Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-039

For business meeting on July 17, 2026

Trial Court Budget: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Judicial Council Report Details

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected
None

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

Report Type
Action Required

Effective Date
July 17, 2026

Date of Report
June 15, 2026

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Executive Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approving allocations totaling $47.8 million for fiscal year 2026–27 from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund. The allocations to various Judicial Council offices will provide funding to support statewide trial court programs, technology initiatives, operational improvements, and modernization efforts. With the proposed allocations, the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund is projected to end fiscal year 2026–27 with a fund balance of $38.7 million, of which approximately $36.6 million is unrestricted.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, with Judicial Branch Budget Committee approval on May 20, 2026, recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 17, 2026, approve a total of $47.8 million in allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 from the State Trial Court Improvement

and Modernization Fund. The requested allocations and change from the fiscal year 2025–26 allocation value, by Judicial Council office, are as follows:

- $423,000 to Audit Services, a decrease of $10,000;
- $309,000 to Branch Accounting and Procurement, an increase of $4,000;
- $8,000 to Budget Services, no change;
- $5.3 million to the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, a decrease of $169,000;
- $2.3 million to the Center for Judicial Education and Resources, a decrease of $578,000;
- $9,000 to Criminal Justice Services, no change;
- $410,000 to Human Resources, an increase of $387,000;
- $34.5 million to Information Technology, an increase of $314,000;
- $2.2 million to Leadership Support Services, a decrease of $112,000;
- $2.3 million to Legal Services, a decrease of $26,000; and
- $149,000 to Research, Analytics, and Data, an increase of $140,000.

A list of the approved fiscal year 2025–26 and proposed fiscal year 2026–27 allocations is provided in Attachment A.

Relevant Previous Council Action

Since the inception of state trial court funding in 1996, the Judicial Council or the Executive and Planning Committee has allocated trial court–related funding every year from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) or its predecessor fund, the Judicial Administration Efficiency and Modernization Fund.

On August 23, 2013, the council approved a delegation of authority to the Administrative Director to transfer allocations approved by the Judicial Council between projects and programs not to exceed 20 percent of the allocations to be reduced or augmented (Link A). Subsequently, on July 18, 2025, the council approved an additional delegation of authority to the Administrative Director to authorize baseline technical adjustments to Judicial Council–approved allocations, up to a maximum of 10 percent of specific allocations, to allow for the efficient implementation of required budgetary adjustments (Link B).

On June 14, 2016, the council approved a policy requesting that the IMF set aside a reserve of $2 million to protect against possible declines in revenue (Link C).

Analysis/Rationale

Following are the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2026–27 allocation requests. Additional details for each of the programs are included in Attachment B.

Audit Services—Conducts operational audits and risk assessments and recommends improvements to all judicial branch entities.

Approve an allocation of $423,000; a decrease of $10,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for conducting performance and compliance audits of the 58 trial courts.
- The adjustment is due to decreased staffing and rent costs.

Branch Accounting and Procurement—Supports the trial courts' financial and human resources Phoenix System.

Approve an allocation of $309,000; an increase of $4,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for two staff, one each in the treasury unit and procurement unit, and for providing contract-related services to produce statewide leveraged procurement agreements.
- The adjustment is due to increased staffing and rent costs.

Budget Services—Supports meetings of various budget committees and subcommittees related to trial court funding, policies, and other issues.

Approve an allocation of $8,000; no change from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and subcommittee meetings, and annual revenue distribution and collections reporting trainings.

Center for Families, Children & the Courts—Supports various programs within the courts for litigants.

Approve an allocation of $5.3 million; a decrease of $169,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for providing domestic violence forms in languages other than English to all courts; enabling all courts to use HotDocs document assembly applications while filing documents; court-based assistance to self-represented litigants; supporting the Beyond the Bench conference, Child & Family Focused Education Conference, and Youth Summit; funding for legal services agencies and their court partners to provide representation to indigent persons; and updating the Self-Represented Litigants Statewide Support Program and expanding the online Self-Help Guide to the California Courts on the judicial branch website.

- The $5 million for the self-help guide is a majority of the allocation. Budget bill language requires unspent funds for self-help to revert to the General Fund.

- The largest portion of the decrease in allocation is due to transferring the Court Interpreter Testing program, with an allocation of $143,000, to Leadership Support Services.

- The Shriver Civil Counsel Program cy pres funding decreased by $26,000. This request represents the current available balance of cy pres funds as of February 2026. This funding is the available balance from class action lawsuits collected in FY 2019–20 and can only be used for this purpose. Minor revenue deposits have continued to be collected related to lawsuits from that year. The requested decrease represents a reduction in the need for use of these funds as the balance of funds has decreased.

Center for Judicial Education and Resources—Provides education to judges, court leaders, court staff faculty, managers, supervisors, and lead staff.

Approve an allocation of $2.3 million; a decrease of $578,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for faculty development, participant expenses, training for court leaders, the Court Clerks Training Institute, and newly elected or appointed judges and subordinate judicial officers' education programs.

- The decrease reflects a projected reduction in judicial appointments in FY 2026–27. As a result, fewer new judge education programs will be offered, including one less Judicial College session.

Criminal Justice Services—Supports the Judicial Council's Criminal Jury Instructions Advisory Committee.

Approve an allocation of $9,000; no change from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for the criminal portion of the jury instructions and is funded by royalties generated from their sales, which are deposited in the IMF.

Human Resources—Supports the Trial Court Labor Relations Academy and Forum to assist trial court staff in addressing various labor issues and the Judges Pay and Benefits Program.

Approve an allocation of $410,000; an increase of $387,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The academy and forum is held every other year. No event is scheduled in FY 2026–27, and funding is not needed.

- The increase is to support a new Judges Pay and Benefits Program, which provides comprehensive payroll and benefits administration for 1,253 judges and justices. Payroll services include processing appointments, elevations, separations, retirements, and accounts receivable transactions. The program's responsibilities have expanded, and new duties include distributing accounts receivable memos for the retroactive collection of health and dental premium amounts and processing all manual State Controller's Office pay rate adjustments. The allocation will fund two full-time Associate Human Resources Analyst positions.

Information Technology—Supports information technology systems for the 58 trial courts.

Approve an allocation of $34.5 million; an increase of $314,000, from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for the Data Center and Cloud Service to host services for the 58 trial courts, the appellate courts, and the Supreme Court; the distribution and mandated reporting of uniform civil fees collected by the 58 trial courts; the California Courts Protective Order Registry; developing and supporting a standardized level of network infrastructure for the trial courts; the Enterprise Policy and Planning program, which

provides a variety of Oracle products to the courts; data integration; and the Jury Management System.

- The allocation includes adjustments to data integration and the Judicial Branch Technology Services Data Center due to increased staffing costs.

- The allocation also includes adjustments to Statewide Planning and Development Support, Telecom, and Uniform Civil Filing Services to reflect minor program changes, staffing updates, and rent.

Leadership Support Services—Supports the trial court judicial officers for the Commission on Judicial Performance defense master insurance policy.

Approve an allocation of $2.2 million; a decrease of $112,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for the Judicial Performance Defense Insurance program, which is used to pay the insurance premium for trial court judges and judicial officers for the Commission on Judicial Performance defense master insurance policy. The reduction reflects a decrease in the insurance premium.

- The allocation request includes the transfer of the Court Interpreter Testing program with a $143,000 allocation to Leadership Support Services from the Center for Families, Children & the Courts.

Legal Services—Supports the various Judicial Council offices and the courts, manages litigation, is responsible for maintaining the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms, and supports the Civil Jury Instructions Advisory Committee.

Approve an allocation of $2.3 million; a decrease of $26,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for the Regional Office Assistance Group of Legal Services to provide direct services to the trial courts; the Litigation Management Program, which manages litigation and provides for the defense and indemnification of all judicial branch entities, bench officers, and employees; and the civil portion of the jury instructions, which is funded by royalties generated from their sales.

- The adjustment is due to an anticipated decrease in settlement expenditures for the Litigation Management Program.

Research, Analytics, and Data—Supports the judicial branch's research, data, and analytic functions and conducts the trial court workload study and judicial needs assessment.

Approve an allocation of $149,000; an increase of $140,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation:

- The allocation is for the Data Analytics Advisory Committee meeting expenses for court personnel and judges related to workload studies.

- The increase in allocation is for a limited-term resource to support data validation work for trial courts that are participating in a viability assessment for data analytics and reporting in the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System. This project will be part of the data analytics and data integration platform sponsored by the Data Analytics Advisory Committee.

The FY 2026–27 allocation request of $47.8 million from the IMF is reflected in the IMF Fund Condition Statement (Attachment C). Based on current revenue estimates, the fund is estimated to have a sufficient balance for the requested allocations (see Attachment C, row 25). The $2 million reserve is not expected to be needed to support the FY 2026–27 allocation recommendations included in Attachment A.

Policy implications

The recommendation is consistent with the annual process of allocating trial court–related funding from the IMF every fiscal year.

Comments

This proposal was not circulated for public comment. However, the recommendation was considered at meetings that were open to the public, and no public comments were received.

Alternatives considered

The allocation recommendation is consistent with past practice and was thoroughly vetted through the Judicial Council governance process and deemed necessary and affordable. No other alternatives were considered. If the recommendation to allocate funds is not approved, programmatic support to the trial courts will be affected.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

No additional fiscal or operational costs are necessary to implement the recommendation.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Judicial Council of California Approved FY 2025–26 and Proposed FY 2026–27 Allocations, State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund, State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations
2. Attachment B: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Summary of Programs
3. Attachment C: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund, Fund Condition Statement FY 2026–27
4. Link A: Judicial Council of Cal., mins, (Aug. 22–23, 2013), item G, p. 14
5. Link B: Judicial Council of Cal. Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025–26* (June 10, 2025)
6. Link C: Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Allocations: Fiscal Year 2016–2017 Allocations from Trial Court Trust Fund and State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund* (June 13, 2016)

Judicial Council of California
Approved FY 2025–26 and Proposed FY 2026–27 Allocations
State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations

#	Program Name and Adjustments	Office	FY 2025-26 Judicial Council Approved Allocations	FY 2026–27 State Operations Allocations	2026–27 Local Assistance Allocations	Total	$ Change from FY 2025–26	% Change from FY 2025–26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G = (E + F)	H = (G - D)	I = (H/D)
1	Audit Services	AS	$ 433,000	$ 423,000	$ -	**$ 423,000**	$ (10,000)	-2.3%
2	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BAP	109,000	109,000	-	**109,000**	$ -	0.0%
3	Trial Court Procurement	BAP	196,000	200,000	-	**200,000**	$ 4,000	2.0%
4	Budget Focused Training and Meetings	BS	5,000	5,000	-	**5,000**	$ -	0.0%
5	Revenue Distribution Training	BS	3,000	3,000	-	**3,000**	$ -	0.0%
6	Court Interpreter Testing (moved to LSS 10/2025)	CFCC	143,000	-	-	**-**	$ (143,000)	-100.0%
7	Domestic Violence Forms Translation	CFCC	17,000	-	17,000	**17,000**	$ -	0.0%
8	Interactive Software - Self-Rep Electronic Forms	CFCC	60,000	-	60,000	**60,000**	$ -	0.0%
9	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel- Cy Pres Funding	CFCC	93,000	-	67,000	**67,000**	$ (26,000)	-28.0%
10	Self-Help Center	CFCC	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	**5,000,000**	$ -	0.0%
11	Statewide Multidisciplinary Education	CFCC	67,000	-	67,000	**67,000**	$ -	0.0%
12	Statewide Support for Self-Help Programs	CFCC	100,000	-	100,000	**100,000**	$ -	0.0%
13	CJER Faculty	CJER	48,000	-	48,000	**48,000**	$ -	0.0%
14	Essential Court Management Education	CJER	40,000	40,000	-	**40,000**	$ -	0.0%
15	Essential Court Personnel Education	CJER	130,000	-	130,000	**130,000**	$ -	0.0%
16	Judicial Education	CJER	2,611,000	145,000	1,888,000	**2,033,000**	$ (578,000)	-22.1%
17	Jury System Improvement Projects	CJS	9,000	9,000	-	**9,000**	$ -	0.0%
18	Trial Court Labor Relations Academies and Forums	HR	23,000	-	-	**-**	$ (23,000)	-100.0%
19	Judges Pay and Benefits Program	HR	-	410,000	-	**410,000**	$ 410,000	100.0%
20	California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)	IT	1,047,000	452,000	606,000	**1,058,000**	$ 11,000	1.1%
21	Data Integration	IT	1,780,000	936,000	1,059,000	**1,995,000**	$ 215,000	12.1%
22	Judicial Branch Technology Services (JBTS) Data Center and Cloud Service	IT	7,483,000	2,052,000	5,484,000	**7,536,000**	$ 53,000	0.7%
23	Jury Management System	IT	600,000	-	600,000	**600,000**	$ -	0.0%
24	Statewide Planning and Dev Support	IT	2,032,000	467,000	1,566,000	**2,033,000**	$ 1,000	0.0%
25	Telecom	IT	5,714,000	1,343,000	4,384,000	**5,727,000**	$ 13,000	0.2%
26	Telecommunications	IT	15,100,000	-	15,100,000	**15,100,000**	$ -	0.0%
27	Uniform Civil Filing Services	IT	467,000	428,000	60,000	**488,000**	$ 21,000	4.5%
28	Court Interpreter Testing etc.	LSS	-	-	143,000	**143,000**	$ 143,000	100.0%
29	Judicial Performance Defense Insurance	LSS	2,276,000	2,000	2,019,000	**2,021,000**	$ (255,000)	-11.2%
30	Jury System Improvement Projects	LS	10,000	-	10,000	**10,000**	$ -	0.0%
31	Litigation Management Program	LS	1,200,000	-	1,200,000	**1,200,000**	$ -	0.0%
32	Regional Office Assistance Group	LS	1,091,000	1,065,000	-	**1,065,000**	$ (26,000)	-2.4%
33	Data Analytics Advisory Committee	RAD	9,000	-	9,000	**9,000**	$ -	0.0%
34	Data Validation for JBSIS Proof of Concept for Trial Courts	RAD	-	140,000	-	**140,000**	$ 140,000	100.0%
35	**Total**	-	**$ 47,896,000**	**$ 8,229,000**	**$ 39,617,000**	**$ 47,846,000**	**$ (50,000)**	**-0.1%**

Totals by Office

#	Legend	Office	Judicial Council Approved Allocations	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total	$ Change from FY 2025–26	% Change from FY 2025–26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G = (E + F)	H = (G - D)	I = (H/D)
36	Audit Services	AS	$ 433,000	$ 423,000	$ -	$ 423,000	$ (10,000)	-2.3%
37	Branch Accounting and Procurement	BAP	305,000	309,000	-	309,000	$ 4,000	1.3%
38	Budget Services	BS	8,000	8,000	-	8,000	$ -	0.0%
39	Center for Families, Children & the Courts	CFCC	5,480,000	-	5,311,000	5,311,000	$ (169,000)	-3.1%
40	Center for Judicial Education and Resources	CJER	2,829,000	185,000	2,066,000	2,251,000	$ (578,000)	-20.4%
41	Criminal Justice Services	CJS	9,000	9,000	-	9,000	$ -	0.0%
42	Human Resources	HR	23,000	410,000	-	410,000	$ 387,000	1682.6%
43	Information Technology	IT	34,223,000	5,678,000	28,859,000	34,537,000	$ 314,000	0.9%
44	Leadership Support Services	LSS	2,276,000	2,000	2,162,000	2,164,000	$ (112,000)	-4.9%
45	Legal Services	LS	2,301,000	1,065,000	1,210,000	2,275,000	$ (26,000)	-1.1%
46	Research, Analytics, and Data	RAD	9,000	140,000	9,000	149,000	$ 140,000	1555.6%
47	**Total Allocations**	-	**$ 47,896,000**	**$ 8,229,000**	**$ 39,617,000**	**$ 47,846,000**	**$ (50,000)**	**-0.1%**

State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
Summary of Programs

Row #	Program Name	Office	Program Description
A	B	C	D
1	Audit Services	AS	Conducts performance and compliance audits of the State's 58 trial courts per the annual audit plan.
2	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BAP	Used for the compensation, operating expenses and equipment costs for one accounting staff.
3	Trial Court Procurement	BAP	Pays for personal services and rent allocation for one position in Branch Accounting and Procurement that provides procurement and contract related services at a statewide level.
4	Budget Focused Training and Meetings	BS	Supports meetings of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and associated subcommittees on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provides input to the Judicial Council on policy issues affecting Trial Court Funding.
5	Revenue Distribution Training	BS	Pays for annual training on Revenue Distribution to all the collection programs as well as annual Collections Reporting Template (CRT) training.
6	Domestic Violence Forms Translation	CFCC	This program makes available to all courts, translation of domestic violence protective order forms in languages other than English. Since 2000, these forms have been translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean based on data from various language needs studies.
7	Interactive Software - Self-Rep Electronic Forms	CFCC	This program enables all courts to use HotDocs Document Assembly Applications, which present court users with a Q&A format that automatically populates fields across all filing documents.
8	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel- Cy Pres Funding	CFCC	This program provides funding for legal services agencies and their court partners to provide representation to indigent persons in cases involving housing, child custody, guardianship, conservatorships, and domestic violence.
9	Self-Help Center	CFCC	Provides court-based assistance to self-represented litigants.
10	Statewide Multidisciplinary Education	CFCC	Supports the biannual Beyond the Bench Conference, biannual Child & Family Focused Education Conference, and annual Youth Summit.
11	Statewide Support for Self-Help Programs	CFCC	The Self-Represented Litigants Statewide Support Program updates and expands the online California Courts Self-Help Center on the judicial branch website. Further, this program facilitates the translating of over 50 Judicial Council forms that are used regularly by self-represented litigants.
12	CJER Faculty	CJER	Lodging, meals, and travel for faculty development participants. Primarily development of pro bono judge and court staff faculty who will teach all CJER programs for the trial courts.
13	Essential Court Management Education	CJER	National and statewide training for court leaders, including Institute for Court Management (ICM) courses, CJER Core 40 and Core 24 courses, & other local & regional courses for managers, supervisors and lead staff.
14	Essential Court Personnel Education	CJER	The Court Clerks Training Institute - courtroom and court legal process education in civil, traffic, criminal, probate, family, juvenile, appellate. Regional and local court personnel courses. The biennial Trial Court Judicial Attorneys Institute.
15	Judicial Education	CJER	Programs for all newly elected or appointed judges and subordinate judicial officers required by California Rules of Court, rule 10.462(c)(1) to complete the new judge education programs offered by CJER; Judicial Institutes, courses for experienced judges; programs for PJs, CEOs & Supervising Judges.
16	Jury System Improvement Projects	CJS	This program is related to Jury Instructions and is a "self-funding" PCC. Funds in this account are generated by royalties generated from sales of criminal and civil jury instructions. The funds are deposited pursuant to the Government Code.
17	Trial Court Labor Relations Academies and Forums	HR	The Judicial Council's Human Resources office has updated its Trial Court Labor Relations Training program to align with its biennial funding model. The program includes a one-day, in-person session in spring for seasoned court professionals in labor relations, focusing on current trends and strategies. The funding allocation will be used to pay for conference rooms, materials, lunch for participants, and lodging for trial court attendees on a limited basis. Additionally, a three-day virtual Labor Relations Academy I is held annually in summer, aimed at court managers and human resources staff new to labor negotiations. This program reflects a comprehensive effort to enhance trial court employees' skills and knowledge in the field of labor relations within the judicial branch.
18	Judges Pay and Benefits Program	HR	This program provides comprehensive payroll and benefits administration for 1,253 justices and judges serving in the California Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and the trial courts (excluding Los Angeles, Riverside, and Ventura). Payroll services include processing appointments, elevations, separations, retirements, and accounts receivable transactions. Benefits administration encompasses plan changes, dependent additions and removals, COBRA compliance, and the resolution of coverage discrepancies, billing issues, and claims. The program works closely with the State Controller's Office (SCO), CalPERS, the California Department of Human Resources, and the Judges' Retirement System to ensure accurate and timely processing. It also provides responsive, high-quality customer service to judges seeking assistance with their benefits. Since its inception, the program's responsibilities have expanded. New duties include distributing accounts receivable memos for the retroactive collection of health and dental premium amounts and processing all manual SCO pay rate adjustments resulting from the Mallano vs. Chiang ruling.
19	California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)	IT	The California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR) is a statewide repository of protective orders containing both data and scanned images of orders that can be accessed by judges, court staff, and law enforcement officers. CCPOR allows judges and law enforcement officers to view orders issued by other court divisions and across county lines.
20	Data Integration	IT	Data Integration provides system interfaces between Judicial Council systems and the computer systems of our justice partners, be they courts, law enforcement agencies, the Department of Justice and others. Without the Integrated Services Backbone (ISB), the current systems for sharing protective orders, for example, would not function.

State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
Summary of Programs

Row #	Program Name	Office	Program Description
A	B	C	D
21	Judicial Branch Technology Services (JBTS) Data Center and Cloud Service	IT	JBTS hosts services for the 58 California superior courts, all the Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court and has over 10,000 supported users. Major installations in the JBTS include the following: • Appellate Court Case Management System (ACCMS) • California Court Protective Order Registry (CCPOR) • Phoenix - Trial Court Financial and Human Resources System • Integration Services Backbone (ISB) This program provides consistent, cost-effective, and hosting services, including ongoing maintenance and operational support, data network management, and local server support, tape backup and recovery, help desk services, email services, and a disaster recovery program.
22	Jury Management System	IT	The allocation for the Jury Program is used to distribute funds to the trial courts in the form of grants to improve court jury management systems. All trial courts are eligible to apply for the jury funding. The number of courts receiving grants varies according to the amount of grant funding available and the number of jury grant requests received.
23	Statewide Planning and Dev Support	IT	This program provides the trial courts access to a variety of Oracle products (e.g., Oracle Enterprise Database, Real Application Clusters, Oracle Security Suite, Oracle Advanced Security, Diagnostic Packs, Oracle WebLogic Application Server) without cost to the courts.
24, 25	Telecommunications Support	IT	This program develops and supports a standardized level of network infrastructure for the California superior courts. This infrastructure provides a foundation for local systems (email, jury, CMS, VOIP, etc.) and enterprise system applications such as Phoenix, provides operational efficiencies via shared services at the CCTC, and secures valuable court information resources.
26	Uniform Civil Filing Services	IT	This program supports the distribution and mandated reporting of uniform civil fees collected by all 58 superior courts, with an average of $45 million distributed per month. The system generates reports for the State Controller's Office and various entities that receive the distributed funds. There are over 200 fee types collected by each court, distributed to 23 different entities (e.g. Trial Court Trust Fund, County, Equal Access Fund, Law Library, etc.), requiring 59,520 corresponding distribution rules that are maintained by UCFS. UCFS benefits the public by minimizing the amount of penalties paid to the state for incorrect or late distributions and ensuring that the entities entitled to a portion of the civil fees collected, as mandated by law, receive their correct distributions.
27	Jury System Improvement Projects	LS	This program is related to Jury Instructions and is a "self-funding" PCC. Funds in this account are generated by royalties generated from sales of criminal and civil jury instructions. The funds are deposited pursuant to the Government Code.
28	Litigation Management Program	LS	Provides for the defense and indemnification of all judicial branch entities, their bench officers, and their employees. Defense of these parties is for government claims, prelitigation claims, and litigation, as well as for various risk-reduction measures, as required by Government Code sections 810–811.9, 825–825.6, 900.3, and 995–996.6 and California Rules of Court, rules 10.201 and 10.202.
29	Regional Office Assistance Group	LS	The allocation for the Regional Office Assistance Group is used to pay for attorneys and support personnel to provide direct legal services to the trial courts in the areas of transactions/business operations, legal opinions, ethics, and labor and employment law.
30	Court Interpreter Testing etc.	LSS	Pays for the testing, orientation, and recruitment of new interpreters. This program was transferred to LSS from CFCC.
31	Judicial Performance Defense Insurance	LSS	The allocation for the Judicial Performance Defense Insurance program is used to pay the insurance premium for trial court judges and judicial officers for the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP) defense master insurance policy and associated costs to provide for online enrollment and submission of compliance information. The program (1) covers defense costs in CJP proceedings related to CJP complaints; (2) protects judicial officers from exposure to excessive financial risk for acts committed within the scope of their judicial duties; and (3) lowers the risk of conduct that could lead to complaints through required ethics training for judicial officers.
32	Data Analytics Advisory Committee	RAD	Support for the Data Analytics Advisory Committee (DAAC), including committee meeting expenses incurred by courts and travel expenses for court personnel and judges related to workload studies.
33	Data Validation for JBSIS Proof of Concept for Trial Courts	RAD	One-time funding is requested for FY 2026-27 to support data validation work for courts that are participating in a viability assessment for data analytics and data reporting in the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS), sponsored by DAAC. DAAC has and will sponsor funding requests for technology and analytics for trial courts. This funding will pay for a contractor to support courts with data validation on the platform. One of the biggest barriers to participation for smaller courts is having the time and resources to do the validation work.

State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
Fund Condition Statement
FY 2026–27

Updated: May 20, 2026

#	Description	2022–23 (Year-End Financial Statement) A	2023–24 (Year-End Financial Statement) B	2024–25 (Year-End Financial Statement) C	Estimated 2025–26 D	Estimated 2026–27 E	Estimated 2027–28 F
1	Beginning Balance	23,242,054	38,128,109	38,371,462	44,510,283	43,827,283	39,213,283
2	Prior-Year Adjustments	8,638,611	-284,477	3,149,029	0	0	0
3	**Adjusted Beginning Balance**	**31,880,665**	**37,843,632**	**41,520,491**	**44,510,283**	**43,827,283**	**39,213,283**
4	***REVENUES*** [1] **:**	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Jury Instructions Royalties	429,853	453,482	587,261	529,000	547,000	547,000
6	Interest from Surplus Money Investment Fund	1,550,086	3,133,621	3,605,113	2,845,000	2,845,000	2,845,000
7	Escheat-Unclaimed Checks, Warrants, Bonds	1,000	3,088	8,499	2,000	1,000	1,000
8	50/50 Excess Fines Split Revenue	7,504,000	2,862,000	3,317,287	4,011,000	4,011,000	4,011,000
9	2% Automation Fund Revenue	8,327,104	7,419,361	6,909,598	6,960,000	6,435,000	6,435,000
10	Other Revenues/State Controller's Office Adjustments	171,078	84,495	86,999	286,000	2,000	2,000
11	Class Action Residue	329,186	118,425	48,155	15,000	0	0
12	**Subtotal Revenues**	**18,311,387**	**14,074,472**	**14,562,912**	**14,648,000**	**13,841,000**	**13,841,000**
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	-13,397,000
15	To Trial Court Trust Fund (Budget Act)	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000
16	General Fund Transfer (Gov. Code, § 20825.1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	**Total Revenues, Transfers, and Other Adjustments**	**4,320,387**	**83,472**	**571,912**	**657,000**	**-150,000**	**-150,000**
18	**Total Resources**	**36,201,052**	**37,927,104**	**42,092,403**	**45,167,283**	**43,677,283**	**39,063,283**
19	***EXPENDITURES:***	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Judicial Branch Total State Operations	**5,319,495**	**6,726,611**	**5,886,374**	**6,201,000**	**8,229,000**	**8,229,000**
21	Judicial Branch Total Local Assistance	**36,857,436**	**37,105,883**	**35,915,093**	**38,740,000**	**39,617,000**	**39,617,000**
22	Pro Rata and Other Adjustments	**180,012**	**117,148**	**313,653**	**617,000**	**836,000**	**836,000**
23	Less funding provided by General Fund (Local Assistance)	-44,284,000	-44,394,000	-44,533,000	-44,218,000	-44,218,000	-44,218,000
24	**Total Expenditures and Adjustments**	**-1,927,057**	**-444,358**	**-2,417,880**	**1,340,000**	**4,464,000**	**4,464,000**
25	**Fund Balance**	**38,128,109**	**38,371,462**	**44,510,283**	**43,827,283**	**39,213,283**	**34,599,283**
26	**Fund Balance - less restricted funds**	**35,519,627**	**36,080,861**	**42,177,266**	**41,574,526**	**37,085,551**	**32,538,551**
27	**Structural Balance**	6,247,444	527,830	2,989,792	-683,000	-4,614,000	-4,614,000

[1] *Revenue estimates are as of FY 2026–27 May Revision.*

[2] *The FY 2025–26 expenditures reflect anticipated savings as recognized by programs in relation to the 2025-26 Judical Council-approved allocations.*