

Judicial Council-Approved Process for Supplemental Funding

Below is the process for supplemental funding that was approved by the Judicial Council at its August 31, 2012, meeting.

- a. Supplemental funding for urgent needs is defined as unavoidable funding shortfalls, unforeseen emergencies, or unanticipated expenses for existing programs.
 - i. A request can be for either a loan or one-time funding that is not repaid, but not for ongoing funding.
- b. The submission, review, and approval process is:
 - i. All requests will be submitted to the Judicial Council for consideration;
 - ii. Requests will be submitted to the Administrative Director of Judicial Council of California (JCC) by either the court's presiding judge or court executive officer;
 - iii. The Administrative Director of the Courts will forward the request to the JCC Director of Finance.
 - iv. Budget staff of JCC Finance will review the request, ask the court to provide any missing or incomplete information, draft a preliminary report, share the preliminary report with the court for its comments, revise as necessary, and issue a final report for the council;
 - v. The final report will be provided to the requesting court prior to the report being made publicly available on the California Courts website; and
 - vi. The court may send a representative to the Judicial Council meeting to present its request and respond to questions from the council.
- c. Beginning in 2012–2013, court requests for supplemental funding for urgent needs due to unavoidable budget shortfalls, must be submitted to the Administrative Director of the Judicial Council, by no later than October 1. Courts are encouraged to submit supplemental funding requests for urgent needs before the October 1 deadline, but no earlier than 60 days after the Budget Act is enacted into law.
- d. Beginning in 2012–2013, the Judicial Council shall allocate up to 75 percent of the 2 percent state-level reserve fund by October 31 of each year to courts requesting supplemental funding for urgent needs due to unavoidable funding shortfalls.
- e. Beginning in 2012–2013, after October 31 and by March 15 of each fiscal year, the Judicial Council shall allocate the remaining funds if there has been an approved request from a trial court(s) requesting supplemental funding for urgent needs due to unforeseen emergencies or unanticipated expenses for existing programs.

Any unexpended funds shall be distributed to the trial courts on a prorated basis. Beginning in 2014-2015, after October 31 and by March 15 of each fiscal year, the Judicial Council shall allocate 25 percent of the remaining funds if there has been an approved request from a trial court(s) requesting supplemental funding for urgent needs due to unforeseen emergencies or unanticipated expenses for existing programs. Any unexpended funds shall be distributed to the trial courts on a prorated basis. After March 15 and until June 30, requests due to unforeseen emergencies or unanticipated expenses approved, will be distributed to the court as a cash advance loan, until the following fiscal year when the court, if necessary, could apply for supplemental funding from the TCTF 2 percent reserve at the Judicial Council's October business meeting in order to repay the cash advance loan.

These court requests are to be reviewed and recommended to the Judicial Council by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee's 2 Percent Funding Request Review subcommittee.

- f. To be considered at a scheduled Judicial Council business meeting, requests submitted after October 31 for supplemental funding due to unforeseen emergencies and unanticipated expenses must be submitted to the Administrative Director of the Judicial Council at least 25 business days prior to that business meeting.
- g. The Judicial Council would consider appropriate terms and conditions that courts must accept in order to receive supplemental funding for urgent needs.

Judicial Council-Approved Criteria for Eligibility for and Allocation of Supplemental Funding

Below are the criteria for eligibility for and allocation of supplemental funding for trial courts' urgent needs that were approved by the Judicial Council at its August 31, 2012, meeting.

- a. Only trial courts that are projecting a current-year negative fund balance can apply for supplemental funding related to urgent needs.
- b. Generally, no court may receive supplemental funding for urgent needs in successive fiscal years absent a clear and convincing showing.
- c. Courts submitting on or before October 1 can only receive up to the amount the court contributed to the 2 percent state-level reserve fund. If the requested amount is beyond the court's contribution to the 2 percent state-level reserve fund, the Judicial Council may distribute more funding to the court, after October 31 and prior to March 15 of the fiscal year.

More specifically, courts that submit by October 1 a request for an unavoidable funding shortfall, may apply with updated financial information for unforeseen emergencies or

unanticipated expenses for existing programs distribution at a future Judicial Council business meeting prior to March 15.

- d. Allocate to all courts in January, 75 percent of unexpended funds from the 2% state-level reserve, regardless of whether the Judicial Council has allocated to a court supplemental funding for an urgent need in the current fiscal year, using courts' current year Trial Court Trust Fund and General Fund base allocation.
- e. If a court that is allocated supplemental funding determines during the fiscal year that some or all of the allocation is no longer needed due to changes in revenues and/or expenditures, [it] is required to return the amount that is not needed.

Judicial Council-Approved Information Required to be Provided by Trial Courts for Supplemental Funding

Below is the information required to be provided by trial courts for supplemental funding for urgent needs that were approved by the Judicial Council at its August 31, 2012, meeting.

- a. A description of what factors caused or are causing the need for funding;
- b. If requesting a one-time distribution, an explanation of why a loan would not be appropriate;
- c. Current status of court fund balance;
- d. Three-year history of year-end fund balances, revenues, and expenditures;
- e. Current detailed budget projections for the current fiscal year (e.g., FY 2012–2013), budget year (e.g., FY 2013–2014), and budget year plus 1 (e.g., FY 2014–2015);
- f. Measures the court has taken in the last three years regarding revenue enhancement and/or expenditure reduction, including layoffs, furloughs, reduced hours, and court closures;
- g. Employee compensation practices (e.g., cost-of-living adjustments) and staffing levels in the past five years;
- h. Description of the consequences to the court's operations if the court does not receive funding;
- i. Description of the consequences to the public and access to justice if the court does not receive funding;

- j. What measures the court will take to mitigate the consequences to court operations, the public, and access to justice if funding is not approved;
- k. Five years of filing and termination numbers;
- l. Most recent audit history and remediation measures;
- m. If supplemental funding was received in prior year, please identify amount received and explain why additional funding is again needed in the current fiscal year; and
- n. If the request for supplemental funding is not for a one-time concern, the court must include an expenditure/revenue enhancement plan that identifies how the court will resolve its ongoing funding issue.