Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-109

For business meeting on July 17, 2026

Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2026–27 Allocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding

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 17, 2026

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Executive Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends allocating $32.9 million to trial courts for fiscal year 2026–27 to support Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act operations. The amount included in the 2026 Budget Act may be adjusted based on final appropriations. The Judicial Branch Budget Committee approved this recommendation for consideration by the Judicial Council.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council, effective July 17, 2026:

1. Continue all elements of the allocation methodology approved in fiscal year 2023–24, including employing the Workload Formula and the funding base already defined; and

2. Allocate $32.9 million, with base funding and pro rata distribution of remaining funds, to fund trial court operations related to the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act for fiscal year 2026–27.

The proposed allocations are included in Attachment A.

Relevant Previous Council Action

On January 20, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology to distribute $2.8 million in planning funds to the seven courts making up the first cohort of courts implementing the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act in fiscal year (FY) 2022–23.[1] On July 21, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology and allocations for CARE Act court costs included in the Budget Act of 2023.[2] On September 19, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an additional CARE Act allocation to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County included in the Budget Act of 2023.[3] On July 12, 2024, the Judicial Council approved the methodology and allocations for FY 2024–25.[4] On July 18, 2025, the Judicial Council approved the methodology and allocations for FY 2025–26.[5] On April 24, 2026, the Judicial Council approved reallocation of FY 2025–26 CARE Act funding based upon projected unspent funding and additional funding needs among the courts.[6]

Analysis/Rationale

The FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget includes $32.9 million for CARE Act trial court operations for the 58 trial courts.

On July 21, 2023,[7] the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology for FY 2023–24 and subsequent years that included the following:

1. For Cohort One courts, an allocation for court operations that employs the Workload Formula with a base of 25 CARE Act cases calculated at $93,225;

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[1] Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Allocation Methodology* (Nov. 29, 2022).

[2] 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).

[3] Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2023–24 Allocation of CARE Act Funding* (Aug. 23, 2023).

[4] 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).

[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).

[6] Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Fiscal Year 2025–26 Reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding* (Mar. 24, 2026).

[7] 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).

2. For Cohort One courts, 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 received in FY 2024–25 when all courts implemented the CARE Act;

3. 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 for Cohort One courts described in recommendation 2 and after reduction by 0.5 percent to hold as a reserve for Cohort One courts that require additional program funding, and any unspent funding from the court allocations and this reserve redistributed through the reallocation process; and

4. A method to reallocate unspent funds during the fiscal year, through a survey of all courts assessing projected expenditures and reallocation needs.

The methodology applies the most current data available, utilizing the FY 2025–26 Workload Formula for the proposed FY 2026–27 CARE Act allocations (Attachment A).[8]

The final allocation of the $32.9 million will be updated based on any needed technical adjustments and is contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27.

Policy implications
There are no identified policy implications to consider for the recommended allocation.

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 recommended action makes no changes to the methodology.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

This recommendation is for the allocation of funds that are included in the FY 2026–27 budget. No additional costs or impacts are anticipated.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: CARE Act Allocation of Court Operations Budget FY 2026–27

[8] Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025–26* (June 24, 2025).

Attachment A

CARE Act Allocation of Court Operations Budget FY 2026–27

Court	Final Workload Allocation			Staff/Other			Court Operations			Total
	Final Workload Allocation	Percentage	Distribution	Base	Distribution of Funds to Courts Above $98,000	Final Staff/Other Allocation	Base	Distribution of Funds to Courts Above $93,225	Final Court Operations Allocation	Total Allocation
	A	B	C	D	E	F (D+E)	G	H	I (G+H)	J (F+I)
Alameda	$ 91,128,909	3.54%	$ 748,728	$ 98,000	$ 579,236	**$ 677,236**	$ 93,225	$ 232,277	**$ 325,502**	**$ 1,002,738**
Alpine	$ 994,000	0.04%	$ 8,168	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Amador	$ 4,708,708	0.18%	$ 38,687	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Butte	$ 14,117,483	0.55%	$ 115,991	$ 98,000	$ 89,734	**$ 187,734**	$ 93,225	$ 35,984	**$ 129,209**	**$ 316,943**
Calaveras	$ 3,496,238	0.14%	$ 28,726	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Colusa	$ 2,619,720	0.10%	$ 21,523	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Contra Costa	$ 53,813,756	2.09%	$ 442,142	$ 98,000	$ 342,054	**$ 440,054**	$ 93,225	$ 137,165	**$ 230,390**	**$ 670,444**
Del Norte	$ 4,061,613	0.16%	$ 33,370	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
El Dorado	$ 10,262,799	0.40%	$ 84,321	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Fresno	$ 64,916,965	2.53%	$ 533,367	$ 98,000	$ 412,627	**$ 510,627**	$ 93,225	$ 165,466	**$ 258,691**	**$ 769,318**
Glenn	$ 3,313,806	0.13%	$ 27,226	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Humboldt	$ 8,848,774	0.34%	$ 72,704	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Imperial	$ 10,126,650	0.39%	$ 83,201	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Inyo	$ 2,647,940	0.10%	$ 21,756	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Kern	$ 66,230,485	2.58%	$ 544,160	$ 98,000	$ 420,976	**$ 518,976**	$ 93,225	$ 168,814	**$ 262,039**	**$ 781,015**
Kings	$ 11,035,848	0.43%	$ 90,672	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Lake	$ 5,358,110	0.21%	$ 44,022	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Lassen	$ 2,729,185	0.11%	$ 22,423	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Los Angeles	$ 740,942,433	28.82%	$ 6,087,692	$ 98,000	$ 4,709,603	**$ 4,807,603**	$ 93,225	$ 1,888,578	**$ 1,981,803**	**$ 6,789,406**
Madera	$ 12,674,580	0.49%	$ 104,137	$ 98,000	$ 80,562	**$ 178,562**	$ 93,225	$ 32,306	**$ 125,531**	**$ 304,093**
Marin	$ 14,371,061	0.56%	$ 118,075	$ 98,000	$ 91,346	**$ 189,346**	$ 93,225	$ 36,630	**$ 129,855**	**$ 319,201**
Mariposa	$ 1,923,719	0.07%	$ 15,805	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Mendocino	$ 8,106,845	0.32%	$ 66,608	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Merced	$ 17,058,992	0.66%	$ 140,158	$ 98,000	$ 108,429	**$ 206,429**	$ 93,225	$ 43,481	**$ 136,706**	**$ 343,135**
Modoc	$ 1,401,986	0.05%	$ 11,520	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Mono	$ 2,496,681	0.10%	$ 20,514	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Monterey	$ 26,860,459	1.04%	$ 220,690	$ 98,000	$ 170,732	**$ 268,732**	$ 93,225	$ 68,465	**$ 161,690**	**$ 430,422**
Napa	$ 9,908,912	0.39%	$ 81,412	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Nevada	$ 6,891,620	0.27%	$ 56,623	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Orange	$ 193,023,589	7.51%	$ 1,585,910	$ 98,000	$ 1,226,902	**$ 1,324,902**	$ 93,225	$ 491,995	**$ 585,220**	**$ 1,910,122**
Placer	$ 25,813,359	1.00%	$ 212,087	$ 98,000	$ 164,076	**$ 262,076**	$ 93,225	$ 65,796	**$ 159,021**	**$ 421,097**
Plumas	$ 1,952,409	0.08%	$ 16,042	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Riverside	$ 142,997,227	5.56%	$ 1,174,887	$ 98,000	$ 908,924	**$ 1,006,924**	$ 93,225	$ 364,484	**$ 457,709**	**$ 1,464,633**
Sacramento	$ 110,077,841	4.28%	$ 904,415	$ 98,000	$ 699,679	**$ 797,679**	$ 93,225	$ 280,575	**$ 373,800**	**$ 1,171,479**
San Benito	$ 4,945,003	0.19%	$ 40,628	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
San Bernardino	$ 140,906,737	5.48%	$ 1,157,710	$ 98,000	$ 895,635	**$ 993,635**	$ 93,225	$ 359,155	**$ 452,380**	**$ 1,446,015**
San Diego	$ 181,653,988	7.07%	$ 1,492,496	$ 98,000	$ 1,154,635	**$ 1,252,635**	$ 93,225	$ 463,015	**$ 556,240**	**$ 1,808,875**
San Francisco	$ 66,426,781	2.58%	$ 545,772	$ 98,000	$ 422,224	**$ 520,224**	$ 93,225	$ 169,314	**$ 262,539**	**$ 782,763**
San Joaquin	$ 51,347,519	2.00%	$ 421,880	$ 98,000	$ 326,378	**$ 424,378**	$ 93,225	$ 130,879	**$ 224,104**	**$ 648,482**
San Luis Obispo	$ 19,302,588	0.75%	$ 158,593	$ 98,000	$ 122,692	**$ 220,692**	$ 93,225	$ 49,200	**$ 142,425**	**$ 363,117**
San Mateo	$ 45,437,979	1.77%	$ 373,325	$ 98,000	$ 288,815	**$ 386,815**	$ 93,225	$ 115,816	**$ 209,041**	**$ 595,856**
Santa Barbara	$ 27,920,101	1.09%	$ 229,396	$ 98,000	$ 177,467	**$ 275,467**	$ 93,225	$ 71,166	**$ 164,391**	**$ 439,858**
Santa Clara	$ 96,557,774	3.76%	$ 793,333	$ 98,000	$ 613,744	**$ 711,744**	$ 93,225	$ 246,115	**$ 339,340**	**$ 1,051,084**
Santa Cruz	$ 16,624,343	0.65%	$ 136,589	$ 98,000	$ 105,669	**$ 203,669**	$ 93,225	$ 42,374	**$ 135,599**	**$ 339,268**
Shasta	$ 18,691,499	0.73%	$ 153,573	$ 98,000	$ 118,809	**$ 216,809**	$ 93,225	$ 47,643	**$ 140,868**	**$ 357,677**
Sierra	$ 994,000	0.04%	$ 8,168	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Siskiyou	$ 4,552,702	0.18%	$ 37,405	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Solano	$ 29,999,978	1.17%	$ 246,484	$ 98,000	$ 190,687	**$ 288,687**	$ 93,225	$ 76,467	**$ 169,692**	**$ 458,379**
Sonoma	$ 31,619,946	1.23%	$ 259,795	$ 98,000	$ 200,984	**$ 298,984**	$ 93,225	$ 80,596	**$ 173,821**	**$ 472,805**
Stanislaus	$ 32,500,571	1.26%	$ 267,029	$ 98,000	$ 206,580	**$ 304,580**	$ 93,225	$ 82,840	**$ 176,065**	**$ 480,645**
Sutter	$ 8,482,346	0.33%	$ 69,692	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Tehama	$ 6,061,097	0.24%	$ 49,799	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Trinity	$ 2,163,974	0.08%	$ 17,780	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Tulare	$ 34,261,177	1.33%	$ 281,495	$ 98,000	$ 217,772	**$ 315,772**	$ 93,225	$ 87,328	**$ 180,553**	**$ 496,325**
Tuolumne	$ 5,189,615	0.20%	$ 42,639	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Ventura	$ 45,211,978	1.76%	$ 371,468	$ 98,000	$ 287,378	**$ 385,378**	$ 93,225	$ 115,240	**$ 208,465**	**$ 593,843**
Yolo	$ 16,284,295	0.63%	$ 133,794	$ 98,000	$ 103,511	**$ 201,511**	$ 93,225	$ 41,506	**$ 134,731**	**$ 336,242**
Yuba	$ 6,725,291	0.26%	$ 55,255	$ 98,000	$ -	**$ 98,000**	$ 93,225	$ -	**$ 93,225**	**$ 191,225**
Reserve										**$ 164,420**
Total	$ 2,570,773,982	100.00%	$ 21,121,860	$ 5,684,000	$ 15,437,860	**$ 21,121,860**	$ 5,407,050	$ 6,190,670	**$ 11,597,720**	**$ 32,884,000**