



Superior Court of California County of San Francisco BUDGET SNAPSHOT



February 2015

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2015-16

- Reduce customer wait times in Traffic Clerk's office and Self-Help Center
- Continue multi-year investments in IT projects to promote staff efficiencies, decrease response times for court users, and identify cost savings

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Consolidated Self-Help Centers and laid off staff resulting in 50% reduction in staffing levels
- Reduced level of individualized assistance – first available appointment is 2-3 weeks later and wait times for drop-ins can be up to 90 minutes.

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Reduction of clerks' office hours by 1 hour
- Wait times for traffic citation payments range from 1 – 3 hours.
- Filing office hours reduced by four hours per week
- Fulfilling records requests may take up to 75 days due to backlog

IT Business Re-engineering Projects

- Implement a new court-wide case management system to achieve staffing efficiencies and improve case processing times
- Mandatory e-filing for all civil cases including a Court hosted e-file web portal to reduce wait times and expand public access to case information
- Expand electronic payment and other solutions in criminal and traffic divisions to reduce customer wait times

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Drastic reductions made to court reporter services
- No longer provide court reporters in civil trials and parties must bring their own reporter
- No longer provide reporters in misdemeanor and traffic cases

Closed Courtrooms

Closed ten courtrooms on September 30, 2011

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

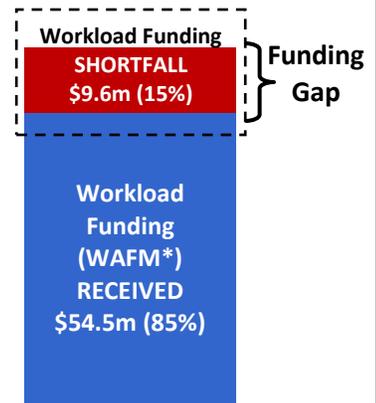
- Reduction of 67 positions on September 30, 2011
- Staffing levels are 26% lower than in 2008

Judicial Officers

- Reduction of ten subordinate judicial officers in September 2011
- Loss of several judges due to retirement and have been unable to backfill with timely appointment from Governor
- Currently have 4 judicial vacancies, an 8 percent vacancy rate

Funding Shortfall

*WAFM is the Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology. It describes how much funding courts need based on their workload. In the current year, the workload-based allocation *needed* in San Francisco was calculated at \$64.1 million but the court received \$54.6 million. See reverse for a detailed explanation of how WAFM is calculated.



Court Demographics

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Population Served | 836,620 |
| Square Miles Covered | 49 |
| Total Number of Court Facilities | 4 |

Court Leadership

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Presiding Judge | Hon. John Kennedy Stewart |
| Court Executive Officer | T. Michael Yuen |
| Executive Office Contact | (415) 551-5727 |

Budget Challenges for FY 2015-16

- Increased processing and response time for the public as backlogs increase
- Funding shortfall for multi-year court-wide case management replacement and other IT efficiency projects

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' historical share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the historical share was based on the amount each court received from its county.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget by as much as \$800 million. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) 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 to each court's historical share of statewide funding, applying it 100% only to "new" money appropriated in the budget. New money is any undesignated general court operations funding increase above the FY 2012-13 State funding level.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are as follows:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including 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 2012-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All undesignated court operations state funding increases after FY 2012-13 are 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.