



Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

www.courts.ca.gov

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 24-117

For business meeting on July 12, 2024

Title

Trial Court Budget: Self-Help Funding
Allocation Methodology for Fiscal Year
2024–25 through 2026–27

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

July 12, 2024

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

June 17, 2024

Recommended by

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

Contact

Melanie Snider, Supervising Attorney
916-263-5442
melanie.snider@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends maintaining the current funding allocation methodology for self-help funding allocated to the trial courts for fiscal year 2024–25 and ongoing. The next allocation changes based on population using this methodology would be made in fiscal year 2027–28. This recommendation will ensure that resources are allocated effectively and will provide adequate notice to courts so they can plan for funding changes.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 12, 2024, continue the current funding allocation methodology for related to self-help funding to trial courts for fiscal year 2024–25 and ongoing, as follows:

1. Maintain a three-year population update schedule using rolling three-year average census data;
2. Provide annual population updates to trial courts using rolling three-year average data for informational purposes only; and

3. Maintain the current self-help allocation baseline of \$34,000 per court.

The proposed fiscal year 2023–24 self-help funding amounts are provided in Attachment A.

Relevant Previous Council Action

At its September 2018 meeting, the Judicial Council adopted new policy recommendations for self-help funding to be allocated to trial courts effective for fiscal year (FY) 2019–20 allocations and ongoing.¹ At its July 2021 meeting, the council maintained the policy recommendations for self-help funding to be allocated to trial courts effective for FY 2021–22 allocations and ongoing.² These allocations are identical to those presented in the recommendation, above, for FY 2023–24 and ongoing.

Analysis/Rationale

The current allocation methodology for self-help funding (see Attachment A) has two major components: a baseline level of funding of \$34,000 and a proportionate share of funding that is based on each court’s population relative to the state population (see Attachment B). Until the FY 2018–19 budget allocations, self-help funding in trial courts had been allocated based on 2006 population data. To use the most current data available while providing stable funding to the courts, the committee recommended that a three-year average be calculated every three years and that the court allocations be updated at that time.

The baseline level of funding was chosen because it represented the cost of 0.3 FTE (full-time equivalent) of a family law facilitator, the classification most appropriate to staff a self-help center, in 2006.

Policy implications

The proposed changes are consistent with other council-approved actions to make regular updates to allocation methodologies based on updated data.

Comments

Public comments were not solicited for this proposal because the recommendation is within the Judicial Council’s purview to adopt without circulation.

Alternatives considered

The proposal was unanimously approved as is; no alternatives were discussed.

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Self-Help Funding, Allocation Methodology for 2019–20 and Ongoing* (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6631465&GUID=98405B9A-39EF-4D54-8C11-BAC963D1239D>

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Self-Help Funding, Allocation Methodology for 2021–22 and Ongoing* (June 14, 2021), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9481308&GUID=D05A08D1-E39B-4880-BCA1-A551C9B8F20C>.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

Courts may experience changes in their self-help allocations when the allocation data are updated. However, the methodology is designed to give courts ample time to plan for these changes and the operational impact is expected to be minimal.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Recommended Trial Court Trust Fund and State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Funding for Self-Help in Fiscal Year 2024–25*
2. Attachment B: *Population Average, Proportion of State Total, Percent Change in Population Average, and Percent Change in Proportion*

**Recommended Trial Court Trust Fund and State Trial Court Improvement and
Modernization Fund Funding for Self-Help in Fiscal Year 2024–25**

County	Total Population*	% of State Population	Base \$34,000	TCTF Self-Help Funding	IMF Self-Help Funds	Total Self-Help Allocation
A	B	C	D	E = (C * 23,328,000) + D	F = C * 5,000,000	G = E + F
Alameda	1,650,181	4.216%	\$34,000	\$1,017,456	\$210,789	\$1,228,245
Alpine	1,193	0.00%	34,000	34,711	152	34,863
Amador	40,140	0.10%	34,000	57,922	5,127	63,050
Butte	204,613	0.52%	34,000	155,943	26,137	182,080
Calaveras	45,063	0.12%	34,000	60,856	5,756	66,612
Colusa	21,784	0.06%	34,000	46,982	2,783	49,765
Contra Costa	1,155,177	2.95%	34,000	722,449	147,559	870,008
Del Norte	27,137	0.07%	34,000	50,173	3,466	53,639
El Dorado	190,175	0.49%	34,000	147,338	24,292	171,631
Fresno	1,010,668	2.58%	34,000	636,326	129,099	765,426
Glenn	28,725	0.07%	34,000	51,119	3,669	54,788
Humboldt	134,923	0.34%	34,000	114,410	17,235	131,644
Imperial	179,431	0.46%	34,000	140,935	22,920	163,855
Inyo	18,952	0.05%	34,000	45,295	2,421	47,716
Kern	908,204	2.32%	34,000	575,261	116,011	691,272
Kings	151,367	0.39%	34,000	124,210	19,335	143,545
Lake	67,286	0.17%	34,000	74,100	8,595	82,695
Lassen	29,894	0.08%	34,000	51,816	3,819	55,634
Los Angeles	9,851,257	25.17%	34,000	5,905,041	1,258,368	7,163,408
Madera	157,310	0.40%	34,000	127,752	20,094	147,846
Marin	256,535	0.66%	34,000	186,887	32,769	219,656
Mariposa	17,015	0.04%	34,000	44,141	2,173	46,314
Mendocino	89,944	0.23%	34,000	87,604	11,489	99,093
Merced	283,850	0.73%	34,000	203,166	36,258	239,424
Modoc	8,608	0.02%	34,000	39,130	1,100	40,229
Mono	13,278	0.03%	34,000	41,913	1,696	43,609
Monterey	433,268	1.11%	34,000	292,214	55,344	347,559
Napa	136,111	0.35%	34,000	115,118	17,386	132,505
Nevada	101,294	0.26%	34,000	94,368	12,939	107,307
Orange	3,156,317	8.06%	34,000	1,915,066	403,178	2,318,244
Placer	408,949	1.04%	34,000	277,721	52,238	329,959
Plumas	19,171	0.05%	34,000	45,425	2,449	47,874
Riverside	2,433,115	6.22%	34,000	1,484,060	310,798	1,794,859
Sacramento	1,576,565	4.03%	34,000	973,583	201,385	1,174,969

County	Total Population*	% of State Population	Base \$34,000	TCTF Self-Help Funding	IMF Self-Help Funds	Total Self-Help Allocation
A	B	C	D	E = (C * 23,328,000) + D	F = C * 5,000,000	G = E + F
San Benito	65,305	0.17%	34,000	72,920	8,342	81,261
San Bernardino	2,184,021	5.58%	34,000	1,335,608	278,980	1,614,588
San Diego	3,281,855	8.38%	34,000	1,989,883	419,214	2,409,096
San Francisco	841,311	2.15%	34,000	535,395	107,466	642,861
San Joaquin	784,272	2.00%	34,000	501,401	100,180	601,582
San Luis Obispo	279,593	0.71%	34,000	200,629	35,714	236,343
San Mateo	744,634	1.90%	34,000	477,779	95,117	572,896
Santa Barbara	443,132	1.13%	34,000	298,093	56,604	354,697
Santa Clara	1,896,185	4.84%	34,000	1,164,067	242,213	1,406,279
Santa Cruz	265,056	0.68%	34,000	191,965	33,857	225,822
Shasta	180,662	0.46%	34,000	141,669	23,077	164,746
Sierra	3,216	0.01%	34,000	35,916	411	36,327
Siskiyou	43,770	0.11%	34,000	60,085	5,591	65,676
Solano	446,985	1.14%	34,000	300,389	57,096	357,485
Sonoma	481,751	1.23%	34,000	321,108	61,537	382,646
Stanislaus	549,047	1.40%	34,000	361,215	70,134	431,349
Sutter	99,002	0.25%	34,000	93,002	12,646	105,648
Tehama	64,899	0.17%	34,000	72,678	8,290	80,968
Trinity	16,004	0.04%	34,000	43,538	2,044	45,582
Tulare	474,703	1.21%	34,000	316,908	60,637	377,545
Tuolumne	54,891	0.14%	34,000	66,713	7,012	73,725
Ventura	833,133	2.13%	34,000	530,521	106,422	636,943
Yolo	219,761	0.56%	34,000	164,970	28,072	193,042
Yuba	82,313	0.21%	34,000	83,056	10,514	93,571
Total	39,142,998	100%	\$1,972,000	\$25,300,000	\$5,000,000	\$30,300,000

* Population 3-year average per the California Department of Finance, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

**Population Average, Proportion of State Total, Percent Change in
Population Average, and Percent Change in Proportion**

County	Previous Population (3-Year Avg. 2018–2020)	(%) of State Population	Updated Population (3-Year Avg. 2021–2023)	(%) of State Population	(%) Change in Population Avg.	Change in (%) of State Population
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Alameda	1,666,779	4.184%	1,650,181	4.216%	-1.00%	0.032%
Alpine	1,153	0.003%	1,193	0.003%	3.50%	0.000%
Amador	38,021	0.095%	40,140	0.103%	5.57%	0.007%
Butte	221,459	0.556%	204,613	0.523%	-7.61%	-0.033%
Calaveras	45,099	0.113%	45,063	0.115%	-0.08%	0.002%
Colusa	22,039	0.055%	21,784	0.056%	-1.16%	0.000%
Contra Costa	1,152,934	2.894%	1,155,177	2.951%	0.19%	0.057%
Del Norte	27,307	0.069%	27,137	0.069%	-0.62%	0.001%
El Dorado	191,158	0.480%	190,175	0.486%	-0.51%	0.006%
Fresno	1,016,276	2.551%	1,010,668	2.582%	-0.55%	0.031%
Glenn	29,109	0.073%	28,725	0.073%	-1.32%	0.000%
Humboldt	134,879	0.339%	134,923	0.345%	0.03%	0.006%
Imperial	189,889	0.477%	179,431	0.458%	-5.51%	-0.018%
Inyo	18,585	0.047%	18,952	0.048%	1.98%	0.002%
Kern	913,273	2.292%	908,204	2.320%	-0.55%	0.028%
Kings	152,993	0.384%	151,367	0.387%	-1.06%	0.003%
Lake	64,731	0.162%	67,286	0.172%	3.95%	0.009%
Lassen	29,965	0.075%	29,894	0.076%	-0.24%	0.001%
Los Angeles	10,236,799	25.695%	9,851,257	25.167%	-3.77%	-0.527%
Madera	158,859	0.399%	157,310	0.402%	-0.98%	0.003%
Marin	262,532	0.659%	256,535	0.655%	-2.28%	-0.004%
Mariposa	18,088	0.045%	17,015	0.043%	-5.93%	-0.002%
Mendocino	88,751	0.223%	89,944	0.230%	1.34%	0.007%
Merced	282,142	0.708%	283,850	0.725%	0.61%	0.017%
Modoc	9,595	0.024%	8,608	0.022%	-10.29%	-0.002%
Mono	13,634	0.034%	13,278	0.034%	-2.61%	0.000%
Monterey	443,279	1.113%	433,268	1.107%	-2.26%	-0.006%
Napa	140,387	0.352%	136,111	0.348%	-3.05%	-0.005%
Nevada	98,724	0.248%	101,294	0.259%	2.60%	0.011%
Orange	3,212,644	8.064%	3,156,317	8.064%	-1.75%	0.000%
Placer	396,645	0.996%	408,949	1.045%	3.10%	0.049%
Plumas	19,271	0.048%	19,171	0.049%	-0.52%	0.001%
Riverside	2,432,794	6.106%	2,433,115	6.216%	0.01%	0.110%

County	Previous Population (3-Year Avg. 2018–2020)	(%) of State Population	Updated Population (3-Year Avg. 2021–2023)	(%) of State Population	(%) Change in Population Avg.	Change in (%) of State Population
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Sacramento	1,543,680	3.875%	1,576,565	4.028%	2.13%	0.153%
San Benito	60,579	0.152%	65,305	0.167%	7.80%	0.015%
San Bernardino	2,182,559	5.478%	2,184,021	5.580%	0.07%	0.101%
San Diego	3,344,199	8.394%	3,281,855	8.384%	-1.86%	-0.010%
San Francisco	888,546	2.230%	841,311	2.149%	-5.32%	-0.081%
San Joaquin	767,587	1.927%	784,272	2.004%	2.17%	0.077%
San Luis Obispo	279,251	0.701%	279,593	0.714%	0.12%	0.013%
San Mateo	773,961	1.943%	744,634	1.902%	-3.79%	-0.040%
Santa Barbara	453,297	1.138%	443,132	1.132%	-2.24%	-0.006%
Santa Clara	1,957,618	4.914%	1,896,185	4.844%	-3.14%	-0.069%
Santa Cruz	274,323	0.689%	265,056	0.677%	-3.38%	-0.011%
Shasta	178,363	0.448%	180,662	0.462%	1.29%	0.014%
Sierra	3,207	0.008%	3,216	0.008%	0.27%	0.000%
Siskiyou	44,552	0.112%	43,770	0.112%	-1.76%	0.000%
Solano	440,441	1.106%	446,985	1.142%	1.49%	0.036%
Sonoma	498,996	1.253%	481,751	1.231%	-3.46%	-0.022%
Stanislaus	557,435	1.399%	549,047	1.403%	-1.50%	0.003%
Sutter	98,493	0.247%	99,002	0.253%	0.52%	0.006%
Tehama	64,518	0.162%	64,899	0.166%	0.59%	0.004%
Trinity	13,624	0.034%	16,004	0.041%	17.47%	0.007%
Tulare	478,308	1.201%	474,703	1.213%	-0.75%	0.012%
Tuolumne	54,749	0.137%	54,891	0.140%	0.26%	0.003%
Ventura	852,852	2.141%	833,133	2.128%	-2.31%	-0.012%
Yolo	221,852	0.557%	219,761	0.561%	-0.94%	0.005%
Yuba	77,177	0.194%	82,313	0.210%	6.66%	0.017%
Total	39,839,959	100%	39,142,998	100%	-1.75%	0.000%