



Superior Court of California County of San Diego BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Jeffrey B. Barton, Presiding Judge

Michael M. Roddy, Court Executive Officer

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Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- **Implemented Case Management System for Family Cases**
- **Will Restore Business Office Hours to 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday**

Court Service Highlights in Detail

Implemented case management system for Family cases

The new Odyssey case management system will enable the Court to gain efficiencies by maintaining a comprehensive electronic case record, and improve access to the public by offering online access to Family Law cases and e-Filing for Family Support Division cases.

Will restore business office hours to 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday

The Court has been able to fill some vacant positions, which will increase public access by expanding business office hours court-wide to 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Other court services

Reduced Civil backlogs

The Court has reduced the backlog in our Civil division by over 1,500 hours in the last 10 months.

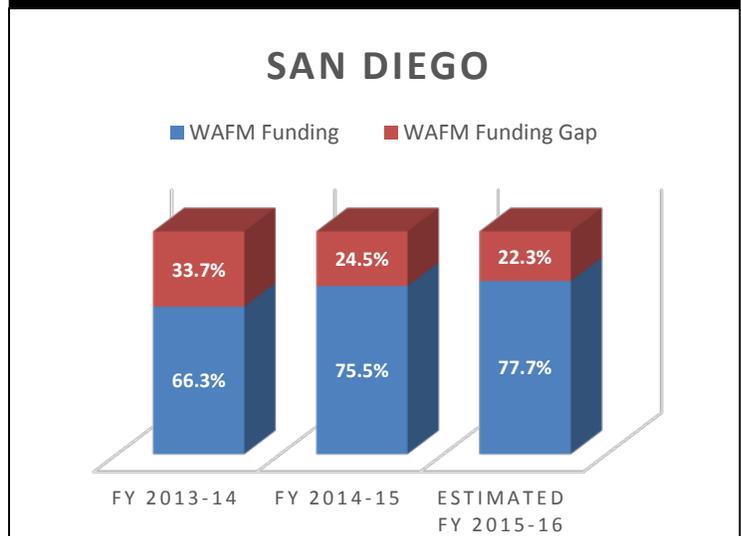
Plan to close Traffic case services in East and South County divisions halted

We will not have to eliminate Traffic services in our East and South County divisions, which manage a combined 140,000 infraction filings annually. By avoiding the planned closure, members of the public will not have to travel a minimum of 15 miles in each direction for hearings in the Central Traffic division.

Budget Challenges and Priorities

- Implementing the Traffic case type component of the Odyssey case management system will involve considerable personnel and capital investment.
- Although the Court has reduced Civil backlogs, no substantial progress has been made in the backlogs for other case types (Family, Criminal, Traffic).
- Moving into the new Central Courthouse with 71 courtrooms will create funding and logistical challenges for the Court.

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	3,194,362
Square Miles Covered	4,526
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.