



Superior Court of California County of Ventura BUDGET SNAPSHOT



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Donald D. Coleman, Presiding Judge

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Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- **Ventura Superior Court implemented a jury system upgrade to better serve the public.**
- **The Court continued its leadership with the Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force.**

Court Service Highlights in Detail

Jury System Upgrade

Through a one-time technology grant from the Judicial Council, Ventura Superior Court implemented an interactive voice response system (IVR) for prospective jurors and updated the Jury Services internet access webpage. Prior to these technology improvements, prospective jurors were required to return their paper summons via mail to Jury Services, or to call Jury Services over the phone during limited public phone hours and speak directly with a clerk. With the new technology in place, prospective jurors may now call an automated system or go online to postpone their report date, check the status of a summons, verify information, or determine if they have been excused. The new systems are available for the public to use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Language Access Plan

Ventura Superior Court continued its leadership role on the statewide Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force (LAPITF) by:

- Participating on the “Technology Solutions” Committee that has a major focus on video remote interpreting.
- Serving as a panelist for the LAPITF at a presentation in Los Angeles in October 2015.
- Expanding Interpreter Unit services according to the priorities in Evidence Code 756 to serve interpreter requests for all case types, except civil.
- Updating and simplifying Court Interpreter Brochures and translating the Family Law Mediation Template into Spanish, Mandarin and Tagalog.

Budget Challenges and Priorities

Access to programs and services

Ventura Superior Court is not yet able to return staffing and service levels to provide public access 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.

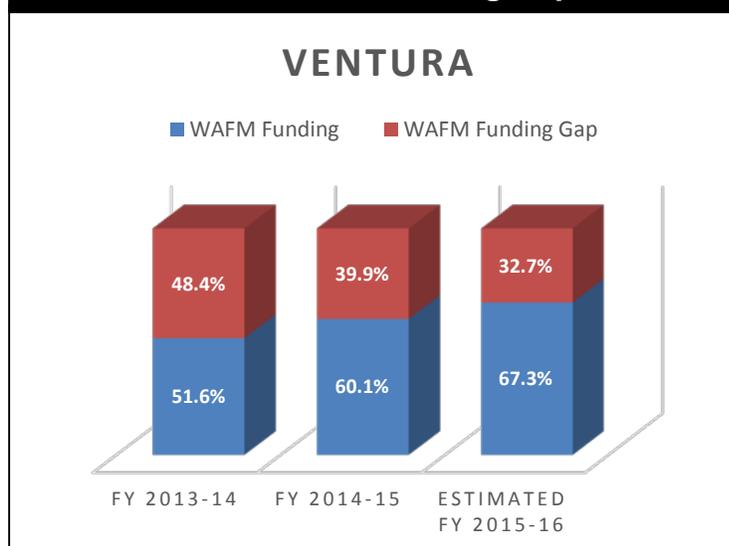
Reinvesting in children and families

We would like to restore sufficient family law mediation, self help, and court appointed dependency counsel services to meet public demand.

Replacing a legacy case management system (V3)

Such an investment is needed to support e-filing and greater electronic access to court records and information.

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	842,967
Square Miles Covered	2,208
Total Number of Court Facilities	3

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.