

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee
(Action Item)

Title: 2023-24 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Allocation Methodology: Augmentation in Budget Act

Date: 8/8/2023

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Issue

Consideration of a recommendation from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) to allocate \$9.4 million included in the 2023 Budget Act (Link A) to support the addition of the Los Angeles Superior Court to the first cohort of courts implementing the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act in 2023-24.

Background

On January 20, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology to distribute \$2.8 million in planning funds included in the 2022 Budget Act to the seven courts making up the first cohort of courts implementing the CARE Act in 2022-23.¹

On July 21, 2023, the Judicial Council approved an allocation methodology to distribute a total of \$20.0 million for CARE Act implementation: \$12.3 million in operating funds to the seven courts in Cohort One implementing the CARE Act in 2023-24 and \$7.7 million to Cohort Two courts to support implementation in 2024-25².

The 2023-24 May Revision included \$9.4 million in additional funding to add the Los Angeles Superior Court to the first cohort of courts. This funding was included in the 2023 Budget Act. Los Angeles had previously been part of the second cohort and scheduled to begin implementation in October 2024. With the shift of Los Angeles to Cohort One and the addition of this funding in the budget, Los Angeles will begin CARE Act implementation on December 1, 2023.

¹ Judicial Council meeting report (January 20, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11534097&GUID=9FC7F7C5-8C5F-4D79-970C-FC1A78752C5A>; Judicial Council meeting minutes (January 20, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=989262&GUID=469D83CC-3971-47BE-B5FC-22D1052C8643>.

² Judicial Council meeting report (July 21, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12125820&GUID=BB56211B-2F20-4BB8-8E94-B0909B17F695>

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The addition of Los Angeles Court to Cohort One occurred late in the budget process and the \$9.4 million for Los Angeles was determined using the Department of Finance’s cost model for CARE Act implementation. The \$9.4 million was calculated as a supplemental augmentation to the budget. Therefore, Los Angeles Court’s share of the total \$29.5 million included in the budget represents a different allocation methodology than that of the other courts. Since it is the intent of the Administration and the Legislature that the \$9.4 million augmentation is specifically to fund Los Angeles Court’s implementation, Judicial Council staff recommend that the total amount be provided to Los Angeles. In subsequent years, the approved workload formula methodology, which was used to allocate funding to all other participating courts in 2023-24, will be used to allocate funding to all courts including Los Angeles.

In addition, Los Angeles Court will receive \$1.3 million under the current workload formula to fund planning for CARE Act implementation in 2023-24. Since Los Angeles will not be implementing the program until December 2023, and will be conducting planning activities, staff also recommend that this amount not change. This amount for Los Angeles was approved by the Judicial Council on July 21, 2023 as part of the CARE Act allocations for all courts in 2023-24. Under the approved methodology, all courts will be surveyed at midyear and can elect to reallocate any excess funding.

On August 7, 2023³, the TCBCAC voted via action by e-mail and approved the allocation recommendation of \$9.4 million for Los Angeles Superior Court for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

Recommendation

Approve the allocation of \$9.4 million included in the 2023 Budget Act for Los Angeles Superior Court for CARE Act implementation in 2023-24 for consideration by the Judicial Council at its September 19, 2023 business meeting.

Attachments

Link A: Item 0250-101-0932, Provision 36, of the 2023 Budget Act (Assembly Bill 102, Ch. 38, Stats. 2023).

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB102

³ Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee action by e-mail notice (August 7, 2023),

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/tcbac-20230807-notice.pdf>

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee action by e-mail report (August 7, 2023),

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/tcbac-20230807-materials.pdf>