

Superior Court of California County of Monterey BUDGET SNAPSHOT



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Mark E. Hood, Presiding Judge

Teresa A. Risi, Court Executive Officer

(831) 775-5678

Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Implemented a modern case management system in all non-criminal case types
- Expanded interpreter services
- Implemented a new DUI Treatment Court

Court Service Highlights in Detail

Implemented a modern case management system in all non-criminal case types

A unique collaboration was established comprised of a small (Napa), medium (Monterey), and large (Santa Clara) court to implement a modern case management system (CMS). This collaboration provided the ability to pool resources, realize some cost savings, and leverage best practices in the configuration and implementation of the CMS, aptly named Odyssey. Aimed at enhancing operational efficiencies and improving access to justice to the public, Monterey implemented the Odyssey CMS in all non-criminal case types (civil, probate, family law, child support, small claims, mental health, and juvenile) in October 2015 and will move to mandatory e-filing in these case types in July 2016. Implementation in criminal case types is on the horizon, currently projected for a 2017 launch.

Expanded interpreter services

Monterey prioritized access to language interpreter services expanding court-provided services to all civil case type priorities, which promotes equitable access to justice to parties despite inherent language barriers. These services are now provided in case types where services previously were limited, provided for a fee, or unavailable including Small Claims, Probate/Guardianships, Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Family Law, and Civil.

Implemented a new DUI Treatment Court

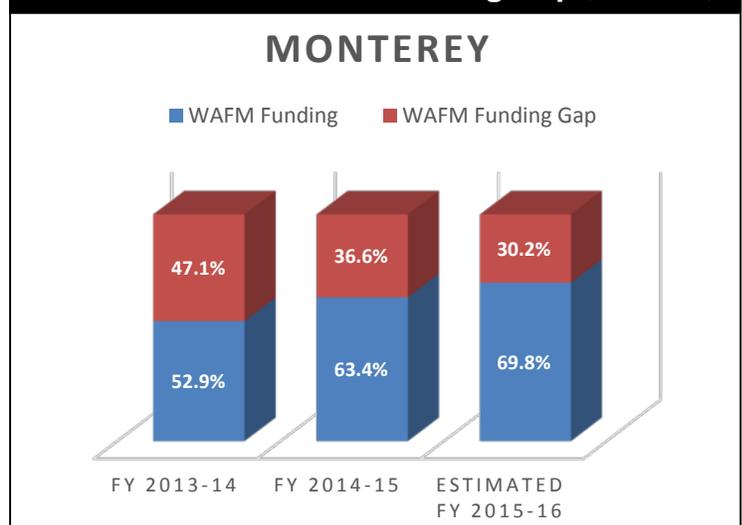
Monterey implemented a Driving-Under-the-Influence (DUI) Treatment Court in October 2015. This therapeutic collaborative court provides an avenue to reduce DUI recidivism, enhance community safety, and foster a healthier and safer life for the participants and their families by providing treatment, alcohol and drug testing, education, strict supervision, regular judicial review, and overall accountability to these high-risk offenders. Funds from an Office of Traffic Safety grant also enabled Monterey to allocate resources to probation supervision, behavioral health coordination, and monitoring and testing supplies.

Budget Priority

Underserved South Monterey County

The 2012 indefinite delay of the South Monterey County Courthouse project has left residents of this dominantly Hispanic, poor rural agricultural community underserved. The 2013 closure of the King City (South County) Courthouse due to budget constraints coupled with accessibility and security concerns has further complicated access to justice. Residents must now travel up to 110 miles round trip to access Self-Help, Family and other court services. The small south county town of Greenfield **donated land** at a cost of \$5 million (cost of land purchased and infrastructure build-out) to the State that **may be lost at the end of 2016 if the courthouse project does not commence.**

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	425,756
Square Miles Covered	3,771
Total Number of Court Facilities	6 (1 Facility, King City Courthouse closed, effective Sept. 28, 2013)

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.