



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 23-175

For business meeting on November 17, 2023

Title

Trial Court Budget: 2023–24 State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocation Increase for Judicial Education

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Recommended by

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

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

November 17, 2023

Date of Report

October 26, 2023

Contact

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Executive Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends a \$150,000 increase to the fiscal year 2023–24 approved Judicial Education program allocation from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund due to the significantly high number of judicial appointments in recent months. The increased budget, from \$984,000 to \$1.1 million, will provide the resources necessary for the Judicial Council’s Center for Judicial Education and Research to offer six additional New Judge Orientation training programs this fiscal year and to increase the capacity of each of the Primary Assignment Orientations. This will ensure that newly appointed judicial officers receive the education they need and are able to meet the new judge education requirements of California Rules of Court, rule 10.462.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective November 17, 2023, approve an increase of \$150,000 to the fiscal year 2023–24 Judicial Education program allocation from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund.

Relevant Previous Council Action

At its meeting on July 21, 2023, the Judicial Council approved State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) allocations of \$45.2 million.¹ Of the total amount approved, \$984,000 was allocated to the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) for judicial education (see Attachment A).

This recommendation for a \$150,000 increase in the allocation was presented to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee on September 18, 2023, and approved for consideration by the Judicial Council.

Analysis/Rationale

The Judicial Council of California's Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) provides education courses, products, and resources for the state's approximately 2,500 justices, judges, and subordinate judicial officers and nearly 20,000 court staff as required by California Rules of Court, rules 10.451–10.491. California's judicial officers and court personnel participate in mandatory and elective in-person and distance education to perform their responsibilities competently, impartially, and efficiently. Judicial branch education supports standardizing court practices and procedures to ensure that all Californians have equal access to participate in court proceedings and are treated fairly.

The CJER Advisory Committee consists of judicial officers and court executives who direct nine curriculum committees to identify educational needs and develop content priorities. The committee designs and delivers its offerings on a two-year planning cycle to meet the judicial branch's shifting educational needs. The two-year education plan is developed based on historical needs and current information available at the time of development. The current two-year education plan was developed in 2021. At that time, it was not anticipated that judicial appointments would increase by such a significant number.

For the past several years, CJER has offered 10 New Judge Orientation (NJO) programs each year to provide new judicial officers with the skills they need, and to meet the rule requirement of job training for new judges within six months of appointment. Historically, 10 NJO sessions have met the demand. However, due to the significant increase in the number of judges appointed by Governor Newsom, 10 NJO sessions will not be sufficient to serve all of the newly appointed judicial officers this fiscal year. Based on current estimates, CJER will need to offer at least 6 additional NJO programs this fiscal year and will also need to increase the number of participants at each Primary Assignment Orientation offered to accommodate all the new judges who will need to take courses to orient them to their new assignments.

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocations for 2023–24* (June 22, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12124543&GUID=6AD25924-2962-4293-92B4-273A42692D54>; mins. (July 21, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=1105928&GUID=3AB2B386-B501-4660-AD0F-3984E59DC7DD>.

Policy implications

None.

Comments

This report was not circulated for public comment.

Alternatives considered

CJER staff considered submitting a request for additional funding from the General Fund through the Judicial Council to obtain the necessary funding. However, it was determined that requesting additional IMF funding would be more appropriate to address the need for additional new judge education programs.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The fiscal impact to the IMF would be a one-time \$150,000 increase to CJER's Judicial Education allocation in order to provide all new judge appointees access to new judge education programs that are both necessary and required. Based on current revenue estimates, the fund is estimated to have a sufficient balance for the requested allocation increase (see Attachment B).

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Judicial Council of California Approved 2023–24 Allocations from the IMF—State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations
2. Attachment B: IMF Fund Condition Statement

Judicial Council of California
Approved 2023-24 Allocations
State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations

#	Program Name	Office	Approved 2023-24 Allocations		
			State Operations	Local Assistance	Total
A	B	C	D	E	F = (D + E)
1	Audit Services	AS	\$ 372,000	\$ -	\$ 372,000
2	Trial Court Master Agreements	BAP	182,000	-	182,000
3	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BAP	110,000		110,000
4	Data Analytics Advisory Committee	BMS		9,000	9,000
5	Budget Focused Training and Meetings	BS		25,000	25,000
6	Revenue Distribution Training	BS		10,000	10,000
7	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BS	-		-
8	Domestic Violence Forms Translation	CFCC		17,000	17,000
9	Interactive Software - Self-Rep Electronic Forms	CFCC		60,000	60,000
10	Self-Help Center	CFCC		5,000,000	5,000,000
11	Statewide Multidisciplinary Education	CFCC		67,000	67,000
12	Shriver Civil Counsel - cy prês Funding	CFCC		893,000	893,000
13	Statewide Support for Self-Help Programs	CFCC		100,000	100,000
14	Court Interpreter Testing etc.	CFCC		143,000	143,000
15	CJER Faculty	CJER		48,000	48,000
16	Essential Court Management Education	CJER	40,000		40,000
17	Essential Court Personnel Education	CJER		130,000	130,000
18	Judicial Education	CJER		984,000	984,000
19	Jury System Improvement Projects	CJS		9,000	9,000
20	Trial Court Labor Relations Academies and Forums	HR		23,000	23,000
21	Data Center and Cloud Service	IT	2,215,000	4,471,000	6,686,000
22	Uniform Civil Filing Services	IT	399,000	3,000	402,000
23	California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)	IT	418,000	537,000	955,000
24	Telecommunications	IT	-	14,500,000	14,500,000
25	Enterprise Policy & Planning (Statewide Planning and Dev Support)	IT	1,044,000	2,500,000	3,544,000
26	Data Integration	IT	703,000	993,000	1,696,000
27	Jury Management System	IT	-	665,000	665,000
28	Case Management System Replacement	IT	-	-	-
29	Telecom	IT	1,297,000	4,384,000	5,681,000
30	Jury System Improvement Projects	LS		10,000	10,000
31	Regional Office Assistance Group	LS	861,000	-	861,000
32	Judicial Performance Defense Insurance	LSS		1,931,000	1,931,000
33	Total		\$ 7,641,000	\$ 37,512,000	\$ 45,153,000

Totals by Office		Office	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total
Legend	C	D	E	F = (D + E)	
34	Audit Services	AS	\$ 372,000	\$ -	\$ 372,000
35	Branch Accounting and Procurement	BAP	292,000	-	292,000
36	Business Management Services	BMS	-	9,000	9,000
37	Budget Services	BS	-	35,000	35,000
38	Center for Families, Children and the Courts	CFCC	-	6,280,000	6,280,000
39	Center for Judicial Education and Research	CJER	40,000	1,162,000	1,202,000
40	Criminal Justice Services	CJS	-	9,000	9,000
41	Human Resources	HR	-	23,000	23,000
42	Information Technology	IT	6,076,000	28,053,000	34,129,000
43	Legal Services	LS	861,000	10,000	871,000
44	Leadership Services	LSS	-	1,931,000	1,931,000
Total Allocations			\$ 7,641,000	\$ 37,512,000	\$ 45,153,000

State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
Fund Condition Statement
October 2023

Updated: October 10, 2023

#	Description	Estimated				
		2020-21 (Year-end Financial Statement)	2021-22 (Year-end Financial Statement)	2022-23 (Year-end Financial Statement)	2023-24	2024-25
		A	B	C	D	E
1	Beginning Balance	21,152,288	16,886,288	23,242,054	38,128,109	32,679,619
2	Prior-Year Adjustments	2,422,000	8,176,338	8,638,611	-3,200,000	
3	Adjusted Beginning Balance	23,574,288	25,062,626	31,880,665	34,928,109	32,679,619
4	REVENUES¹:					
12	Subtotal Revenues	17,264,000	15,428,439	18,311,387	13,666,000	12,973,000
13	Transfers and Other Adjustments					
14	To Trial Court Trust Fund (Gov. Code, § 77209(j))	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000
15	To Trial Court Trust Fund (Budget Act)	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000
16	General Fund Transfer (Gov. Code § 20825.1)		-270,000	0	0	0
17	Total Revenues, Transfers, and Other Adjustments	3,273,000	1,167,439	4,320,387	-325,000	-1,018,000
18	Total Resources	26,847,288	26,230,065	36,201,052	34,603,109	31,661,619
19	EXPENDITURES:					
20	Judicial Branch Total State Operations	4,635,000	5,217,956	5,319,495	7,641,000	7,860,000
21	Judicial Branch Total Local Assistance	47,825,000	44,734,883	36,857,436	38,383,490	38,254,000
22	Pro Rata and Other Adjustments	289,000	307,171	180,012	117,000	117,000
23	Less funding provided by General Fund (Local Assistance)	-42,788,000	-47,272,000	-44,284,000	-44,218,000	-44,218,000
24	Total Expenditures and Adjustments	9,961,000	2,988,011	-1,927,057	1,923,490	2,013,000
25	Fund Balance	16,886,288	23,242,054	38,128,109	32,679,619	29,648,619
26	Fund Balance - less restricted funds	12,775,459	19,677,611	35,864,950	30,515,460	27,599,459
27	Structural Balance	-6,688,000	-1,820,572	6,247,444	-2,248,490	-3,031,000

¹ Revenue estimates are as of October 2023