



Superior Court of California County of Plumas BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- Promoting access to justice.
- Updating and expanding the Court's website to provide more information to court customers as well as to have a central resource guide for court staff.

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Court financially supports the only self-help services in Plumas County.
- Further monetary reductions in the Court's contribution to the Self-Help contractor due to budget constraints.
- Reduced hours from 35 to 28 hours per week for self-help contract providers to family law and guardianship clients.
- Litigants are ill-prepared due to reductions in self-help services

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- No court reporters are provided for reporting in any civil case types.
- Court does not own/have access to electronic recording, which would be a valuable options for court users

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Counter hours reduced by 6 hours per week and telephone hours by 4 hours per week as fewer staff are available to provide service
- A single clerk now serves the public counter and telephones for the majority of each day

Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

- Closed Greenville court location in October 2012
- Quincy Courthouse replacement project was cancelled in October 2012

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- All employees furloughed in 2010.
- Vacancy rate for clerical positions is 55%.

Availability of Judicial Officers

Plumas is a 2-judge, small court

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$1,672,371
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$2,170,142</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$497,771
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$16,864
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$33,256

Court Demographics

Population Served	19,718
Square Miles Covered	2,613
Total Number of Court Facilities	3
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	13
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>16</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-3 (19% reduction)
Positions Lost Since July 1, 2013	-2 (31% vacancy rate)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Ira R. Kaufman
Court Executive Officer	Deborah Norrie
Executive Office Contact	(530) 283-6016

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

The reduction in court-supported self-help services and the lack of other self-help services in the County of Plumas are affecting the ability of the Court to provide timely access to justice for self-represented litigants. The newly adopted WAFM funding model will reduce Plumas Court's budget. The court will be unable to fill any vacant court clerk positions. There will be a reduction in service levels at the public counter, on the telephone, and in the processing of mail and facsimile filings.