



# Superior Court of California County of Yuba BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Debra L. Givens, Presiding Judge

Steve Konishi, Court Executive Officer

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## Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Proactive implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program
- Participation in Pretrial Services Grant
- Implementation of new case management system

## Court Service Highlights in Detail

### Proactive implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program

Yuba has provided relief to more than 250 amnesty applicants from October through December 31, 2015.

### Pretrial Services Grant

In an effort to reduce recidivism, Yuba is participating in a Judicial Council Pretrial Services Grant partnership with our local probation and sheriff's departments. Yuba probation has completed over 260 pretrial assessments, resulting in successful case dispositions for 26 supervised defendants.

### CMS Implementation

We are in the process of implementing a new computer case management system, Tyler Odyssey, which will increase operational efficiencies including increased public access to case information and enhanced collections of outstanding court-ordered debt.

### Family Court Services

Yuba has one of the shortest wait times for scheduling family mediation appointments in the state. In 2015, Yuba conducted 319 mediations and 216 fast track investigations. The self-help center and family law facilitator assisted 2,156 individuals as well as 2,464 phone calls, 2,652 brief information and referral contacts, and 1,873 customers served in the courtroom.

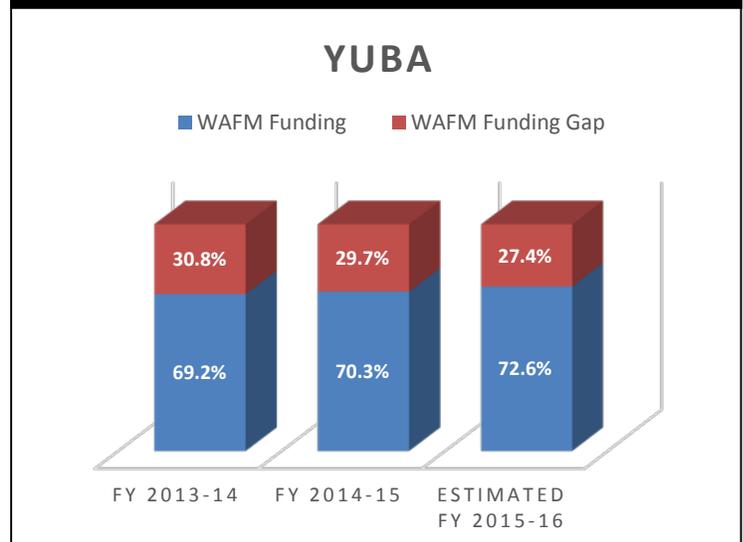
## Budget Challenges and Priorities

Court management positions have been reduced by 60% since 2014.

We have reduced staff by 8 positions since 2007. Despite efforts to increase efficiencies, the criminal division backlog is severe. Priorities have been shifted to handling current prison sentencings, including local, split and mandatory supervision, as well as parole violations and Prop 47 cases.

The implementation of the amnesty program has resulted in a reduction in the courts operations revenue from civil assessments.

## Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



## Court Demographics

Population Served	73,682
Square Miles Covered	644
Total Number of Court Facilities	2

## 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.