



Superior Court of California County of Solano BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Robert C. Fracchia, Presiding Judge

Brian Taylor, Court Executive Officer

(707) 207-7467

Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- **Implemented a Document Management System and E-filing in Child Support Cases**
- **Expanded Interpreters into all case types and broadened language access**
- **Broadened Collaborative Courts to include Integrated Domestic Violence Court and Re-Entry Court**

Court Service Highlights in Detail

Implemented a Document Management System and E-filing in Child Support Cases

A document management system (DMS) allows the court to go paperless. This requires a review of all business processes and a configuration allowing paper processes to be turned into electronic processes. This effort was fully implemented for all Department of Child Support Services cases, allowing the Court to implement e-filing for this case type. The Court is now working on a DMS for Traffic and Family Law, with the goal to expand to all case types once funding is available.

Expanded Interpreters into all case types and broadened language access

Solano expanded language interpreters in all case types in 2015. The court developed a local form and ensures an interpreter is available for not only criminal and juvenile matters, but for all family and civil case types. The Court translated its Child Custody Recommending Counseling Program into Spanish and placed the program on the website to expand language access.

Broadened Collaborative Courts to include Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDVC) and Re-Entry Court

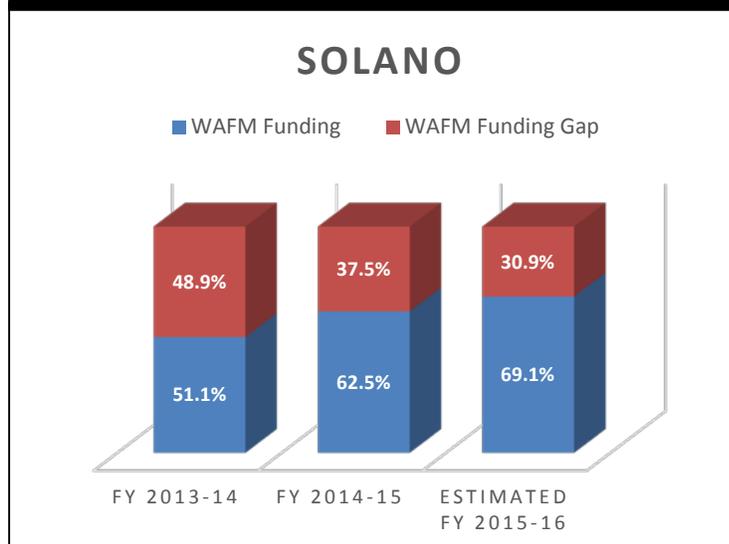
IDVC coordinates all cases involving one family before one judge, allowing the court to coordinate services to assist the family and break the cycle of domestic violence. Re-Entry Court provides for parolees to receive services as they integrate back into the community. Additionally, Solano has Adult Drug Court in Fairfield and Vallejo, as well as Dependency Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court.

Budget Challenges and Priorities

The Court faces significant budget challenges, staffing shortages and backlogs in multiple areas of the Court, including backlogs in Civil, Family, Traffic and Criminal. Additional funding would allow the court to:

- Expand clerk's office hours from 3:00 to 4:00
- Expand office hours at the Self Help Center
- Implement DMS and E-Filing Court-wide
- Translate the Court's entire website into Spanish
- Eliminate Backlogs
- Establish a Mental Health Court

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	424,233
Square Miles Covered	907
Total Number of Court Facilities	4

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.