 | 0.73 | 63,358 | 140,795 | 113,009 | 27,786 | - | 140,795 | 146,455 |
| *Humboldt | 209 | 385 | 0.70% | 0.65% | 0.66% | 394 | 0.75 | 84,675 | 709 | 5.03 | 425,961 | 946,581 | 759,772 | 186,809 | - | 946,581 | 946,581 |
| *Imperial | 149 | 317 | 0.50% | 0.53% | 0.52% | 311 | 0.70 | 79,670 | 559 | 3.97 | 315,992 | 702,205 | 563,624 | 138,581 | - | 702,205 | 797,587 |
| *Inyo | 16 | 32 | 0.05% | 0.05% | 0.05% | 32 | 0.79 | 89,719 | 58 | 0.41 | 36,848 | 81,884 | 65,724 | 16,160 | - | 81,884 | 81,884 |
| Kern | 871 | 2,007 | 2.92% | 3.38% | 3.24% | 1,925 | 0.93 | 105,455 | 3,464 | 24.57 | 2,590,912 | 5,757,583 | 4,621,319 | - | (40,423) | 4,580,896 | 4,580,896 |
| *Kings | 225 | 378 | 0.75% | 0.64% | 0.67% | 399 | 0.83 | 94,635 | 718 | 5.09 | 481,669 | 1,070,376 | 859,136 | 164,376 | - | 1,023,513 | 1,023,513 |
| *Lake | 35 | 79 | 0.12% | 0.13% | 0.13% | 76 | 0.77 | 86,989 | 137 | 0.97 | 84,802 | 188,449 | 151,258 | 37,190 | - | 188,449 | 246,219 |
| *Lassen | 32 | 68 | 0.11% | 0.12% | 0.11% | 67 | 0.79 | 90,123 | 120 | 0.85 | 76,752 | 170,559 | 136,899 | 33,660 | - | 170,559 | 170,559 |
| Los Angeles | 12,011 | 23,432 | 40.21% | 39.48% | 39.70% | 23,562 | 1.37 | 155,683 | 42,412 | 300.79 | 46,828,478 | 104,063,283 | 83,526,302 | - | (730,617) | 82,795,685 | 82,795,685 |
| *Madera | 223 | 254 | 0.75% | 0.43% | 0.52% | 311 | 0.90 | 102,822 | 559 | 3.97 | 407,882 | 906,405 | 727,525 | 70,187 | - | 797,713 | 797,713 |
| *Marin | 62 | 93 | 0.21% | 0.16% | 0.17% | 102 | 1.22 | 138,350 | 183 | 1.30 | 179,493 | 398,873 | 320,155 | 78,718 | - | 398,873 | 398,873 |
| *Mariposa | 30 | 33 | 0.10% | 0.06% | 0.07% | 41 | 0.83 | 94,479 | 73 | 0.52 | 49,192 | 109,316 | 87,742 | 16,960 | - | 104,702 | 104,702 |
| *Mendocino | 132 | 265 | 0.44% | 0.45% | 0.45% | 264 | 0.78 | 88,967 | 476 | 3.37 | 300,093 | 666,874 | 535,266 | 131,608 | - | 666,874 | 666,874 |
| Merced | 327 | 632 | 1.10% | 1.06% | 1.07% | 638 | 0.79 | 89,570 | 1,148 | 8.14 | 728,985 | 1,619,967 | 1,300,265 | - | (11,374) | 1,288,891 | 1,288,891 |
| *Modoc | 23 | 24 | 0.08% | 0.04% | 0.05% | 31 | 0.56 | 63,260 | 56 | 0.40 | 24,989 | 55,531 | 44,572 | 10,959 | - | 55,531 | 79,436 |
| *Mono | 7 | 10 | 0.02% | 0.02% | 0.02% | 11 | 0.89 | 101,595 | 20 | 0.14 | 14,491 | 32,202 | 25,847 | 2,836 | - | 28,683 | 28,683 |
| Monterey | 92 | 201 | 0.31% | 0.34% | 0.33% | 195 | 1.14 | 129,322 | 351 | 2.49 | 322,115 | 715,812 | 574,546 | - | - | 574,546 | 574,546 |
| Napa | 50 | 97 | 0.17% | 0.16% | 0.16% | 97 | 1.27 | 144,392 | 175 | 1.24 | 179,307 | 398,461 | 319,824 | - | - | 319,824 | 319,824 |
| *Nevada | 33 | 43 | 0.11% | 0.07% | 0.08% | 50 | 1.06 | 120,461 | 89 | 0.63 | 76,181 | 169,292 | 135,882 | 33,410 | - | 169,292 | 169,292 |
| Orange | 1,886 | 3,207 | 6.31% | 5.40% | 5.68% | 3,369 | 1.23 | 139,272 | 6,065 | 43.01 | 5,990,313 | 13,311,808 | 10,684,711 | - | (93,461) | 10,591,250 | 10,591,250 |
| Placer | 165 | 212 | 0.55% | 0.36% | 0.42% | 247 | 1.16 | 131,458 | 444 | 3.15 | 414,172 | 920,382 | 738,744 | - | - | 738,744 | 738,744 |
| *Plumas | 24 | 41 | 0.08% | 0.07% | 0.07% | 43 | 0.72 | 81,911 | 77 | 0.54 | 44,520 | 98,933 | 79,409 | 19,525 | - | 98,933 | 137,275 |
| Riverside | 2,877 | 4,787 | 9.63% | 8.07% | 8.54% | 5,066 | 1.06 | 120,741 | 9,119 | 64.68 | 7,808,921 | 17,353,158 | 13,928,497 | - | (121,835) | 13,806,662 | 13,806,662 |
| Sacramento | 539 | 1,432 | 1.80% | 2.41% | 2.23% | 1,323 | 1.33 | 150,644 | 2,382 | 16.89 | 2,544,827 | 5,655,172 | 4,539,119 | - | (39,704) | 4,499,414 | 4,499,414 |
| San Benito | 20 | 37 | 0.07% | 0.06% | 0.06% | 38 | 1.01 | 114,425 | 69 | 0.49 | 55,881 | 124,179 | 99,672 | - | - | 99,672 | 99,672 |
| San Bernardino | 2,611 | 5,822 | 8.74% | 9.81% | 9.49% | 5,632 | 1.14 | 130,078 | 10,138 | 71.90 | 9,352,243 | 20,782,763 | 16,681,266 | - | (145,914) | 16,535,353 | 16,535,353 |
| San Diego | 781 | 2,133 | 2.62% | 3.59% | 3.30% | 1,959 | 1.18 | 133,903 | 3,526 | 25.00 | 3,348,125 | 7,440,278 | 5,971,932 | - | (52,237) | 5,919,695 | 5,919,695 |
| San Francisco | 377 | 816 | 1.26% | 1.37% | 1.34% | 796 | 1.69 | 191,746 | 1,432 | 10.16 | 1,947,760 | 4,328,355 | 3,474,151 | - | (30,389) | 3,443,762 | 3,443,762 |
| San Joaquin | 606 | 1,272 | 2.03% | 2.14% | 2.11% | 1,252 | 1.05 | 119,543 | 2,253 | 15.98 | 1,910,444 | 4,245,431 | 3,407,591 | - | (29,807) | 3,377,785 | 3,377,785 |
| San Luis Obispo | 148 | 289 | 0.49% | 0.49% | 0.49% | 291 | 1.02 | 115,760 | 523 | 3.71 | 429,390 | 954,201 | 765,888 | - | - | 765,888 | 765,888 |
| San Mateo | 87 | 154 | 0.29% | 0.26% | 0.27% | 159 | 1.61 | 183,131 | 287 | 2.03 | 372,259 | 827,243 | 663,986 | - | - | 663,986 | 663,986 |
| Santa Barbara | 245 | 476 | 0.82% | 0.80% | 0.81% | 479 | 1.21 | 137,982 | 863 | 6.12 | 844,134 | 1,875,853 | 1,505,651 | - | (13,170) | 1,492,481 | 1,492,481 |
| Santa Clara | 186 | 644 | 0.62% | 1.09% | 0.95% | 561 | 1.48 | 168,702 | 1,011 | 7.17 | 1,209,234 | 2,687,186 | 2,156,867 | - | (18,866) | 2,138,001 | 2,138,001 |
| *Santa Cruz | 84 | 155 | 0.28% | 0.26% | 0.27% | 159 | 1.10 | 125,362 | 285 | 2.02 | 253,780 | 563,955 | 452,658 | 111,297 | - | 563,955 | 563,955 |
| Shasta | 226 | 436 | 0.76% | 0.74% | 0.74% | 440 | 0.93 | 105,214 | 792 | 5.62 | 590,939 | 1,313,197 | 1,054,036 | - | (9,220) | 1,044,817 | 1,044,817 |
| *Sierra | 6 | 14 | 0.02% | 0.02% | 0.02% | 14 | 0.71 | 80,275 | 25 | 0.18 | 14,151 | 31,447 | 25,241 | 6,206 | - | 31,447 | 31,447 |
| *Siskiyou | 47 | 71 | 0.16% | 0.12% | 0.13% | 78 | 0.69 | 78,056 | 140 | 0.99 | 77,444 | 172,097 | 138,134 | 33,964 | - | 172,097 | 250,588 |
| Solano | 163 | 378 | 0.54% | 0.64% | 0.61% | 362 | 1.19 | 135,162 | 651 | 4.62 | 623,882 | 1,386,404 | 1,112,796 | - | - | 1,112,796 | 1,112,796 |
| Sonoma | 218 | 578 | 0.73% | 0.97% | 0.90% | 535 | 1.20 | 135,889 | 962 | 6.82 | 927,270 | 2,060,600 | 1,653,939 | - | (14,467) | 1,639,472 | 1,639,472 |
| Stanislaus | 180 | 541 | 0.60% | 0.91% | 0.82% | 486 | 1.03 | 117,028 | 876 | 6.21 | 726,725 | 1,614,945 | 1,296,234 | - | (11,338) | 1,284,896 | 1,284,896 |
| *Sutter | 116 | 104 | 0.39% | 0.17% | 0.24% | 142 | 0.94 | 107,143 | 255 | 1.81 | 193,840 | 430,755 | 345,745 | 18,068 | - | 363,813 | 363,813 |
| *Tehama | 87 | 123 | 0.29% | 0.21% | 0.23% | 138 | 0.76 | 86,622 | 248 | 1.76 | 152,563 | 339,029 | 272,121 | 66,908 | - | 339,029 | 339,029 |
| *Trinity | 20 | 22 | 0.07% | 0.04% | 0.05% | 27 | 0.75 | 84,999 | 49 | 0.35 | 29,648 | 65,884 | 52,882 | 13,002 | - | 65,884 | 83,204 |
| Tulare | 687 | 1,121 | 2.30% | 1.89% | 2.01% | 1,194 | 0.97 | 110,796 | 2,150 | 15.25 | 1,689,221 | 3,753,824 | 3,013,003 | - | (26,355) | 2,986,648 | 1,984,956 |
| *Tuolumne | 100 | 85 | 0.33% | 0.14% | 0.20% | 119 | 0.83 | 94,219 | 214 | 1.52 | 142,750 | 317,223 | 254,619 | 50,055 | - | 304,674 | 304,674 |
| Ventura | 230 | 511 | 0.77% | 0.86% | 0.83% | 495 | 1.25 | 142,374 | 891 | 6.32 | 899,340 | 1,998,532 | 1,604,120 | - | (14,031) | 1,590,089 | 1,590,089 |
| Yolo | 189 | 339 | 0.63% | 0.57% | 0.59% | 350 | 1.30 | 148,210 | 631 | 4.47 | 662,976 | 1,473,280 | 1,182,527 | - | - | 1,182,527 | 1,182,527 |
| Yuba | 125 | 187 | 0.42% | 0.31% | 0.35% | 205 | 1.22 | 138,557 | 370 | 2.62 | 363,283 | 807,295 | 647,975 | - | - | 647,975 | 600,000 |
| Total | 29,867 | 59,350 | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 59,350 | 1.00 | | 106,829 | 758 | \$ 104,616,076 | \$ 232,480,168 | \$ 186,600,000 | \$ 1,514,534 | \$ (1,514,534) | \$ 186,600,000 | \$ 185,664,227 |

Median annual salary of county attorneys \$ 113,656

* Courts with small court adjustments

BLS = Bureau of Labor Statistics; CW = child welfare

Instructions for Review and Action by Circulating Order

Voting members

- Please reply to the email message with “I approve,” “I disapprove,” or “I abstain,” by 3:00 p.m. on **September 2, 2025**.
- If you are unable to reply by 3:00 p.m. on **September 2, 2025**, please do so as soon as possible thereafter.

Advisory members

The circulating order is being emailed to you for your information only. There is no need to sign or return any documents.

CIRCULATING ORDER
Judicial Council of California
Voting and Signature Pages

Effective immediately, the Judicial Council approves the Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Allocations for fiscal year 2025–26.

My vote is as follows:

☐ Approve

☐ Disapprove

☐ Abstain

 Patricia Guerrero, Chair

 Maria Lucy Armendariz

 Bunmi O. Awoniyi

 C. Todd Bottke

 Stacy Boulware Eurie

 Carol A. Corrigan

 Charles S. Crompton

 Judith K. Dulcich

 Carin T. Fujisaki

 Maureen F. Hallahan

 Maria D. Hernandez

 Brad R. Hill

 Rachel W. Hill

 Ash Kalra

My vote is as follows:

☐ Approve

☐ Disapprove

☐ Abstain

Ann C. Moorman

Gretchen Nelson

Ricardo R. Ocampo

Craig M. Peters

Maxwell V. Pritt

Thomas J. Umberg

Tamara L. Wood

Date: _____

Attest:

Administrative Director and
Secretary of the Judicial Council