



Superior Court of California County of Orange BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Charles Margines, Presiding Judge

Alan Carlson, Court Executive Officer

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Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Improved access and assistance for self-represented litigants, prospective jurors, and the public
- Continued innovation toward an all-electronic court record; more web and mobile applications for litigants, jurors, lawyers, justice partners, and the public

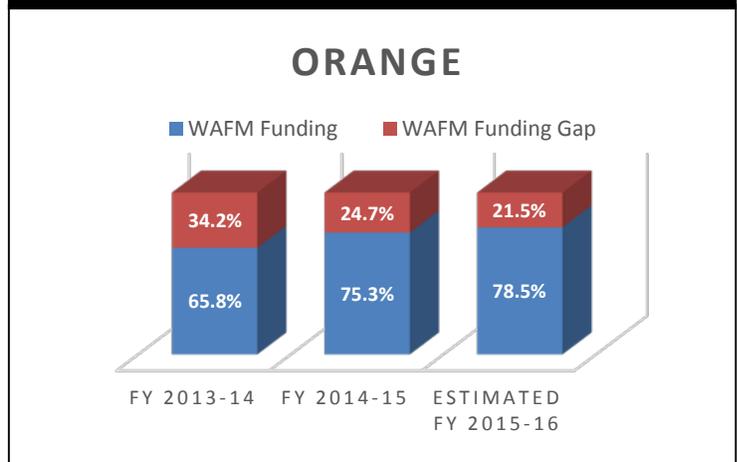
Court Service Highlights in Detail

- Implemented new case management system for family and juvenile cases, allowing for an all-electronic court record
- Developed cutting edge portal to assist self-represented litigants navigate the court process and effectively use available self-help services
- Implemented postcard summoning for prospective jurors, plus web-based qualification and postponement options
- Maintained drug court and mental health court participation notwithstanding Prop. 47
- Opened South County Service Center to provide assistance to locally underserved public
- Developed on-line Small Claims Triage tool for self-represented litigants in collaboration with five other courts
- Implemented video appearance option in most civil courtrooms
- Launched mobile friendly capacity for 14 services for litigants, jurors, and the public
- Improved the court's information technology security infrastructure
- Implemented electronic arrest warrant issuance processes
- Community Court recognized as a mentor court; one of only four nationwide
- Expanded training and development to all court employees; involved all court employees in responding to issues raised in our court's Employee Satisfaction Survey
- Developed emergency message broadcast system using screen pop-ups, text messages, and phone messages
- Launched new Appeals web page

Budget Challenges and Priorities

- Inadequate funding for legal representation for children and parents in juvenile dependency cases
- No funding to maintain call center to help the public
- Need to restore staffing levels in operations to reduce backlogs and delays in processing and filing documents
- Lack of funds to replace aging case management system for civil, probate, and mental health cases
- Insufficient funding to expand self-help services to meet the needs of unrepresented litigants
- Challenges in maintaining competitive compensation relative to labor market
- Lack of reserves prevents planning and long-term investment in improved business practices and automation to reduce costs
- Significant deferred maintenance in old court facilities
- No courthouse for 600,000 people in South County

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	3,113,991
Square Miles Covered	948
Total Number of Court Facilities	9

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM)

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM) calculates the total funding needed for California's 58 trial courts based on case filings, workload and other factors.

To do this, WAFM relies on results from what we call the Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model to estimate total staffing needed using a weighted caseload model. Developed in partnership with national experts, the RAS model is based on a time study of over 5,000 case processing staff in 24 California trial courts. The study established a set of caseweights (amount of time in minutes to process a case from initial filing through any post-disposition activity) understanding that certain types of filings take more time and resources to handle than others. The weighted filings are used to estimate total staff needed in each court.

The WAFM model converts the staff need data into dollars, taking into account average salaries, benefits, operating expenses and equipment, and the local cost of labor using the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a benchmark. A "funding floor" is applied to the smallest trial courts because there is a basic operating threshold that must be met in order to provide service to the public. In other words, California's small courts do not have economies of scale, and yet there are basic expenditures that even the smallest courts must make. The result is, for each court, an estimate of the core operations funding required to adequately process its workload. This is known as the court's WAFM share.

Starting in FY 2013-14, a portion of each court's allocation is being recalculated according to its WAFM share. (A court's WAFM share is different from the courts' traditional share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the traditional share was based on the amount each court received from its county not taking into consideration the courts' filings or staff needs.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) California's trial courts are underfunded by at least a collective \$444 million. The underfunding is made worse for those courts that experience a reduction of funding based on their WAFM share. To manage the budget reductions resulting from the implementation of WAFM in the absence of full trial court funding, the Judicial Council approved applying WAFM incrementally, applying it fully only to new money appropriated in the budget.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including to FY 2017-18, incrementally more of the historical (base) funding (using FY 2012-13 as the base) will be subject to WAFM, until 50% of the FY 12-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All new state funding is distributed according to the WAFM shares; and
- For each dollar of new state funding, one dollar of the historical base will be reallocated using WAFM.