



Superior Court of California County of Mendocino BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- *Due to the closure of our Willits branch, litigants travel up to 70 miles to the Ukiah Courthouse*
- *Public access is extremely limited due to lack of funding for technology upgrades.*
- *Self-Help Center is only open to the public 3 hours a day, 4 days a week.*

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Combined the Self-Help Center with the Facilitator's Office
- Mediation services for newly filed cases are limited to one session per family per Family Law court filing
- There is one mediator for all of Mendocino County
- Family Court Custody and Visitation Evaluations no longer made available to the Family Court judge
- Self-Help hours reduced by one hour per day. Only open to the public 4 days a week.

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Litigants must bring family members or friends to interpret at the Self-Help Center
- Laid off two full-time court reporters and left one part-time position vacant

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

Reduced telephone hours by 2 hours per day and counter hours by 1 hour per day

Closed Courtrooms (1) and Court Houses (1)

- Closed a single courtroom branch court in Willits on December 31, 2009 – a 33% reduction in Mendocino courthouses
- Calendar in Covelo and Point Arena changed from once per month to once every other month
- 2013 Thanksgiving and Christmas season hours were reduced

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- Instituted layoffs and reduced workforce with vacancy rate of 32%
- 26 mandatory furlough days for all employees in 2009
- 13 mandatory furlough days for all employees in 2010
- 5 mandatory furlough days for all employees in 2013

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- Redirected 1 perimeter screening deputy
- Redirected 5 courtroom bailiffs
- Capital projects for priority 1 courthouse delayed

Availability of Judicial Officers

- Lay off part time Commissioner in Dec. 2009. Position not filled.
- Legal Secretary resigned in 2012. The position was not filled

Budget Considerations

Est. Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$5,961,653
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$7,240,541</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$1,278,888
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Percentage Change	-17.66%
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$584,111
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$166,754

Court Demographics

Population Served	87,572
Square Miles Covered	3,878
Total Number of Court Facilities	2
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	51
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>76</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-25 (32% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. David E. Nelson
Court Executive Officer	Jim Perry
Executive Office Contact	(707) 467-2511

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *Litigants are waiting much longer for services at the public counter and on the telephone*
- *Reductions to court reporter services require litigants to provide their own court reporters*
- *There is one mediator for all of Mendocino County resulting in a substantial decrease in family law mediation*

