



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 21-051

For business meeting on: October 1, 2021

Title

Report to the Legislature: 2020–21 Trial
Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 4

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Submitted by

Judicial Council staff
Zlatko Theodorovic, Deputy Director
Budget Services

Date of Report

July 30, 2021

Contact

Jason Haas, 916-643-7061
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Executive Summary

Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3, the Judicial Council is required to submit quarterly reports to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the estimated amount of General Fund required to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund due to shortfalls in revenue to support trial court operations. This report is for the reporting period of April through June 2021. On or before July 30, 2021, the Judicial Council’s Budget Services staff submitted the *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 4*.

Relevant Previous Council Action

These reports are submitted to the Legislature quarterly. Reports from previous quarters are available on the California Courts website “Legislative Reports” webpage at www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm.

Analysis/Rationale

The *Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report* is required pursuant to the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3, to be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The statute requires that the Judicial Council “submit quarterly reports that include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the backfill required in the prior quarter based on the actual data, (b) the total backfill required under this item through the quarter covered by the

report, (c) an updated estimate of the backfill required in the following quarter, and (d) an updated estimate of the total backfill required in the fiscal year.”

The actual revenues have improved as compared to the prior report, resulting in a revised estimated need of \$129.3 million. The prior report, *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 3*, indicated a need of \$149.3 million.

The backfill needs are identified in the table below:

Reporting Time Frame	Backfill Need (\$ reported in thousands)
Prior Quarter Actuals: January through March 2021	\$32,315
Reporting Quarter Estimate: April through June 2021	\$32,315
Following Quarter Estimate: July through September 2021	\$32,315
Estimate for the Fiscal Year: July 2020 through June 2021	\$129,260

The Budget Act of 2020 included a revenue backfill of \$273.8 million to support the Trial Court Trust Fund, which is the primary fund source for trial court operations. This represents \$90.9 million for 2019–20 and \$182.9 million for 2020–21. As part of the approval of the backfill, the Legislature also required the Judicial Council to report quarterly on the backfill need.

Fiscal Year (\$ reported in thousands)	Budget Act Appropriation	Funding Need	Difference
2019–20	\$ 90,917	\$ 55,657	\$35,260
2020–21	\$182,844	\$129,260	\$53,584
Total	\$273,761	\$184,917	\$88,844

A report was submitted to the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) on May 14, 2021 that was based on actual revenue data through February 2021. Discussions with the DOF and JLBC after the submission of the May report confirmed that the amount of the backfill request would be revised based on updated revenue information. Backfill estimates continue to be updated monthly. The 2020–21 estimated backfill amount included in this report is based on actual revenue data through April 2021. The final backfill amount for 2020–21 will be determined based on actual year-end revenues.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

No costs or operational impacts will result from the submission of this informational report to the Legislature.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 4*



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Administrative Director
Judicial Council

July 30, 2021

Hon. Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 4*, as
required under the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3, the Judicial Council is required to submit quarterly reports to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the estimated amount of General Fund required to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund due to shortfalls in revenue to support trial court operations. This report is due on or before July 30, 2021, for the reporting period of April through June 2021.

The statute requires that the Judicial Council “submit quarterly reports that include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the backfill required in the prior quarter based on the actual data, (b) the total backfill required under this item through the quarter covered by the report, (c) an updated estimate of the backfill required in the following quarter, and (d) an updated estimate of the total backfill required in the fiscal year.”

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If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Budget Services, at 916-263-1397 or Zlatko.Theodorovic@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Hon. Nancy Skinner
Hon. Philip Y. Ting
July 30, 2021
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MH/JH/dn

Enclosures

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel
Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins
Amy Alley, Policy Advisor, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins
Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Gabrielle Zeps, Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Anita Lee, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
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Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
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