



Judicial Council of California

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February 20, 2026.

Subject Text

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File #: 19-013, **Version:** 1

Title

Juvenile Law: Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Funding Methodology for Small Courts (Action Required)

Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council adopt, on an ongoing basis, changes to the court-appointed counsel funding methodology for small courts previously adopted in May 2017 and scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2019. The small courts faced many unique circumstances that necessitate continuation of an adjusting funding methodology. The proposed methodology suspends reallocation-related budget reductions for the courts with a child welfare caseload under 200, permits adjustment of the local economic index for all courts with a child welfare caseload under 400, adjusts funding allocations of the larger courts, and continues the \$100,000 funding reserve to assist small courts with the cost of sharp caseload increases.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) unanimously recommends that the Judicial Council adopt the modified funding methodology for small courts, approved by the council in May 2017 for fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19, as ongoing effective July 1, 2019.