



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-087

For business meeting on April 24, 2026

Title

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

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

April 24, 2026

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

March 24, 2026

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 recommends reallocating fiscal year 2025–26 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act funds among trial courts. The CARE Act funding methodology requires a midyear reallocation process to redistribute unspent funds to courts requesting additional program funding. This recommendation, approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, ensures that available resources are directed to support trial court needs and improve program implementation.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective April 24, 2026, approve the reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act fiscal year 2025–26 funding as detailed in Attachment A.

Relevant Previous Council Action

On July 1, 2023, the Judicial Council approved the allocation methodology and allocations for CARE Act court costs included in the Budget Act of 2023.¹ 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 2023.² On July 12, 2024, the Judicial Council approved the methodology and allocations for FY 2024–25.³ On April 25, 2025, the Judicial Council approved the reallocation of FY 2024–25 funds.⁴ On July 18, 2025, the Judicial Council approved the methodology and allocations for FY 2025–26.⁵

Analysis/Rationale

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.

The allocation methodology, approved in FY 2023–24, 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

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), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12125820&GUID=BB56211B-2F20-4BB8-8E94-B0909B17F695.

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2023–24 Allocation of CARE Act Funding* (Aug. 23, 2023), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12246630&GUID=64A38B92-D51B-4459-BF69-F16D534D0541.

³ 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), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13046643&GUID=BA05FF49-8305-4B35-A13A-AFCCB554AF5B.

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2024–25 Reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding* (March 27, 2025), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14019714&GUID=581352AD-51DE-43C4-BC33-4133ADA9C3A7.

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2025–26 Allocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding* (June 16, 2025), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14303297&GUID=B2BE5DD8-5130-493A-B0DE-5538B320D61D.

allocations and this reserve redistributed through the reallocation process via the approved methodology; and

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

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 allocation methodology in FY 2025–26 also retained the base funding, Workload Formula, and reallocation elements of the FY 2023–24 methodology and was updated to reflect a full year of funding for all 58 trial courts.

Judicial Council staff conducted a reallocation survey of all the trial courts between January 23 and February 6, 2026, with 53 courts responding. Only one court requested additional funding, and the amount can be sufficiently covered by redistributing funds that other courts estimated would remain unspent by the end of the fiscal year. The \$72,960 requested will be deducted from allocations of those courts returning funding on a pro rata basis. This leaves approximately 99 percent of \$9.9 million in unspent funding at this time 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 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 2025–26 Reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding

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	0	0
Alpine	No	191,225		
Amador	Yes	191,225	90,000	0
Butte	Yes	317,994	300,000	0
Calaveras	Yes	191,225	50,000	0
Colusa	Yes	191,225	191,225	0
Contra Costa	Yes	674,682	0	0
Del Norte	No	191,225		
El Dorado	Yes	191,225	0	72,960
Fresno	Yes	769,612	250,000	0
Glenn	Yes	191,225	110,000	0
Humboldt	Yes	191,225	0	0
Imperial	Yes	191,225	150,000	0
Inyo	Yes	191,225	191,225	0
Kern	Yes	772,469	522,469	0
Kings	Yes	191,225	185,000	0
Lake	Yes	191,225	191,225	0
Lassen	Yes	191,225	40,000	0
Los Angeles	Yes	6,839,203	0	0
Madera	Yes	303,766	302,266	0
Marin	Yes	321,223	75,000	0
Mariposa	Yes	191,225	191,225	0
Mendocino	Yes	191,225	74,000	0
Merced	Yes	345,582	145,000	0
Modoc	No	191,225		
Mono	Yes	191,225	180,000	0
Monterey	Yes	430,117	200,000	0
Napa	Yes	191,225	0	0
Nevada	Yes	191,225	180,225	0
Orange	Yes	1,899,607	1,080,704	0
Placer	Yes	419,628	0	0
Plumas	Yes	191,225	150,000	0
Riverside	Yes	1,441,221	500,000	0
Sacramento	Yes	1,180,137	909,618	0
San Benito	Yes	191,225	0	0
San Bernardino	Yes	1,500,038	0	0
San Diego	Yes	1,765,122	0	0
San Francisco	Yes	764,852	0	0
San Joaquin	Yes	658,951	608,950	0
San Luis Obispo	Yes	361,793	274,240	0
San Mateo	Yes	584,512	0	0
Santa Barbara	Yes	440,496	433,098	0
Santa Clara	Yes	1,063,149	0	0
Santa Cruz	Yes	345,498	160,498	0
Shasta	No	339,661		
Sierra	Yes	191,225	141,225	0
Siskiyou	Yes	191,225	185,000	0
Solano	Yes	455,077	90,000	0
Sonoma	No	468,452		
Stanislaus	Yes	484,317	315,000	0
Sutter	Yes	191,225	150,000	0
Tehama	Yes	191,225	171,225	0
Trinity	Yes	191,225	186,650	0
Tulare	Yes	483,065	351,835	0
Tuolumne	Yes	191,225	0	0
Ventura	Yes	597,694	350,000	0
Yolo	Yes	331,651	0	0
Yuba	Yes	191,225	183,725	0
Reserve*	N/A	164,419		
Total	53	\$32,883,700	\$9,860,627	\$72,960

*Reflects 0.5 percent of the FY 2025-26 allocation.